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Class 9 English (Beehive) Notes

THE LITTLE GIRL

Key Notes and Important Questions with Answers

Lesson 3

THE LITTLE GIRL

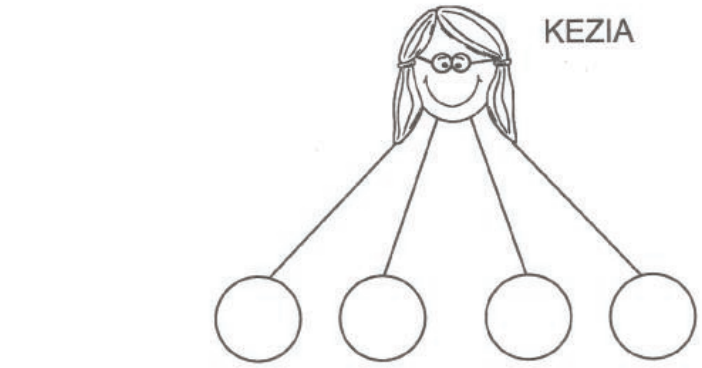
Katherine Mansfield

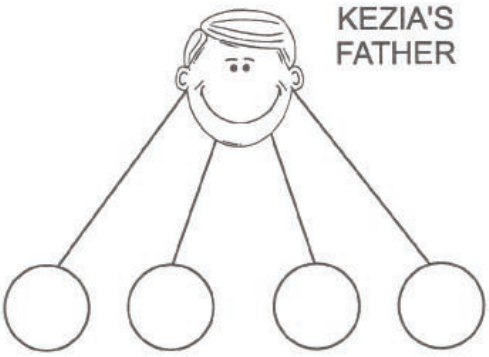
Value Points

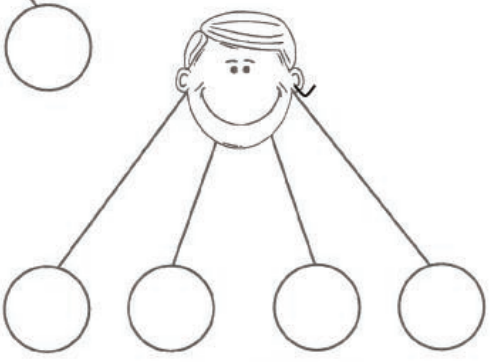
- Kezia is a little girl, having both parents working, left in loving grandma's care.
- Kezia has formal relations with mother and father. She is afraid of her strict father so she stammered while talking to him. She thought him to be giant sized.
- On Sundays Grandma sent her to spend time with parents but Kezia found her father lying down on the sofa to relax, mother busy reading.
- They did not show affection and care.
- One day Kezia was at home because of cold and grandma, to keep her busy, suggested her to prepare a gift for father's birthday.
- Kezia prepared a pin cushion with beautiful yellow silk cloth, needed scrap to fill it.
- Took some papers from father's room and tore them up to stuff them in pin cushion.
- It was father's important speech for the port authority. When found missing, searched, servants, Kezia questioned. Finally innocently Kezia admitted. She had torn them for her surprise gift.
- Father beat her with a ruler, cries bitterly. Kezia clung to grandma as she consoles her.
- Next door neighbour Mr. Macdonald plays with his children in the evening. After watching him, Kezia concludes that all fathers are not like hers.
- One day mother got admitted to the hospital, she was alone at home. The cook Alice took care of her in the day but at night she was alone. Father sleeping in another room. Old nightmare haunts Kezia — a butcher with knife in his hand. Too much afraid of it.
- Father comes to her room hugs her, carries her to his room to comfort her. She realises he is not so bad, he is too busy to express his love. Hence, she realises her father has a big heart.

ACTIVITY

Q. Write a few words describing :







MR. MACDONALD

COMPREHENSION PASSAGES

1. To the little girl he was a figure to be feared and avoided. Every morning before going to work he came into her room and gave her a casual Kiss, to which she responded with "Goodbye, Father".

Questions

a) Name the lesson.

b) Whom did the little girl fear and avoid?

c) What did the father do before leaving for his work?

d) Which word in the above passage means the same as 'reacted'.

2. She never stuttered with other people — had quite given it up — but only with father, because then she was trying so hard to say the words properly.

Questions

a) Who is 'she' here?

b) With whom did she stutter?

c) Why did she shutter?

d) Find the words/phrase from the above passage that means the same as 'left'.

3. And she was dragged down to where father was pacing to and fro, hands behind his back. "well"? he, said sharply. Mother explained. He stopped and stared at the child. "Did you do that?" "N-No", She whispered.

Questions

a) Who was dragged down?

b) What did the mother explain to the father?

c) Why did the father stare at the child ?

d) Find the antonym of "roared" from the above passage.

SHORT QUESTIONS

1. How did Kezia feel when her father left for office and why?
2. How did Kezia make a pin cushion for her father?
3. How did Kezia feel when her father beat her?

4. Why did Kezia's father punish her?
5. What did Kezia feel after seeing the McDonald family?
6. What nightmare did Kezia often have and who helped her?
7. How did Kezia's father treat her when she had the same nightmare?

LONG QUESTIONS

1. Father in the beginning of the story is a dreadful figure to Kezia. What makes Kezia change her feelings towards her father in the end ?
2. "Cruel and harsh attitude is not enough to inculcate values and discipline among the children." Justify this statement in context of the lesson. "The Little Girls."
3. "That night there was a hue and cry in the house." Why did her father get agitated?