

What makes me Indian

I. Write the word meanings from the book.

II. Tick the most appropriate option.

1. Whenever Ruskin Bond has had a chance to leave india, he has

Ans. Always held back.

2. Ruskin Bond admits that he

Ans. Does not look Indian.

3. Ruskin bond feels entitled to a place in the Indian sun because

Ans. He and his father were born and raised in India.

4. The main point discussed by Ruskin Bond in this essay is

Ans. He is as Indian as anyone else.

III. Answer these questions.

1. *It must be the land itself that holds me.*

a. What does Ruskin Bond mean by the land itself holds me?

Ans. The land holds him back and does not allow him to leave.

b. In what way can the land hold him?

Ans. He is so attracted and attached to India's landscape and natural beauty, its people and culture that he does not want to leave. All his needs are met here and the people here love him and he is happy.

2. *For India is more than a land. India is an atmosphere.*

a. How does Ruskin Bond explain this? What does he mean by atmosphere?

Ans. Ruskin Bond says that India is not just geographical object. It is civilization, a culture and an indescribable phenomenon. Over thousands of years, the races and religions of the world have mingled here.

3. *I'm as Indian as postman or paanwala or your favourite movie star.*

a. Why does Ruskin Bond pick on these as examples of Indians?

Ans. The postman and paanwala are among the most ordinary people and representatives of the country. He says that he identifies with them and he is as ordinary and common as them.

4. *Race did not make me an Indian. But history did.*

a. What race does Ruskin Bond belong to?

Ans. By race he is a North European.

b. What does he mean by history?

Ans. By 'history' he means his past and his life so far.

c. How did history make him Indian?

Ans. He was born and raised in India and he has spent almost all his adult life here. India is where his father was born, studied, worked and died. This history makes him Indian.

5. Why does Ruskin Bond say that he was greatly relieved to turn down the offer to work in Hong Kong?

Ans. He does not want to leave India. When he was offered a well-paid job in Hong Kong, he was tempted to leave India. After a lot of thought he declined the offer. He was relieved because he did not have to leave India.

6. Why do Ruskin Bond's friends think he is crazy?

Ans. His friends think he is crazy because he let go of great opportunity to go abroad and he continues to live in India.

7. What does Ruskin Bond wonder about people who leave India?

Ans. Ruskin Bond wonders if Indians who leave India never feel homesick or long to return home.