**Iqbal Novel Study Name: Carlo Ramos**

**Quotable Passages Date: January 31, 2012**

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/15 marks**

There are many quotable passages from chapter 7 in *Iqbal*. Below are four important quotes.

**You must respond critically to Passage 1 and Passage 4. Then choose either Passage 2 OR 3 to reflect on**.

In your response, consider commenting on some of the following: special meaning, connection to a character’s thoughts and feelings, or why this quote makes you think and want to know more.

You can write your response directly beneath the passage.

**\* PASSAGE 1**

**“It means that this kind of life isn’t right. We should return to our families; we shouldn’t be chained to our looms and forced to work like slaves.” Page 50**

RESPONSE:

The significance of this quote is shows us that the children believe that their life as a child labour is not fair and shouldn’t even exist in a community. Instead of working 12 hours a day, they should return to their families and as a family, they would share their love, affection, and respect to each other. Also, the children believe that they should be in school learning, playing and having fun with friends, and enjoying their freedom and basic rights as children in this world.

To be chained in a loom means that that they are treated like an animal, to me that’s inhumane and children at that age shouldn’t even be on their looms working, the looms should be replace with books that they can read, a pencil that they can use to write and share their imagination, and a notebook that they can use to write on in order to break the cycle of poverty. Lastly, the children shouldn’t be experiencing what it means to be a slave and they shouldn’t be forced for it is their freedom to decide what they want to do.

**Choose either passage 2 or 3. Do not answer both. Label your response either Passage 2 or Passage 3.**

**PASSAGE 2**

**‘There was a precise rule among us: *Never* talk about the future. Not a single one of us dared to say, “next summer,” or “in a year,” or, “when I’m grown up.” Oh yes, we talked about things we liked to do, and we talked about the day our debt would be cancelled. We talked that hope into the ground. But nobody really believed it. It was sort of litany, a way to feel good. Otherwise what was left to us?’ Page 53**

**OR**

**PASSAGE 3**

**“Fatima,” he said in a low voice, “next spring you and I are going to fly a kite. Remember that, whatever happens.” Page 54**

RESPONSE: PASSAGE 2

The significance of this quote is it gives us a glimpse of how they are feeling inside of working in the carpet factory for years without someone beside them and supporting them. The children made the rule of not to talk about the future because it’s too painful for them, they feel like they are not going to escape this type of life. What they are feeling inside their mind is basically no hope to again be part of the community, and giving up that someone will help them. The children like to talk about the things they like to do and the day that their debt is cancelled because it somehow gives them a sunshine over their hopeless mind and it somehow gives them confidence to be able to go back to their families and feel the love that they have wanted for so many years.

The word *never* in the first sentence is italicized because it shows how it hurts to picture their future in their heads. They have given up their dreams, with Iqbal arriving and giving them hope, and their imagination of their debt getting paid off, without these what would be left for them?

**\* Chapter 8 - PASSAGE 4**

**‘Before Iqbal’s arrival I had been resigned to my life. I couldn’t even imagine a different one. Iqbal had sown the seeds of hope in all of us.’ Page 62**

RESPONSE:

The significance of this quote is showing us Fatima’s fading hope of getting back her freedom. When Iqbal arrived it somehow give them hope, a hope that gave them confidence, and hope that sown the seed of hope in all of them. Fatima had been in the carpet factory for 3 years, her memories are fading away. But when Iqbal arrived, it gives them a good Samaritan that showed them that there is still hope, that there is still a way, and that it’s not over. Iqbal came and he was willing to sacrifice and stand up for others in some way. He was forcefully dragged to the Tomb, and as a return the children helped him every night. With Iqbal starting it and the children continuing the step to going back to their family again, the children gained bravery, confidence, and it developed their perseverance. The author is describing Iqbal as a gardener, he plants seeds of defiance, hope, courage, and bravery. As he sown the seeds of hope, Iqbal nurtures these seeds and guides them in the right path. Iqbal was the seed to the growing tree of freedom.