

The Little Girl Beehive English

By Katherine Mansfield

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Thinking about the Text

I. Given below are some emotions that Kezia felt. Match the emotions in Column A with the items in Column B.

A	B
1. fear or terror	(i) father comes into her room to give her a goodbye kiss
2. glad sense of relief	(ii) noise of the carriage grows fainter
3. a "funny" feeling, perhaps of understanding	(iii) father comes home
	(iv) speaking to father
	(v) going to bed when alone at home
	(vi) father comforts her and falls asleep
	(vii) father stretched out on the sofa, snoring

Answer

	A		B
1.	fear or terror	(iii) (iv) (v) (vii)	father comes home speaking to father going to bed when alone at home father stretched out on the sofa snoring
2.	glad sense of relief	(i)	father comes into her room to give
		(ii)	her a goodbye kiss noise of the carriage grows fainter
3.	a "funny" feeling, perhaps of understanding	(vi)	father comforts her and falls asleep

II. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?
2. Who were the people in Kezia's family?
3. What was Kezia's father's routine (i)
before going to his office?
(ii) after coming back from his office?
(iii) on Sundays?
4. In what ways did Kezia's grandmother encourage her to get to know her father better?

Answer

1. Kezia was afraid of her father because he was very strict who always used to give commands to everybody else in the house. He never played with her. He had big hands and heavy face especially his mouth when he yawned were big and she was especially terrified with the manner in which he looked at her over his spectacles.
2. Kezia's family consisted of her mother, father, grandmother and herself.
3. (i) Before going to his office, Kezia's father usually went into her room to give her a casual kiss.
(ii) After coming back from his office, he ordered for tea to be brought into the drawing room. He also asked his mother to bring him the newspaper and his slippers, and Kezia to pull off his boots.

(iii) On Sunday, Kezia's father would stretch out on the sofa. He would cover his face with his handkerchief, put his feet on one of the cushions and sleep soundly.

4. Kezia's grandmother encouraged her to get to know her father better by sending her to the drawing room to talk to her parents on Sundays. She also suggested Kezia to make a pin cushion out of a beautiful piece of yellow silk as a gift for her father's birthday.

III. Discuss these questions in class with your teacher and then write down your answers in two or three paragraphs each.

1. Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much. How did this happen?

Answer

Kezia efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him. On every Sunday, her grandmother sent her down to the drawing room to have nice talk with father and mother. But her presence always irritated the father. He used to call her 'little brown owl'.

One day her grandmother told her that her father's birthday would be next week and suggested that she should make him a pin-cushion for beautiful gift. After stitching three sides of the cushion with double cotton with great care and effort, Kezia was stuck as to what to fill the cushion with. Since her grandmother was busy in the garden, she searched her Mother's bedroom for scraps. Finally, she discovered sheets of paper on the bed table. She gathered these, tore them up and filled the cushion with the torn pieces.

Unfortunately, her efforts to please her father not only went in vain but also had an unanticipated consequence. This was because the sheets she had torn were her father's speech for the Port Authority. Her father scolded her for touching things that did not belong to her and punished her by hitting her palm with a ruler.

2. Kezia decides that there are "different kinds of fathers". What kind of father was Mr Macdonald, and how was he different from Kezia's father?

Answer

Kezia compared her father with Mr. Macdonald, her next door neighbour. He was a loving, gentle and forgiving father. He was always smiling and playing with his children. He treated his children in a friendly manner.

He was just opposite to the Kezia's father. Unlike Kezia's father he never punished his children. He played with them whenever he was free. Kezia's father was very harsh and a strict disciplinarian.

3. How does Kezia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy?

Answer

With her mother and grandmother at the hospital, Kezia is left at home in the care of Alice, the cook. At night, after she is put to bed by the cook, she has a nightmare.

She calls for her grandmother but, to her surprise, she finds her father standing near her bed. He takes her in his arms and makes her sleep next to him. Half asleep, she creeps close to him, snuggles her head under his arm, and holds tightly to his shirt. Her father asks her to rub her feet against his legs for warmth.

Her father goes off to sleep before her. This makes her understand that he has to work hard every day and this leaves him too tired to be like Mr Macdonald. She expresses her altered feelings for her father by telling him that he has a 'big heart'.

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Thinking about Language

I. Look at the following sentence.

1. Use an appropriate word from the synonyms given above in the following sentences. Clues are given in brackets. (i) She was _____ by the news of her brother's wedding. (very pleased)
- (ii) I was _____ to be invited to the party. (extremely pleased and excited about)
- (iii) She was _____ at the birth of her granddaughter. (extremely happy)
- (iv) The coach was _____ with his performance. (satisfied about)
- (v) She was very _____ with her results. (happy about something that has happened).

Answer

- (i) She was thrilled by the news of her brother's wedding.
- (ii) I was delighted to be invited to the party.
- (iii) She was overjoyed at the birth of her granddaughter.
- (iv) The coach was pleased with his performance.
- (v) She was very happy with her results.

2. Study the use of the word *big* in the following sentence.

He was so *big* – his hands and his neck, especially his mouth... Here, *big* means *large in size*.

Now, consult a dictionary and find out the meaning of *big* in the following sentences. The first one has been done for you.

- (i) You are a big girl now. older
- (ii) Today you are going to take the biggest decision of your career.

- (iii) Their project is full of big ideas. _____
- (iv) Cricket is a big game in our country. _____
- (v) I am a big fan of Lata Mangeskar. _____
- (vi) You have to cook a bit more as my friend is a big eater. _____
- (vii) What a big heart you've got, Father dear. _____

Answer

- (ii) most important

(iii) innovation

(iv) popular

(v) great

(vi) gourmand

(vii) generous

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1. Underline the verbs of reporting in the following sentences.

(i) He says he will enjoy the ride.

(ii) Father mentioned that he was going on a holiday.

(iii) No one told us that the shop was closed.

(iv) He answered that the price would go up.

(v) I wondered why he was screaming.

(vi) Ben told her to wake him up.

(vii) Ratan apologised for coming late to the party.

Answer

(i) He says he will enjoy the ride.

(ii) Father mentioned that he was going on a holiday.

(iii) No one told us that the shop was closed.

(iv) He answered that the price would go up.

(v) I wondered why he was screaming.

(vi) Ben told her to wake him up.

(vii) Ratan apologized for coming late to the party.

2. Some verbs of reporting are given in the box. Choose the appropriate verbs and fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

were complaining	shouted	replied
remarked	ordered	suggested

- (i) "I am not afraid," _____ the woman.
(ii) "Leave me alone," my mother _____.
(iii) The children _____ that the roads were crowded and noisy.
(iv) "Perhaps he isn't a bad sort of a chap after all," _____ the master.
(v) "Let's go and look at the school ground," _____ the sports teacher.
(vi) The traffic police _____ all the passers-by to keep off the road.

Answer

- (i) "I am not afraid," replied the woman.
(ii) "Leave me alone," my mother shouted.
(iii) The children were complaining that the roads were crowded and noisy.

(iv) “Perhaps he isn’t a bad sort of a chap after all,” remarked the man. (v) “Let’s go and look at the school ground,” suggested the sports teacher.

(vi) The traffic police ordered all the passers-by to keep off the road.

Rain on the Roof (Poem) Beehive English

By Coates Kinney

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Thinking about the Poem

I.

1.

What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

(i) humid shadows

(ii) starry spheres

(iii) what a bliss

(iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start

(v) a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof

2. What does the poet like to do when it rains?

3. What is the single major memory that comes to the poet? Who are the “darling dreamers” he refers to?

4. Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

Answer

1. (i) "Humid shadows" refer to the dark clouds that produce rain.
(ii) "Starry spheres" refer to the night sky abounding in stars.
(iii) "What a bliss" refers to the happiness of the poet. When it rains poet gets into his cottage and enjoy the patter of rain upon the roof.
(iv) This refers to the various imaginary thoughts and fantasies that are aroused in the poet's mind.
(v) This phrase means that numerous memories intermingle to form a beautiful picture that the poet recollects.
2. When it rains, the poet feels delighted to lie with his head pressed against the pillow of his cottage chamber bed and listen to the patter of the soft rain.
3. The single major memory that comes to the poet is that of his mother and her fond look.

The "darling dreamers" are the poet and his siblings in their childhood when they were lovingly put to sleep by their mother.

4. No, the poet is not a child now. He is a grown up man. He remembers her when he is inside his cosy cottage and enjoy the pattern of rain on the roof.

II.

1. When you were a young child, did your mother tuck you in, as the poet's did?
2. Do you like rain? What do you do when it rains steadily or heavily as described in the poem?
3. Does everybody have a cosy bed to lie in when it rains? Look around you and describe how different kinds of people or animals spend time, seek shelter etc. during rain.

Answer

1. Yes, my mother used to tuck me in when I was a young child, just like the poet's mother did. (Self-experience question)
2. Yes, I like the rain. When it rains steadily I get into my house and enjoy the weather with family. We enjoy tea. It is wonderful experience (selfexperience question)
3. No, everybody is not fortunate enough to have a cosy bed to lie in when it rains. Not everybody gets to enjoy the comfort of cosy homes during rain. I have seen animals seeking shelter under trees and under the tin roofs of the small roadside tea stalls. The people passing by shoo away these animals and try to shrink themselves under the limited space of these shops. The poor animals are left shivering and drenching on the roads. The shopkeepers of such stalls are delighted as the people waiting for the rain to subside often end up buying tea and snacks.