



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What was the name of the little girl?
(A) Kezia
(B) Mao
(C) Jane
(D) Katherine

Ans: A

2. Why was the little girl afraid of her father?
(A) Because he never talked to her lovingly.
(B) Because he never played with her.
(C) Because he kept finding faults with her.
(D) All of the above

Ans : D

3. What did the parents do on Sunday afternoons?
(A) They would have a nice talk with Kezia
(B) Mother would be reading and father would be sleeping
(C) Mother would be chatting with Kezia and father would be listening to music
(D) None of the above

Ans: B

4. What would Kezia do while saying something to her father?
(A) She would stammer.
(B) She would begin to cry.
(C) She would speak very loudly.
(E) She would run away in fear.

Ans: A

5. What was Kezia's birthday gift for her father?
(A) Pen
(B) Pin- cushion
(C) Clothes
(D) Flowers

Ans: B

6. How did Kezia feel when her father left for the office?

- (A) lonely
- (B) sad
- (C) a sense of relief
- (D) bored

Ans: C

7. What does Kezia's father compare her to?

- (A) a cat
- (B) a green parrot
- (C) a sparrow
- (D) a little brown owl

Ans: D

8. Why did the father beat the little girl?

- (A) She lied to him
- (B) She broke a vase
- (C) She tore her father's speech
- (D) He hated her

Ans : C

9. Why did the grandmother ask the little girl to make a present for her father?

- (A) the father's birthday was the next week
- (B) the father was going to be retired the next week
- (C) the father was going to get a big reward
- (D) None of the above

Ans : A

10. What nightmare did Kezia had?

- (A) A tiger pouncing upon her
- (B) A butcher with a knife and a rope

(C) An accident

(D) A ghost

Ans : B

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS-

Q.1. Kezia slept one night with her father and changed her opinion about him. What was her opinion about her father before? What change did take place?

Ans. Earlier Kezia thought that her father was a cruel man. She always avoided him. She saw that her neighbour Mr Macdonald loved her children. But her father never cared for her. One day Kezia's mother was taken to a hospital. Kezia was alone in her room. At night she had a nightmare. She cried with fear. Her father took her to his bed. She slept with him. Her father asked her to rub her feet against his legs to make them warm. She felt sorry for her father. He worked hard and was so tired that he had no time to play with her. She realised that it was her fault to tear up the sheets. Now it appeared to her that her father was not a hard-hearted man.

2. Relate in your own words the pin-cushion incident.

Ans. The little girl wanted to gift a pin-cushion to her father on his birthday. She took a piece of yellow silk and stitched its three sides. She left the fourth side for filling. But she did not know' what to fill it with. She found some sheets of paper. She tore them into pieces. She stuffed the cushion with them. She then stitched the fourth side also. Unfortunately, those papers contained a very important speech. It was written by her father. When he came to know that Kezia had torn the papers, he was very angry. He took a ruler and hit Kezia on her hands.

3. Write a short character-sketch of Kezia's father.

Ans. Kezia's father has big hands, neck and mouth. In the beginning, he appears to be a very cruel person. He never talks to his daughter kindly. He never plays with her. Once Kezia tears up his speech. He beats her badly. But in fact, he is not cruel. He is very good at heart. One day Kezia cries out at night. She has a nightmare. Her father comes and carries her to his room. He puts her by his side. Now Kezia feels how her father loves her. In fact, he has to work very hard. He becomes too tired to play with his daughter. But the little girl thinks her father does not love her. At last, she does come to know how dearly her father loves her.

4. Write a short note on the relationship between Kezia and her father.

Ans: The relationship between Kezia and her father was a delicate one. He was a conventional disciplinarian and as the head of the family, he asserted his authority over everyone, including his little girl. He often scolded her for her sad looks and for stuttering. She was made to take off his shoes and put them outside when he returned home from the office in the evening. He even punished her when she mistakenly tore his important papers. He did not give her even one chance to explain herself and failed to see her loving intention behind the mistake. As a consequence of her father's overly strict behaviour, Kezia developed a strong fear for him. She preferred to stay out of his sight and was relaxed only during his absence from the house. She compared him to be a giant – a dreadful creature for little children. After being beaten by him with a ruler, she even questioned the purpose of God in making fathers.

However, this dry relationship undergoes a drastic change towards the end of the story. Father displays his soft corner when Kezia is alone and gets scared by her nightmare. He carries her in his arms to his room, tucks her comfortably in his bed, lies down close to her and gives her the

assurance that children seek from parents. This protective, caring and considerate side of her father arouses her sympathy for him. She realises that he has a big heart which is full of love for her.

5. How did Kezia once earn her father's wrath? What punishment did she get for her mistake? Was it justified? What light does this incident throw on her father's character?

Ans: Kezia once earned her father's wrath for tearing his speech for the Port Authority to stuff a pin-cushion she was making for him as a birthday present. When he discovered that Kezia was the culprit, he punished her by beating her little pink palms with a ruler to teach her not to touch what did not belong to her.

I think it was a very harsh punishment for an innocent mistake of a fond little daughter. It is true that the papers were extremely important for him and their loss must have caused him a lot of inconveniences but he should have understood and appreciated the fact that Kezia was making a birthday present for him. Gentle but firm words would have sufficed to teach the sensitive Kezia that she should not touch things that do not belong to her. But Father instead chose to beat her little pink palms with a ruler. That was much too cruel on his part.

This incident shows that he was a very cruel and insensitive father who demanded a very high standard of discipline from his daughter and could not tolerate any disobedience.

6. How do you interpret the behaviour of Kezia's mother towards her?

Ans: The behaviour of Kezia's mother towards her is unlike the expected role played by mothers in households. Perhaps, her husband's strict nature does not leave enough room for her to pay the desired attention to her daughter. The story reveals that her relationship with her daughter is distant. She treats the little girl in accordance with her husband's expectations. She orders her to take off her father's shoes and put them outside as this would indicate obedience. On Sunday afternoons, she spends time engrossed in a newspaper sitting with her husband instead of talking to her daughter. When Kezia mistakenly tears the papers of her father, she drags her downstairs to face the wrath of Father. She does not try to soothe her when Father scolds and beats her. Neither does she defend her or try to protect her in any way. That is why Kezia turns to her grandmother to fulfil her need for motherly care and affection.

7. Why did Kezia feel drawn towards her grandmother?

Ans: Failing to get any expression of affection from her Parents, especially her father, Kezia feels drawn to her grandmother. She turns to her to fulfil her need for love and protection. Grandmother too showers abundant love upon the little girl. She keeps trying to build her bond with her parents. She advises Kezia to talk to her parents when they would be relaxing in the drawing-room on Sunday afternoons. Again, she tells Kezia about Father's birthday and suggests that she should make a pin-cushion for him as a present. When Father beats Kezia, it is a grandmother who consoles and comforts her by covering her with her shawl and allowing the child to cling to her soft body. Earlier too, whenever Kezia would get scared by her nightmares, grandmother would take her in her own bed. Hence, her affinity and support make Kezia look up to her for everything.

8. Every father has a love for his child whether he expresses his love or not. Comment on the basis of the story "The Little Girl".

Ans. Fathers are not alike. Some play with their children while others love and care for them. They show their love to them by working hard and giving them all the facilities as well as instructions. Though they never express their love they have a deep love for their child. Kezia's father belongs to the second type. He did not believe in showing off his affection for his

daughter. He believed in showing his love by making her future more secure. When she tore his papers unknowingly, he beat her harshly. But in the end, we find him a very loving and caring father. Thus, it is true that every father loves his child's but the way of love is different from one person to another. Most of the fathers live their dream in their children. Their strictness is also a kind of love.

9. “That night there was a hue and cry in the house.” Why did her father get agitated?

Ans. One day, when Kezia was kept indoors due to cold, her grandmother suggested her to make a pin-cushion for her father. She stitched three sides of the cushion and went to her mother's bedroom to look for scraps with which she could fill the cushion.

On the bed-table, she discovered a great many sheets of fine paper, gathered them up, tore them into tiny pieces and stuffed her case and then sewed up the fourth side.

That night there was a huge hue and cry in the house because those papers were very important. It was a great speech for the Port Authority. So, her parents were in search of those sheets. This was the reason that her father got agitated and punished her with a ruler.

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

Ans. One-night Kezia had a nightmare which made her too terrified. She was crying out of fear. When she woke up, she found her father beside her bed with a candle in his hand. He asked her what the matter was. When he came to know about her nightmare, he blew out the candle, bent down and caught up the child in his arms. He carried her to the big bedroom. He laid her on the bed and pulled the covers up around her. Apart from this, he lay down beside her.

After some time, still half asleep, she crept close to him, snuggled her head under his arm and held tightly to his shirt. Now she felt comfortable. Her father told her to rub her feet against his legs and get them warm. Now, Kezia realised that her father was not as harsh as she thought. She realised that her father had to work all day long and got so tired that he could not play with her. She realised that her father wanted her to understand his compulsion.

EXTRACTS FOR COMPREHENSION

Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow in one or two lines each.

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.

(a) Who does ‘he’ refer to in this extract?

Ans: He refers to the father of the little girl, Kezia.

(b) What were the feelings of the little girl towards him?

Ans: The little girl was afraid of him and tried to avoid him.

(c) What did ‘he’ do before going to work every morning?

Ans: Before going to work every morning, he came to the room of the little girl and casually kissed her.

(d) What does this gesture show about him?

Ans: This gesture shows that he loved her girl but was not very expressive in his affection.

(II)

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.

(a) Who is ‘she’ in this extract?

Ans: She is Kezia, the little girl who was afraid of her father.

(b) What had she 'quite given up'?

Ans: She had quite given up the occasional stuttering in front of other people.

(c) How did 'she' speak in the presence of her father?

Ans: In the presence of her father, Kezia stuttered while speaking and displayed lack of confidence.

(d) Why did 'she' speak so differently before her father?

Ans: Being afraid of her father, Kezia hesitated to speak to him. Whenever she had to, she would stutter and sound different because her natural speech would be obstructed.

(III)

He was so big – his hands and his neck, especially his mouth when he yawned. Thinking about him alone was like thinking about a giant.

(a) Who is 'he' in the above extract?

Ans: In this extract, 'he' refers to the father of Kezia, who was a veil, strict disciplinarian.

(b) why does the speaker find him so big?

Ans: The speaker is his little daughter Kezia who was very scared of him. Hence she finds him so big – with big hands, neck and mouth.

(c) why does the speaker think of him as a giant?

Ans: The speaker, Kezia, thought of him as a giant because to a small girl like her, his big body structure was as frightening as that of a giant of children's stories.

(d) When did his mouth especially appear big?

Ans: His mouth especially appeared big when he opened it wide while yawning.

(IV)

"Mother, go up to her room and fetch down the damned thing – see that the child's put to bed this instant."

(a) Who speaks these lines and to whom?

Ans: Kezia's father speaks these lines to his mother.

(b) What is the mood of the speaker in these lines?

Ans: The speaker, Kezia's father, is in a very angry mood while speaking these lines because Kezia had torn his important speech to pieces.

(c) What does the speaker refer to as the 'damned thing'?

Ans: The 'damned thing' referred to by the speaker, Kezia's father, is the pin-cushion Kezia had made for him.

(d) Who is the 'child' here? Why does the speaker wish the child to be put to bed immediately?

Ans: The 'child' here is Kezia. Her father, the speaker, wishes her to be put to bed immediately because he is furious at the damage caused by her. He does not want to lose his anger further due to her presence in front of him.

(V)

"Here's a clean hanky, darling. Blow your nose. Go to sleep, pet; you'll forget all about it in the morning. I tried to explain to Father but he was too upset to listen tonight."

(a) Who speaks these lines to whom and when?

Ans: The kind and affectionate Grandmother speaks these lines to a sobbing Kezia after she is hit on her little pink palms with a ruler by her father.

(b) Why does the speaker offer a clean hanky?

Ans: Grandmother, the speaker, offers a clean hanky because Kezia had been crying after she was punished by her father for tearing his important papers. She needed a clean hanky to blow her nose.

(c) What did the speaker want the listener to forget? Why?

Ans: Grandmother, the speaker, wanted Kezia, the listener to forget all about the beating that she had got from her Father. She wanted her to forget it because the punishment was not given to hurt her but to make her understand that things belonging to others must not be touched.

(d) What did the speaker try to explain to Father?

Ans: Grandmother, the speaker, tried to explain to Father that Kezia was a 'little girl and had not destroyed the papers intentionally. She was, in fact, trying to complete his surprise birthday gift.

(VI)

"What'll I do if I have a nightmare?" she asked. "I often have nightmares and then Grannie takes me into her bed – I can't stay in the dark – it all gets 'whispery'..."

(a) Who is the speaker in these lines? Who is being addressed here?

Ans: In these lines, the speaker is Kezia, the little girl and she is addressing Alice, the cook.

(b) What happens when the speaker has nightmares?

Ans: When Kezia has nightmares, she is comforted by her grandmother who takes the little girl into her bed.

(C) Why can't the speaker stay in the dark?

Ans: Kezia can't stay in the dark because she is a little girl and the deep silence of darkness scares her.

(d) Where is Grannie right now?

Ans: Kezia's Grannie is at the hospital with Kezia's mother who is unwell.

(VII)

"Oh," said the little girl, "my heads on your heart. I can hear it going. What a big heart you've got, Father dear."

(a) Who is the little girl in these lines?

Ans: The little girl in these lines is Kezia.

(b) Where has she put her head? Why?

Ans: Kezia has put her head on the big heart of her father. She has done so because she is free from her fears and nightmare and is happy to discover the tender and loving side of her otherwise strict daddy.

(c) What can the little girl hear?

Ans: Kezia can hear the heartbeat of her father. Symbolically, it means that she can understand the true love that is buried deep in her father's heart.

(d) How does the little girl feel at this time?

Ans: Kezia feels happy and safe at this time. She does not think her father to be cruel, dominating, and giant-like. Instead, she knows that he is actually a kind, loving, and considerate person with a big heart.