



## EMS Coaching Center

MoirangkhomSougaijamLeirak  
Imphal West- 795001  
Manipur

### Summary of The Little Girl

‘The Little Girl’ is the story of a little girl, Kezia who misunderstood her father’s strictness and usually remained scared of him. She kept a distance from him, whenever he would be at home. She considered him to be as big as a giant. She would often get nervous and stutter while talking to him. She longed for his love and affection like her neighbour Mr Macdonald.

Once she was kept indoors as she was affected by cold. Her grandmother suggested that she make a gift for her father’s birthday next week. They decided that Kezia would make a pincushion for him. Kezia made a beautiful pin- cushion; but she accidentally made a mistake. She filled it with bits of paper that she got by tearing her father’s important speech. She was punished for that. This incident further estranged Kezia from her father.

She would often look at the neighbours, the McDonalds playing joyously in their lawn. Mr. Macdonald was such a good father and played so lovingly with his children. She wondered he might be a different sort of father.

Once her mother fell ill and was hospitalized. She was left alone at home under the care of the cook. At night she had a nightmare and woke up screaming. She found her father standing by her bedside. He picked her up and took her to her room. He tucked her up in his bed and soon fell asleep. Kezia felt secure lying near her father. She realized that her father was not as big as a giant. She felt the beating of her father loves large heart. Finally, she realized her father was very loving and had a generous heart.

### Question and Answers

I Given below are some emotions that Kezia felt. Match the emotions in Column A with the items in Column B.

Ans.

A	B
fear or terror	(iii) father comes home (iv) speaking to father (v) going to bed when alone at home (vii) father stretched out on the sofa, snoring
glad sense of relief	(i) father comes into her room to give her a goodbye kiss (ii) noise of the carriage grows fainter
a “funny” feeling, perhaps of understanding	(vi) father comforts her and falls asleep

### **II 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.

**III. 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 bother 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.

**Extract Based Questions**

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

**Question 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 'Good Bye Father'. And oh, there Was a glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter and fainter down the long road! ,

1. What was the daily routine of the father? 2. 'When did the daughter feel relief ? 3. Trace a word from the passage which means "answered".

**Answer:** 1.The daily routine of Kezia's father was to visit her daughter's room, meet her and give her a kiss before leaving for work. 2. The daughter felt relief when the carriage went away from the house. 3. Responded.

**Question 2:** 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? 2. Where was the butcher? 3. Find a word from the passage that means “shake in fear and cold”.

**Answer:** 1. She got the nightmare as she was alone with her father at home and her mother and granny were in the hospital. 2. The butcher was in her dream. 3. Shivering.

**Question 3:** “But it was for your b-b- birth day.” Down came the ruler on her little, pink palms. Hours later, when grandmother had wrapped her in a shawl and rocked her in the rocking-chair, the child clung to her soft body. “What did God make fathers for ?” she sobbed.

1. Who is responding in the first line and before whom ? 2. How did the father react ? 3. Find a word from the passage that means “wept”.

**Answer:** 1. Kezia is responding before her father. 2. The father became angry and beat her pink palms with a ruler. 3. Sobbed.

**Question 4:** On Sunday afternoon, Grandmother sent her down to file drawing room to have a “Nice talk with Father and Mother”. But the little girl always found mother reading and father stretched out on the sofa, his handkerchief on his knee, his feet on one of the best cushions, sleeping soundly and snoring.

1. Who was ‘she’ and why did the grandmother send her down? 2. What did she notice about her parents? 3. Trace a word that means “undisturbed”.

**Answer:** 1. “She” is Kezia. Grandmother sent her down to have a nice talk with her parents. 2. She noticed that her father was sleeping and snoring and mother was reading. 3. Soundly.

**Question 5:** She sat on a stool, gravely watched him until he woke and stretched, and asked the time – then looked at her. “Don’t stare so, Kezia. You look like a little brown owl”.

1. Who is Kezia watching gravely ? 2. Why was she sitting there waiting for him to wake up ? 3. Trace the word in the extract which means “seriously”.

**Answer:**

1. Kezia was watching her father gravely. 2. On a Sunday afternoon, her grandmother sent her to have a nice talk with father and mother. But Kezia always found her father sleeping on the sofa. 3. Gravely.

#### **Short Answer Type Questions (About 30-40 words each)**

**Question 1:** What orders were passed to Kezia in the evening when father returned home from office?

**Answer:** When Kezia’s father returned home from office she was supposed to come down, take off father’s shoes and put them outside. She was also to put her father’s teacup on the tea table.

**Question 2:** Why did Kezia avoid her father?

**Answer:** Kezia avoided her father because according to her, her father was an emotionless person. He never spoke to Kezia lovingly and calmly. He scolded Kezia and reprimanded her for making mistakes. Kezia stammered in front of her father since he was a very huge and giant like figure far away from the warmth of a father.

**Question 3:** Why did Kezia stammer in front of her father ? **Or** Why did Kezia stutter only with her father?

**Answer:** Kezia’s father always scolded her never spoke to her in a loving manner. So, Kezia stammered in front of her father because she was afraid of him and found it difficult to speak in front of him.

**Question 4:** Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

**Answer:** Kezia was a little sensitive girl. Her father was aggressive and always spoke loudly. He always scolded her. He used to beat her. Even when she accepted her mistakes. He never played with her. This made her afraid of her father.

**Question 5:** What made Kezia’s father punish her?

**Answer:** She tore important papers of her father to stuff in the pin cushion because she was making a gift to present to her father. Since the papers had her father’s speech written on it, she was punished for tearing it.

**Question 6:** “Father’s great speech for the Port Authority had been lost.” What had happened to father’s speech ?

**Answer:** Father’s speech had been torn to pieces by Kezia, the little girl. She was making a pin cushion as a gift to her father, for his birthday. As she was not able to find anything to stuff it with, she tore the speech and stuffed it in her cushion.

**Question 7:** Why did Kezia’s grandmother send her to the drawing room every Sunday afternoon?

**Answer:** 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.

**Question 8:** What kind of a person was Kezia’s father?

**Answer:** Kezia’s father was a hard working man but short tempered. He was a strict disciplinarian too. When Kezia’s mother was hospitalized, Kezia realized that her father loved her but didn’t have the art of expressing his love.

**Question 9:** What did Kezia find whenever on Sunday afternoons her grandmother sent her down to have a talk with her parents ?

**Answer:** Whenever Kezia was sent by her grandmother to talk to her parents on Sunday afternoons, she always found her mother reading and her father stretched out on the sofa, sleeping soundly and snoring.

**Question 10:** How was Kezia's father different from Mr. Mc Donalds ?

**Answer:** Mr. Mc Donalds 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.

**Question 11:** How did the father comfort the little girl, Kezia, when she got scared in her sleep ?

**Answer:** 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.

**Long Answer Type Questions (About 80-100 words each)**

**Question 1:** How did Kezia's negative attitude towards her father change? **Or** What were the circumstances that forced Kezia to change her opinion about her father?

**Answer:** When her mother was hospitalized, her grandmother went to stay with her. Kezia used to sleep alone at night. She was so scared that she started shouting at night. She had nightmares and trembled a lot with fear. Then her father came to her room and took her into his arms to comfort her. She felt secured with her father near her. Then she realized that her father was busy with work and had no time to play. She even realized that her father loved her but didn't have the art of expressing it. Thus, her attitude towards her father changed towards positive.

**Question 2:** How did Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much? Elaborate.

**Answer:** Kezia was very scared of her father and stuttered while talking to him. This annoyed him a lot. When she waited and stared at him to have a nice long chat, he did not like it. She unknowingly destroyed some of his important papers while stuffing a cushion which she wanted to present to him on his birthday. This made him very angry and he beat her up badly. Therefore, Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much.

**Question 3:** Kezia decides that there are "different kinds of fathers". What kind of father was Mr. McDonald, and how was he different from Kezia's father ? **Or** How is Kezia's father different from Mr. McDonald ?

**Answer:** Mr. McDonald was their next door neighbour. Once Kezia saw her neighbours playing "tag" together in the evening. Mr. McDonald with the baby Mao, on his shoulders and the two little girls ' hanging on to his coat pockets. They ran round and round shaking with laughter. On the other hand, her own father was very disciplined and strict. He never played with her and neither interact much. He even beat her up for her little mistakes.

**Question 4:** Why was Kezia scared of her father and how did she get over her fear ?

**Answer:** Kezia's father was big like a giant and was very strict. He punished Kezia when she tore his important speech. One day, when Kezia's mother fell ill, her mother and grandmother were in the hospital. Kezia was left alone with her father at home. She had a nightmare and screamed with fright. Her father then carried Kezia in his lap to comfort and soothen her. That closeness with her father during those days made her forget all fears.

**Question 5:** How did Kezia feel in present\* of her father?

**Answer:** Kezia was scared of her father as he looked like a giant. Every morning he used to give her a good bye kiss. She used to feel uncomfortable till her father was at home. She even stammered while answering him. He scolded her one day and even beat her for tearing some of his important papers. But when Kezia used to cry during the night, he would carry her to his room. She then realized that her father was actually tender and affectionate and this changed her perception towards him.

**(About 80-100 words each)**

**Question 1:** Kezia in the story "The Little Girl" was afraid of her father because he never communicated with her. Imagine you are parenting counsellor, 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.

**Question 2:** ' The relation between a parent and child should be distant and formal or should it be close and warm.

**Answer:** In today's modern context parents and children should be more like friends. The relationship between them should be warm and close. This would be very helpful in developing the overall personality of the child. It also helps in boosting the confidence of the child and making him more strong in his relation. Therefore, it is necessary that children share a close relation with their parents and there should be no fear but only respect and love.

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