

Chapter 5

The Hundred Dresses - I

Oral Comprehension Check Pg-65

Q.1 Where in the classroom does Wanda sit and why?

Ans.: Wanda usually sat on the seat next to the last seat, in the last row, in the room thirteen. She sat there because her feet were usually covered with dry mud. Therefore in order to avoid being the butt of jokes of her classmates, she sat in the corner quietly.

Q.2 Where does Wanda live? What kind of a place do you think it is?

Ans.: Wanda lived in Boggins Heights. It was probably very far away from the school and it also seemed that there was a lot of dry mud, indicating that it was not a posh and rich locality.

Q.3 When and why do Peggy and Maddie notice Wanda's absence?

Ans.: Peggy and Maddie noticed Wanda's absence on Wednesday i.e. after three days. They noticed her absence because Wanda had got them late for school. Peggy and Maddie waited for her in order to have some fun, but she did not turn up.

Q.4 What do you think 'to have fun with her' means?

Ans.: It is a human tendency to make fun of others for their different style and behaviour. In the given text, Wanda Petronski is the girl who is made

fun of by her classmates. So 'to have fun with her' meant that her classmates liked to tease and mock at her ways.

Oral Comprehension Check Pg-67

Q.1 In what way was Wanda different from the other children?

Ans.: Wanda was a polish girl who had a funny and difficult name. She walked alone to school as she didn't have any friends. She had only one blue faded dress which she wore every day to school. All these aspects about Wanda made her different from her classmates in school.

Q.2 Did Wanda have a hundred dresses? Why do you think she said she did?

Ans.: Wanda was a poor polish girl who did not have a hundred dresses as she wore the same faded blue dress to school every day. She had an inferiority complex and knew that other girls were making fun of her by asking questions about her dresses. So, in order to hide this complex and counter the fun made by her classmates, she said so.

Q.3 Why is Maddie embarrassed by the questions Peggy asks Wanda? Is she also Wanda, or is she different?

Ans.: Maddie was embarrassed by the questions Peggy asked Wanda as she herself was a poor girl. She used to wear old clothes given handed down by others. But she was different from Wanda as she was not as poor as her and also had a few friends in the class. Maddie considered herself to be different from Wanda in the sense that she would never claim that

she had a hundred dresses. Yet she was afraid that others might make fun of her too.

Oral Comprehension Check Pg-70

Q.1 Why didn't Maddie ask Peggy to stop teasing Wanda? What was she afraid of?

Ans.: Peggy and Maddie were best friends. But Maddie didn't like Peggy making fun of Wanda as she herself was poor. However, she didn't have the courage to stop her to tease Wanda because she was afraid that she might become Peggy's next target and could be asked about her dresses.

Q.2 Who did Maddie think would win the drawing contest? Why?

Ans.: Maddie thought that Peggy would win the drawing contest as she had good artistic skills. She could copy a picture in a magazine or some film star's head beautifully and with complete perfection. Therefore Maddie thought that she was better than everyone and was sure of her victory.

Q.3 Who won the drawing contest? What had the winner drawn?

Ans.: Wanda Petronski won the drawing contest. She had drawn a hundred designs of dresses. They all were very beautiful and different and Wanda was applauded by the judges and her fellow classmates for her exquisite collection.

Thinking about the Text

Q.1 How is Wanda seen as different by the other girls? How do they treat her?

Ans.: Wanda was a polish girl and other girls were American. She had a very strange name and was very poor. She used to sit in the seat next to the last seat in the last row in the class. She sat in the corner of the room among the rough boys and always remained quiet. The girls especially Peggy made fun of her as she had only one faded blue dress while she claimed to have a hundred dresses.

Q.2 How does Wanda Feel about the dresses game? Why does she say that she has a hundred dresses?

Ans.: Wanda feels bad about the dresses game since she was a poor polish girl and disliked being the butt of everyone's joke. Peggy usually made fun of her faded blue dress and so in order to counter Peggy's fun, she claimed that she had a hundred dresses which in reality did not hold true.

Q.3 Why does Maddie stand by and not do anything? How is she different from Peggy? (Was Peggy's friendship important to Maddie? Why? Which lines in the text tell you this?)

Ans.: Maddie stands by and does not do anything because she did not have the courage to speak against Peggy as she was her best friend. Maddie is different from Peggy because she did not make fun of Wanda. Moreover, Peggy's friendship was important to Maddie because she was the best-liked girl in the whole class and she was afraid to be the next target of everyone's fun.

The line, “She was Peggy’s best friend, and Peggy was the best-liked girl in the whole room. Peggy could not possibly do anything that was really wrong, she thought.” shows that their friendship was important to Maddie.

Q.4 What does Miss Mason think of Wanda’s drawings? What do the children think of them? How do you know?

Ans.: Miss Mason appreciated Wanda’s drawings as she admired her creativity. The children were also surprised to see her hundred drawings with each drawing having an exquisite and unique design. When Miss Mason announced Wanda’s name as the winner, they stopped to look at them and whistled loudly giving her drawings a big round of applause.

Thinking about Language

Q.1 look at these sentences

(a) She sat in the corner of the room where the rough boys who did not make good marks sat, the corner of the room where there was most scuffling of feet...

(b) The time when they thought about Wanda was outside the school hours....These clauses help us to identify a set of boys, a place, and a time. They are answers to the questions ‘What kind of rough boys?’ ‘Which corner did she sit in’? And ‘What particular time outside of school hours?’ They are ‘defining’ or ‘restrictive’ relative clauses. (Compare them with the nondefining relative clauses discussed in Unit-1)

Combine the following to make sentences like those above.

1. This is the bus (What kind of bus?) It goes to Agra. (Use which or that)
2. I would like to buy (a) shirt (which shirt?). (The) shirt is in the shop window. (use which or that)

3. You must break your fast at a particular time. (when?). You see the moon in the sky. (use when)
4. Find a word (what kind of word). It begins with the letter Z. (use which or that)
5. Now find a person (what kind of person?). His or her name begins with letter Z. (use whose).
6. Then go to a place (What place?). There are no people whose name begins with Z in that place. (use where)

Ans.:

1. This is the bus which goes to Agra.
2. I would like to buy the shirt that is in the shop window.
3. You must break your fast when you see the moon in the sky.
4. Find a word which begins with the letter Z.
5. Now find a person whose name begins with the letter Z.
6. Then go to a place where there are no people whose name begins with Z.

Q.2A The narrative voice.

This story is in the ‘third person’ that is, the narrator is not a participant in the story. But the narrator often seems to tell the story from the point of view of one of the characters in the story. For example, look at the Italianized words in the sentences.

Thank goodness, she did not live up on Boggins Heights or have a funny name.

Whose thoughts do the words ‘Thank goodness’ express? Maddie’s, who is grateful that although she is poor, she is yet not as poor as Wanda, or as ‘different’. (So she does not get teased; she is thankful about that.)

A. Here are two other sentences from the story. Can you say whose point of view the italicized words express?

(i) But on Wednesday, Peggy and Maddie, who sat down front with other children who got good marks and who didn’t track in a whole lot of mud, did notice that Wanda wasn’t there.

(ii) Wanda Petronski. Most of the children in Room Thirteen didn’t have names like that. They had names easy to say, like Thomas, Smith or Allen.

Ans.:

(i) The italicized words in the sentence express Peggy and Maddie’s point of view.

(ii) The italicized words in the sentence express the narrator’s point of view.

Q.2B Can you find other such sentences in the story? You can do this after you read the second part of the story as well.

Ans.:

1. “Goodness! Wasn’t there anything she could do? If only she could tell Wanda she hadn’t meant to hurt her feelings.”
2. Peggy was not really cruel. She protected small children from bullies.

Q.3 Look at these sentences. The italicized adverb expresses an opinion or point of view.

Obviously, the only dress Wanda was the blue one she wore every day. (This was obvious to the speaker).

Note: A word that tells us more about the verb, adjective or (except noun and pronoun) other words is called an Adverb.

For Example:

Fortunate	Fortunately
Lucky	Luckily
Sharp	Sharply
Rapid	Rapidly
Beautiful	Beautifully

Other such adverbs are apparently,

evidently, surprisingly, possibly, hopefully, incredibly, etc. Use these words appropriately in the blanks in the sentences below. (You may use a word more than one word may be appropriate for a given blank.)

1. he finished his work on time.
2. it will not rain on the day of the match.
3., he had been stealing money from his employer.
4. Television is to blame for the increase in violence in society.
5. The children will learn from their mistakes.
6. I can't Lend you that much money.
7. The thief had been watching the house for many days.
8. The thief Escaped by bribing the jailor.
9., no one had suggested this before.
10. The water was hot.

Ans.:

1. Surprisingly, he finished his work on time.
2. Hopefully, it will not rain on the day of the match.
3. Evidently, he had been stealing money from his employer.
4. Television is evidently to blame for the increase in violence in society.

5. The children will hopefully learn from their mistakes.
6. I can't possibly Lend you that much money.
7. The thief had apparently been watching the house for many days.
8. The thief possibly escaped by bribing the jailor.
9. Surprisingly, no one had suggested this before.
10. The water was incredibly hot.