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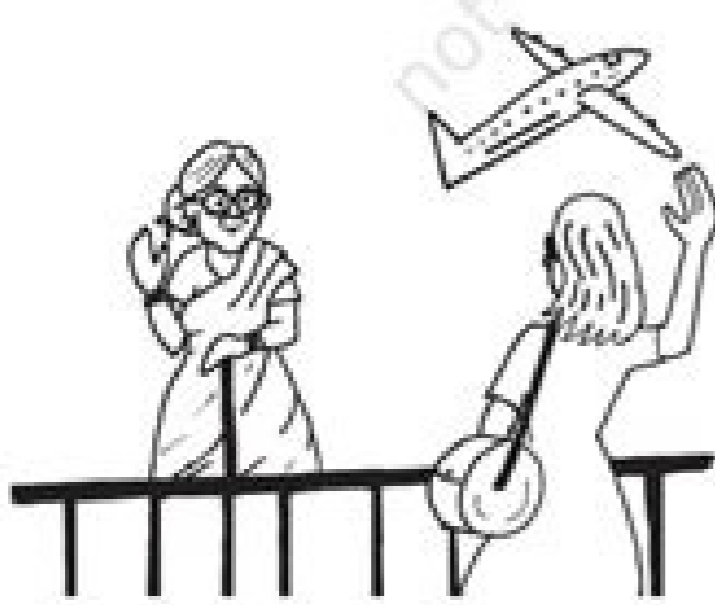
# 1 My Mother at Sixty-six

## About the poet

**Kamala Das** (1934-2009) was born in Malabar, Kerala. She is recognised as one of India's foremost poets. Her works are known for their originality, versatility and the indigenous flavour of the soil. Kamala Das has published many novels and short stories in English and Malayalam under the name 'Madhavikutty'. Some of her works in English include the novel *Alphabet of Lust* (1977), a collection of short stories *Padmavati the Harlot and Other Stories* (1992), in addition to five books of poetry. She is a sensitive writer who captures the complex subtleties of human relationships in lyrical idiom. *My Mother at Sixty-six* is an example.

## Before you read

Ageing is a natural process; have you ever thought what our elderly parents expect from us?



Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain that she was as old as she looked but soon put that thought away, and looked out at Young

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes, but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards

2019-20

## Mathematics

(www.tiwariacademy.com)  
(Chapter - 2) (Polynomials)  
(Class X)

(ii)  $x^3 - 4x^2 + 5x - 2$ ; 2, 1, 1

Let,  $p(x) = x^3 - 4x^2 + 5x - 2$

Therefore,  $p(2) = (2)^3 - 4(2)^2 + 5(2) - 2$

$= 8 - 16 + 10 - 2$

$= 18 - 18 = 0$

So, 2 is one of the zeroes of  $p(x)$ .

Now,  $p(1) = (1)^3 - 4(1)^2 + 5(1) - 2$

$= 1 - 4 + 5 - 2$

$= 6 - 6 = 0$

So, 1 is also the zero of  $p(x)$ .

Therefore, 2, 1 and 1 are the zeroes of  $p(x)$ .

Now, let  $\alpha = 2, \beta = 1$  and  $\gamma = 1$

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 2 + 1 + 1 = 4 = \frac{-(-4)}{1} = \frac{-(\text{Coefficient of } x^2)}{\text{Coefficient of } x^3}$$

$$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = 2 \times 1 + 1 \times 1 + 1 \times 2 = 2 + 1 + 2 = 5 = \frac{5}{1} = \frac{\text{Coefficient of } x}{\text{Coefficient of } x^3}$$

$$\alpha\beta\gamma = 2 \times 1 \times 1 = 2 = \frac{-(-2)}{1} = \frac{-(\text{Constant term})}{\text{Coefficient of } x^3}$$

Hence, the relation between zeroes and coefficients is verified.

### Question 2:

Find a cubic polynomial with the sum, sum of the product of its zeroes taken two at a time, and the product of its zeroes as 2, -7, -14 respectively.

### Answer 2:

Let,  $p(x) = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$  be a cubic polynomial whose zeroes are  $\alpha, \beta$  and  $\gamma$ .

Given that:

$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 2$

$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = -7$

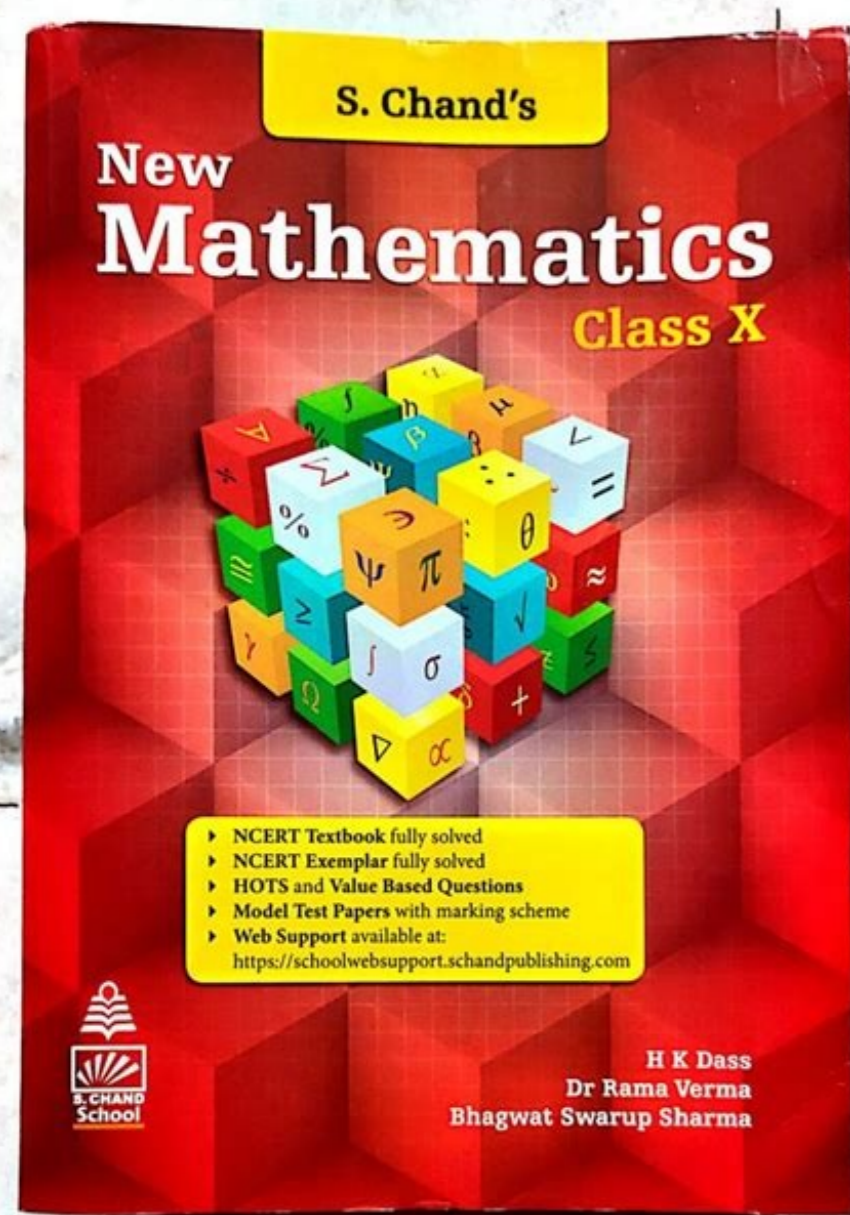
$\alpha\beta\gamma = -14$

We know that,

$$\alpha + \beta + \gamma = \frac{-(\text{Coefficient of } x^2)}{\text{Coefficient of } x^3}$$

$$\alpha\beta + \beta\gamma + \gamma\alpha = \frac{\text{Coefficient of } x}{\text{Coefficient of } x^3}$$

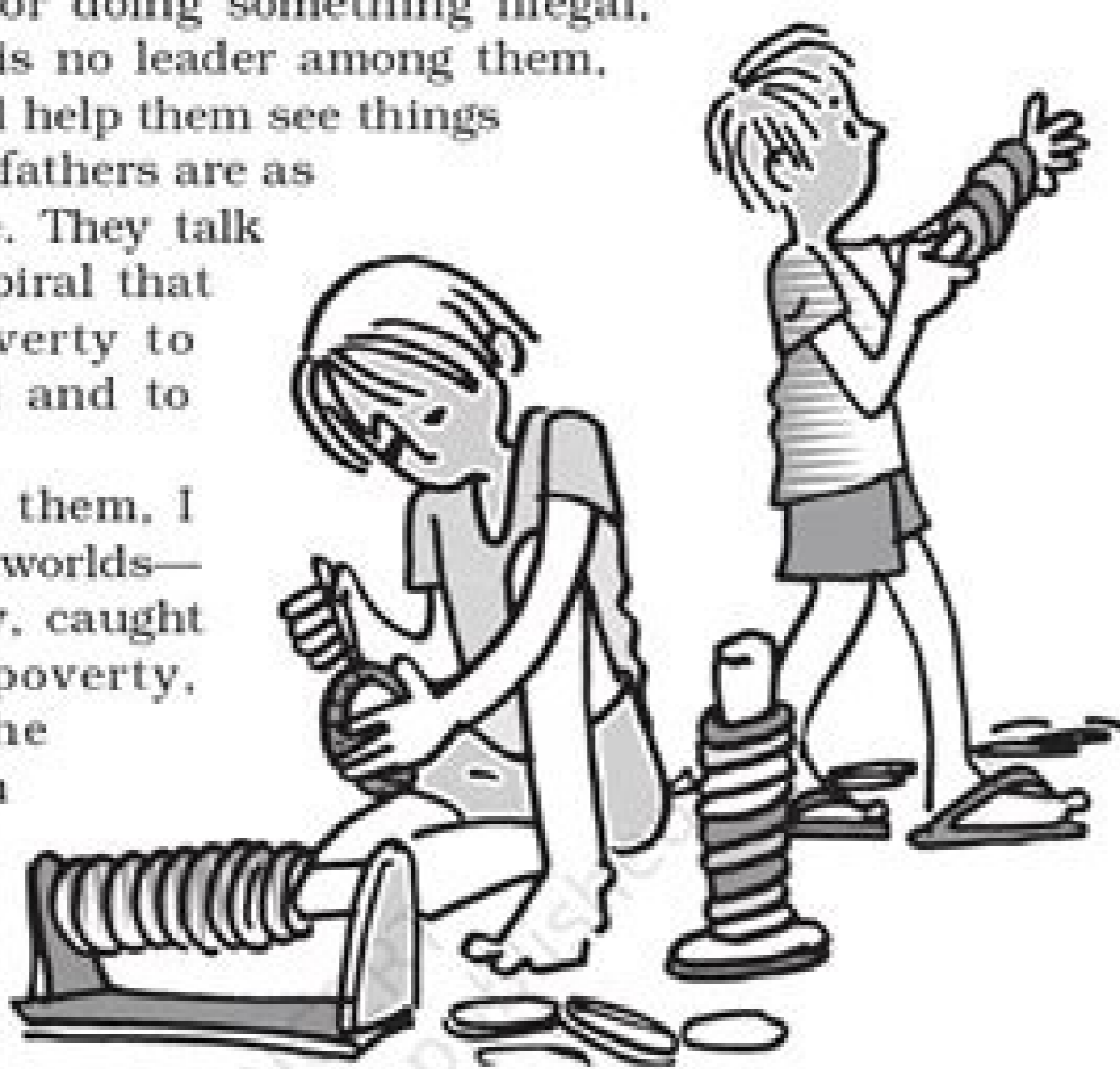
$$\alpha\beta\gamma = \frac{-(\text{Constant term})}{\text{Coefficient of } x^3}$$



who will be hauled up by the police, beaten and dragged to jail for doing something illegal," they say. There is no leader among them, no one who could help them see things differently. Their fathers are as tired as they are. They talk endlessly in a spiral that moves from poverty to apathy to greed and to injustice.

Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds—one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the *sahukars*, the middlemen,

the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic," he repeats. He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home. "I will walk," he insists. "Do you also dream of flying a plane?" He is suddenly silent. "No," he says, staring at the ground. In his small murmur there is an embarrassment that has not yet turned into regret. He is content to dream of cars that he sees hurtling down the streets of his town. Few airplanes fly over Firozabad.



#### Think as you read

1. What makes the city of Firozabad famous?
2. Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangles industry.
3. How is Mukesh's attitude to his situation different from that of his family?

Lost Spring/19



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