

CLASS NOTES

Class: IX

Topic: The Little Girl

Subject: ENGLISH

Textual Questions:-

Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

Ans. Kezia was afraid of her father because he was strict. He stared at her and even gave her physical punishment. Instead of the love and affection that Kezia sought from her father, he gave her scoldings which instilled a fear in her mind. Her father's giant structure also terrified little Kezia.

2. Who were the people in Kezia's family?

Ans. In all there were four members in Kezia's family – her strict father, her stern mother, a loving grandmother and Kezia herself.

3. What was Kezia's father's routine

- (i) before going to his office?
- (ii) after coming back from his office?
- (iii) on Sundays?

Ans.

- i) Before going to office, Kezia's father would visit Kezia in her room, give her a kiss and then leave for work in his carriage.
- ii) After coming back from office in the evening, Kezia's father would order that tea be brought for him in the drawing room. He would order for his slippers and the newspapers in a loud voice.
- iii) On Sunday afternoons, he would stretch out on the sofa, his handkerchief on his face, his feet on one of the best cushions, and would sleep soundly and snore.

4. In what ways did Kezia's grandmother encourage her to get to know her father better?

Ans. Kezia's grandmother wanted Kezia to have a strong bond of love and affection with her parents. In order to develop that, she encouraged Kezia to go downstairs every Sunday afternoon to spend time with her parents and to get to know them better.

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?

Ans. Kezia was at home as she was down with fever. Her grandmother suggested that she make a surprise gift for her father as his birthday was approaching. Kezia and her grandmother planned that Kezia would make a pin cushion for him and her grandmother gave her a piece of yellow – coloured silk fabric for it. Kezia stitched the cushion from three sides and was looking for pieces of torn cloth or paper to stuff into the cushion.

As her grandmother was out in the garden, the innocent child reached her parents' room. She found a heap of paper lying on the bed table, tore the sheets of paper into tiny bits and stuffed it into the cushion. Kezia was glad that finally, the surprise gift was ready but, in fact she had committed a serious mistake of destroying her father's speech that he had prepared for the Port Authority.

Kezia's father was angry with her and wanted to teach her an important lesson, not to touch anything that did not belong to her. So, he hit Kezia's palms with a ruler to teach her a lesson.

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?

Ans. Mr. Macdonald, Kezia’s next door neighbour had five children. Kezia often saw them playing in the garden. One day, she peeped through a gap in the fence and saw them having fun. Baby Mao was sitting on Mr. Macdonald’s shoulders, his two daughter stuck to his coat’s pockets and they ran all around the flower beds, laughing and having fun. His sons opened the hose on him and he tried to catch them. This fun scene made her conclude that there were different kinds of fathers. Mr. Macdonald was different from her father. He was not strict, played with his children and they laughed all the while. On the other hand, Kezia’s father was always angry at her. He remained busy with work and later, was too tired that he slept most of the time. He stared at her, scolded her for stammering and being silly. His strict nature made Kezia wonder that what for had God made fathers.

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

Ans. One day, Kezia’s mother was taken ill and went to the hospital. Grandmother too accompanied her. Kezia was left alone with the cook, Alice to look after her. At night, Alice put Kezia to bed but Kezia was reluctant to sleep without her grandmother as she would go to her in case she got scared by a nightmare. Alice put Kezia to sleep all alone and ordered her not to scream and disturb her father who was asleep in the next room. But she was again bothered by the nightmare of a butcher with a knife, a rope and a dreadful smile. Kezia screamed and called her grandmother. Upon hearing her screams, her father woke up. He was holding a candle and lifted Kezia in his arms. He took her to his room and comforted her. He lay Kezia in his bed and told her to rub her feet against his legs to make them warm. Kezia felt his affection and snuggled towards him. At that moment, Kezia realized that her father worked really hard was a tired poor man who needed sympathy and concern. There was no one to look after him. Although he was big and not as soft as grandmother, Kezia realized that he loved her, and she had affection for him.

Extra Questions:-

1. Why did Kezia’s grandmother send her to the drawing room every Sunday afternoon?

Ans:- Kezia’s grandmother knew that she was afraid of her father and she felt that if she spoke to him more often, she would get rid of that fear. So, every Sunday afternoon she used to send her to the drawing room to have a nice talk with her father.

2. How was Kezia’s father different from Mr. McDonalds ?

Ans:- Mr. McDonalds played with his children. The girls would hang on to his coat, they would laugh together. Kezia’s father had no time for such things. He really worked very hard for the family.

3. How did the father comfort the little girl, Kezia, when she got scared in her sleep ?

Ans:- The father came to Kezia’s room with a candle, lifted her up in his strong arms, lay beside her and made her stay close to him. She held his shirt and snuggled herself close to her father. This comforted Kezia when she got scared in her sleep.

Extract Based Questions:-

Read the following extract carefully and choose the correct option.

But the same old nightmare came the butcher with a knife and a rope who came nearer and nearer, with that dreadful smile, while she could not move, only stand still, crying out "Grandma!". She woke shivering to see father beside her bed, a candle in his hand. "What is the matter ?" he said.

1. Why did she get the nightmare ?

- a) Because she was ill.
- b) She got the nightmare as she was alone with her father at home and her mother and granny were in the hospital.
- c) Because of Alice
- d) None of the above

2. Where was the butcher ?

- a) in butcher house.
- b) with animals
- c) in her dream
- d) beside her

3. Who went nearer to her after nightmare?

- a) Butcher
- b) Alice
- c) Granny
- d) Father

4. Find a word from the passage that means "shake in fear and cold".

- a) Dreadful
- b) Nightmare
- c) Crying
- d) Shivering

Answers:-

1. b) She got the nightmare as she was alone with her father at home and her mother and granny were in the hospital.
2. c) in her dream

3. d) Father

4. d) Shivering

Long Answer Question

Kezia in the story “The Little Girl” was afraid of her father because he never communicated with her. Imagine you are parenting councilor, based on your reading of the story write a paragraph advising the parents to make communication with their children priority.

Answer:

In the story, Kezia is always scared of her father. Her father was a strict disciplinarian who was always strict towards her. He never spoke to her softly and in a loving manner. He always scolded her and even beat her up for small mistakes. Parents should not let their stress and workload interfere in their family life. Parents should always spend quality time with their children. Bonding and understanding should always be there so that the children can open up their feelings and problems with their parents. There should be no communication gap between the parents and their children.

Content prepared at home by KPT.