

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This worksheet breaks down pages 130 to 132 of "Identity" into several key moments
2. For each key moment, identify your impressions of the protagonist, and your impressions of the family members. Key evidence has been selected to guide you in identifying possible impressions of the characters.
3. For each piece of evidence, highlight the keywords that stand out to you
4. Break down the keywords to analyse the evidence by asking yourself the following questions:
  - a. What is the character doing/saying?
  - b. How are they doing it?
  - c. Why do you think they are doing it?
  - d. What does that tell you about them or how they are feeling?

Key Moment 1 (p.130)	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of protagonist	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of family members
<p>She entered her home to find her husband ogling (to look at in attraction) the photos of actresses in the newspaper. Her irritation flared.</p> <p>"Can't you help me with the grocery shopping at least once? Why am I doing all of the work all of the time?"</p> <p>"Goodness! Can't a man have some peace and quiet on his day off?" he shouted back, before disappearing into the paper again.</p> <p>Without missing a beat, she walked into the kitchen and plonked the bags of groceries on the dining table. Over the past fifteen years, she had learnt to shut his voice out of her head. It helped.</p>	<p><b>Impressions of protagonist:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She is not respected/unappreciated by her husband</li><li>• She is taken for granted</li></ul> <p>(1) "Can't you help me with the grocery shopping at least once? Why am I doing all of the work all of the time?"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- "At least once" → implies that her husband has never helped her prior to this conversation</li><li>- Connotes feelings of frustration, irritation, annoyance that have been pent up for a period of time</li><li>- Shows that her husband chooses to ignore her request</li></ul>	<p><b>Impressions of family members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inconsiderate</li><li>• Disrespectful</li><li>• Unappreciative</li></ul> <p>(1) She entered her home to find her husband ogling the photos of actresses in the newspaper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Husband → associated with being caring, considerate, loving, appreciative</li><li>• Ogling → to look at someone in a manner that expresses desire/attraction</li><li>• Shows that her husband does not seem to be grateful/appreciative of his wife, and does not take her feelings into consideration when his actions are hurtful</li></ul>

	<p>of help, and does not seem to care about how tired/frustrated she is because he “disappears into the paper again”.</p> <p>(2) Without missing a beat, she walked into the kitchen and plonked the bags of groceries on the dining table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Without missing a beat” → to do something immediately , almost as if it is a reflex action</li> <li>- Seems to be that she has gone similar bouts of frustration/tension with her husband over the same issue → putting up with constant disrespect/lack of appreciation over the years</li> </ul> <p>(3) Over the past fifteen years, she had learnt to shut his voice out of her head. It helped.</p>	<p>(2) “Goodness! Can’t a man have some peace and quiet on his day off?” he shouted back, before disappearing into the paper again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “A man” → reveals misogyny on his part, as he has expectations of her fulfilling domestic duties such as housework, according to gender stereotypes</li> <li>• He does not take into consideration her own needs for rest after her own long week of work</li> <li>• “Shouted back” → irritated tone, rude, demonstrates his anger</li> <li>• Highlights the husband’s selfishness as he only cares about his own needs/rest</li> <li>• Shows a lack of appreciation for the work that the protagonist does for the family</li> </ul>
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Key Moment 2 (p.130)	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of protagonist	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of family members
It was a hot day and the humidity hung heavy in the room. She longed to slide into her favourite	<b>Impressions of protagonist:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overworked</li> </ul>	<b>Impressions of family members:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demanding/unreasonable</li> </ul>

chair for a much-needed rest. But that wasn't possible. It was already 9am, and a whole load of housework awaited her. Her father-in-law would be back soon from his job as a night security guard. Breakfast for him always had to be iddili, thosai, or some other Indian delicacy, and it had to be homemade. The ones from the shops just would not do. Even if it was store-bought, she had to be the one to buy it, with her own money. Her husband and his father would ask for one each, and the cost could easily come up to ten or fifteen dollars. Did she need to pay through her teeth for breakfast? It was only a half-hour job to make it herself. After all, had they not brought her from India for this?

- Taken for granted

(1) She **longed to slide into her favourite chair** for a **much-needed rest**. But that wasn't possible. It was already **9am**, and **a whole load of housework** awaited her

- "Longed to slide" → The word "Longed" highlights how she has been yearning for rest for a while, showing that she is exhausted by the amount of work she needs to do
- Diction of the word "slide" → almost as though she has to fall into her chair out of tiredness, showing how little energy she has. She is overwhelmed by the amount of work she has to do
- "9am" → relatively early timing, yet she is already exhausted, showing the sheer amount of work she had already completed by this time
- "Whole load of housework" → emphasises the sheer volume of work that still needs to be completed despite already feeling exhausted

(2) It was only a half-hour job to make it herself. **After all, had they not brought her from India for this?**

(1) Breakfast for him **always had to be** iddili, thosai, or some other Indian delicacy, and it **had to be homemade**.

- Repetition of the words "had to be" → implies that the food she makes has to live up to her in-law's standards
- The word "always" → implies that there is no room for her to make mistakes, and the standards are non-negotiable
- Their insistence on their unreasonable standards show that they are demanding
- "Homemade" and "the ones from the shops just would not do" → insistence on homemade food despite the amount of extra effort it requires from her

(2) Even if it was store-bought, she had to be the one to buy it, with her own money.

- Enforcing the stereotype that women should take complete charge of all domestic responsibilities
- Deny her help/support → show them being demanding/unreasonable

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Brought her from India” → the way the family talks about her is similar to the way one might talk about a foreign domestic helper</li> <li>• Suggests that her sole purpose in the family is to serve them, rather than appreciate her as a wife/mother/a true family member</li> <li>• Demeaning tone that shows how she is unappreciated/taken for granted</li> </ul>	
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Key Moment 3 (p.131)	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of protagonist	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of family members
<p>As if on cue, her mother-in-law appeared and made a beeline for the fridge. “What did you buy today?” Opening the door, she pulled out each of the plastic bags her daughter-in-law had so painstakingly put away just a few minutes earlier.</p> <p>Looking on in frustration, she thought to herself, <i>Of course, she’ll leave these for me to put away - again.</i></p> <p>As much as she was angered by her mother-in-law’s behaviour and words, she could not show it to anyone. Her own mother’s words</p>	<p><b>Impressions of protagonist:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taken advantage of due to her position in the family</li> <li>• Filial/loving towards her mother</li> </ul> <p>(1) Looking on in frustration, she thought to herself, <i>Of course, she’ll leave these for me to put away - again.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Looking” → implies passivity and helplessness, she has no</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impressions of family members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insensitive</li> <li>• Inconsiderate</li> <li>• Uncaring of her feelings/efforts</li> </ul> <p>(1) Opening the door, she pulled out each of the plastic bags her daughter-in-law had so painstakingly put away just a few minutes earlier.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Each of the plastic bags” → shows that the protagonist had kept many bags, and the</li> </ul>

came back to her: "Always be patient, my love. You don't want them to fault my upbringing, do you?" That pleading voice always put things in perspective for her.

choice but to watch and is unable to speak out

- "Thought to herself" → she has no choice but to bottle up her annoyance because her mother-in-law holds authority over her
- "Of course" and "again" → connote a tone of resignation, showing that her mother-in-law has consistently and continuously shown a lack of appreciation for the protagonist's efforts, leading to immense annoyance that the protagonist cannot express

(2) That pleading voice always put things in perspective for her.

- "Pleading" → as though the protagonist's mother is begging, persuading her to remain silent/not argue back
- "You don't want them to fault my upbringing, do you?" → protagonist is aware that her mother will be blamed for anything she does, and she chooses not to do anything out love for her mother
- The fact that the protagonist is consistently reminding herself of her mother's words, and she chooses to act based on her mother's

mother-in-law chose to take out every single one, showing her lack of consideration for the protagonist's efforts

- "Painstakingly" → to take a lot of effort, highlighting the mother-in-law's complete disregard for the amount of work the protagonist put into organising the groceries
- "Just a few minutes earlier" → highlights how the protagonist's efforts were wasted, as her mother-in-law undid all her hard work just after it was completed

	<p>advice/reminders → shows the respect and love she has for her mother, and protects her mother from unfair accusations about her parenting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Always put things in perspective” → “always” tells us that she consistently reminds herself about she will affect her mother, she is willing to be mistreated by her in-laws in order to protect her mother</li> </ul>	
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Key Moment 4 (p.131)	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of protagonist	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of family members
<p>Unfazed by her obvious unhappiness, her husband's mother continued to rummage through the packets, finding fault with every item her daughter-in-law had bought. She picked up the chicken, prawns and brinjal, and placed them on the table. The message was clear: these should be prepared for lunch.</p> <p>She had planned to prepare fish curry with ladies' fingers. With a sigh, she picked up the fish and placed it in the freezer.</p> <p>Her mother-in-law pulled out a chair and sat down. "Have you made the thosai yet? Hurry up! I am</p>	<p><b>Impressions of protagonist:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helpless/resigned</li> </ul> <p>(1) <b>With a sigh</b>, she picked up the fish and placed it in the freezer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “With a sigh” → creates a sense of resignation, as she accepts her mother-in-law's instructions without question</li> <li>• Shows how she has no choice but to follow what her mother-in-law demands of her</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impressions of family members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demanding</li> <li>• Inconsiderate/insensitive</li> </ul> <p>(1) <b>Unfazed by her obvious unhappiness</b>, her husband's mother continued to rummage through the packets, <b>finding fault with every item</b> her daughter-in-law had bought.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Unfazed” → unconcerned with her daughter-in-law's unhappiness, showing how she is insensitive towards her feelings</li> </ul>

<p>giddy with hunger!"</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Finding fault with every item" → emphasis on "every" item shows how the mother in law had unreasonably high expectations for the protagonist</li> <li>• Unappreciative of the efforts the protagonist put in</li> </ul> <p>(2) "Have you made the thosai yet? Hurry up! I am giddy with hunger!"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demanding, aggressive tone that emphasised through the repetitive exclamation marks and question marks</li> <li>• Showing how the mother in law is unreasonable, especially the protagonist just came back from grocery shopping → does not give her time for rest, and instead demands to be served</li> </ul>
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Key Moment 5 (p.131-132)	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of protagonist	Evidence and analysis to link to impressions of family members
<p>Her mother-in-law was a hypochondriac (someone who worries excessively that they will become ill), forever believing she was sick with all sorts of diseases. "You don't have any problems, you're fine," (1) many doctors had advised the woman, who insisted she knew better. "You just need to</p>	<p><b>Impressions of protagonist:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerate/dutiful</li> <li>• Patient/respectful of her mother-in-law</li> <li>• Obedient</li> <li>• Resigned/taken advantage of</li> </ul>	<p><b>Impressions of family members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stubborn</li> <li>• Self-centered</li> <li>• Dependent on others</li> </ul>

lose some weight, and your legs won't hurt." (2) But who were they so say? Somehow, every week, she ended up spending half a day at the nearby clinic with her mother-in-law.

Yesterday was no different. Her Saturday had gone completely to waste. She had planned to finish most of her household chores, but nothing was done. She accompanied her mother-in-law to the clinic, and was left with no choice but to spend the rest of the day at the nearby shops. (3) No one else had the patience to shop with the older woman, who never left the house by herself, and who took two hours yesterday to choose bedsheets. Night had fallen by the time they had reached home.

(1) Somehow, every week, she ended up spending half a day at the nearby clinic with her mother-in-law.

- "Somehow, every week" → repetitive routine that occurs regularly
- The diction "somehow" creates a tone of helplessness and frustration as the protagonist has no choice but to accompany her mother-in-law
- "Spending half a day" → hyperbole that exaggerates the amount of time the protagonist has to spend with her mother-in-law each week
- The hyperbole emphasises the sacrifice that the protagonist has to make as she no longer has time for her own chores or rest, but instead uses the time in service of her mother-in-law

(2) No one else had the patience to shop with the older woman, who never left the house by herself, and who took two hours yesterday to choose bedsheets.

- "No one else had the patience" → the words "no one else" show how the protagonist was left with no

(1) many doctors had advised the woman, who insisted she knew better. "You just need to lose some weight, and your legs won't hurt." But who were they so say?

- "Doctors" → usually seen as a trusted figure of expertise and authority in their field
- The fact that she ignored "many doctors" highlights her stubborn nature, refuses to trust their expert advice
- "But who were they to say?" → tone of arrogance, dismissive



	<p>choice but to fulfill the responsibility of caring for her mother-in-law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternatively, she is obligated to fulfill her duties as daughter-in-law and is taken advantage of due to her position in the family</li><li>• “Never left the house by herself” → shows the reliance of the mother-in-law on the protagonist, and how the protagonist has no choice but to follow her when she is demanded to</li><li>• “2 hours” → exaggerates the amount of time the protagonist has to sacrifice to help her mother-in-law</li></ul>	
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