**POLLYANNA**

Miss Polly Harrington entered her kitchen a little hurriedly this June morning. Miss Polly did not usually make hurried movements; she specially prided herself on her repose manner. But today, she was hurrying—actually hurrying.

Nancy, washing dishes at the sink, looked up in surprise. Nancy had been working in Miss Polly's kitchen only two months, but already she knew that her mistress did not usually hurry.

"Nancy!"

"Yes, ma'am," Nancy answered cheerfully, but she still continued wiping the pitcher in her hand.

"Nancy,"—Miss Polly's voice was very **stern** now—"when I'm talking to you, I wish you to stop your work and listen to what I have to say."

Nancy **flushed** miserably. She set the pitcher down at once, with the cloth still about it, thereby nearly tipping it over—which did not add to her composure.

"Yes, ma'am; I will, ma'am," she stammered, righting the pitcher, and turning **hastily**. "I was only keepin' on with my work 'cause you specially told me this mornin' ter hurry with my dishes, ye know."

Her mistress frowned.

Nancy stifled a sigh. She was wondering if ever in any way she could please this woman. Nancy had never "worked out" before, but having a sick mother, who became **widowed** unexpectedly whilst looking after three younger children besides Nancy, forced her to support the family. She had been so pleased when she found a place in the kitchen of the great house on the hill—Nancy had come from "The Corners," six miles away. She knew Miss Polly Harrington only as the mistress of the old Harrington homestead and one of the town's wealthiest residents. That was two months before. She knew Miss Polly now as a stern, **severe**-faced woman who frowned if a knife clattered to the floor or if a door banged—but who never thought to smile even when knives and doors were still.

"When you've finished your morning work, Nancy," Miss Polly started, "you may clear the little room at the head of the stairs in the attic and make up the cot bed. Sweep the room and clean it, of course, after you clear out the trunks and boxes."

"Yes, ma'am. And where shall I put the things, please, that I take out?"

"In the front attic." Miss Polly hesitated, then went on, "I suppose I may as well tell you now, Nancy. My niece, Miss Pollyanna Whittier, is coming to live with me. She is eleven years old and will sleep in that room."

"A little girl—coming here, Miss Harrington? Oh, won't that be nice!" cried Nancy, thinking of the sunshine her little sisters made in the home at "The Corners."

"Nice? Well, that isn't exactly the word I should use," rejoined Miss Polly stiffly. "However, I intend to make the best of it."

Nancy coloured hotly.

"Of course, ma'am; it's only that I thought a little girl here might—might brighten things up for you," she stammered.

"Thank you," rejoined the lady bluntly. "I can't say, however, that I see any immediate need for that."

"But, of course, you—you'd want her, your sister's child," Nancy replied nervously. She **vaguely** felt that somehow she must prepare a welcome for this lonely little stranger.

Miss Polly lifted her chin proudly.

"Well, Nancy, just because I happened to have a sister silly enough to marry and bring unnecessary children into a world that was already quite full enough, I can't see how I should particularly WANT to have the care of them myself. However, I know my **duty**. See that you clean the corners, Nancy," she finished sharply as she left the room.

"Yes, ma'am," sighed Nancy, picking up the half-dried pitcher—now so cold it must be rinsed again.

In her own room, Miss Polly took out the letter she had received two days before from the far-away Western town, which had been so unpleasant a surprise to her.

With a frown, Miss Polly folded the letter and tucked it into its envelope. She had answered it the day before and said she would take the child, of course. She HOPED she knew her duty well enough for that!—disagreeable as the task would be.

As she sat now, with the letter in her hands. Her thoughts went back to when her sister, Jennie, was twenty and insisted on marrying the young minister, despite her family's **remonstrances**. A man of wealth wanted her—and the family had much preferred him to the minister, but Jennie had not. The man of wealth had more years and more money, while the minister had only a young head full of youth's **ideals** and **enthusiasm** and a heart full of love. Jennie had preferred these—quite naturally, so she had married the minister and had gone south with him as a home missionary's wife.

## MCQ Questions

ACAA

DACD

BBBC

CCAC

CBBD

| **#** | **old** | **Type** | **Question** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 1 | inferecne  “not usually make hurried movements;” | What was abnormal about Miss Polly’s movements?   1. **She was moving hastily** 2. She was moving slower than usual 3. She was jittering 4. She was flourishing |
| 2 | 2 | Inference  “she specially prided herself on her repose of manner” | Why were Miss Polly’s movements considered unusual?   1. Nancy wants everything to be calm and quiet 2. Miss Polly was late 3. **Miss Polly is normally relaxed and calm** 4. We do not know enough about her |
| 3 |  |  | “But today, she was hurrying—actually hurrying”  Why does the narrator separate part of the sentence?   1. **To show Miss Polly was truly hurrying** 2. To show the reader the situation is rushed 3. To highlight how surprised Nancy is 4. To help describe the setting better |
| 4 | 3 | Relationships  The Mistress is the lady who supervises the workers  We can tell from the way they speak about work and the hierarchy. | What is the relationship between Nancy and Polly?   1. **Nancy works for Polly** 2. Polly works for Nancy 3. Polly is married to Nancy’s father 4. Nancy is a student of Polly |
| 5 | 4 | inference  “when I'm talking to you, I wish you to stop your work and listen to what I have to say. | Why do you think Miss Polly became stern (line 11)?   1. She was annoyed at Nancy’s cheerfulness 2. She was embarrassed about Nancy seeing her hurry 3. She believed Nancy should have been doing another job 4. **She wanted Nancy’s full attention** |
| 6 | 5 | true/false  She set the pitcher down at once, with the cloth still about it, thereby nearly tipping it over—which did not add to her composure.  Nancy had been working in Miss Polly's kitchen only two months | Which of these options are true?   1. **The pitcher nearly fell over since it was not put down properly** 2. Nancy left the cloth on the pitcher so that it would continue cleaning while listening to Miss Polly 3. Nancy had been working in the Kitchen just over two months 4. Nancy tried to regain composure by cleaning the pitcher |
| 7 |  |  | “ this mornin' ter hurry with my dishes” What does the word ‘ter’ mean?   1. A contraction of the word ‘mother’ 2. A combination of the word ‘morning’ and another word 3. **It is the word ‘to’ written with an accent** 4. It is a mistake the writer left in |
| 8 | 6 | Inference  The if ever suggests that Nancy has doubts or is uncertain.  Nancy stifled a sigh. She was wondering if ever in any way she could please this woman. | Why does Nancy sigh (line X)?   1. Nancy does not know what makes Miss Polly pleased 2. Nancy feels conflicted about what might make Miss Polly pleased 3. Miss Polly constantly changes her mind over what she finds pleasing. 4. **Nancy is doubtful whether Miss Polly will ever be pleased with her.** |
| 9 | 7 | Inferrecne  she knew Miss Polly Harrington only as the mistress of the old Harrington homestead, and one of the wealthiest residents of the town. That was two months before. She knew Miss Polly now as a stern, severe-faced woman  “who frowned if a knife clattered to the floor, or if a door banged—but who never thought to smile even when knives and doors were still.  “  This suggests that the work is stressful, Miss Polly has high expectations and in general doesn't smile when things go well. | Is Miss Polly always stern?   1. No, Nancy is not a very good worker and constantly stresses Miss Polly out 2. **Yes, Nancy learnt this once she spent more time with her** 3. No, Nancy spends time with Miss Polly only when she is working so she thinks she is stressed 4. No, Nancy is merely exaggerating how stern Miss Polly is. |
| 10 | 8 | true/false  “Nancy had never “worked out” before;” | Which of these statements are false?   1. This was the first time Nancy had worked 2. **Nancy’s father did not work** 3. Miss Polly was not always so stern 4. Nancy had three younger sisters |
| 11 |  |  | Why did Nancy have to start working?   1. Her widowed mother required her to work 2. **The bad situation meant she needed to work** 3. She worked so she could take her mind off things 4. Working meant that she would not have to look after her siblings |
| 12 | 9 | Inference | What does “but who never thought to smile even when knives and doors were still” suggest about Miss Polly?   1. Miss Polly is hard to impress 2. Miss Polly does not like Nancy’s work 3. **Miss Polly is not pleased by things she expects** 4. Miss Polly does not smile whilst she is working as it is unprofessional |
| 13 |  |  | “ Sweep the room and clean it, of course, after you clear out the trunks and boxes." Why does Miss Polly add ‘of course’ in her orders?   1. To sound more cross 2. To appear more bossy 3. **To be more straightforward** 4. To be rude and sarcastic |
| 14 | 10 | Inference  “I intend to make the best of it, of course. I am a good woman, I hope; and I know my duty.” | What does Miss Polly think about having to take care of her niece?   1. She is overjoyed to spend time with her 2. She is nervous at the prospect 3. **She considers it another job** 4. She feels burdened by the prospect |
| 15 |  | Coloured hotly means turning red | Why does Nancy ‘colour hotly’?   1. **She is embarrassed** 2. She is annoyed 3. She is confused 4. She is anxious |
| 16 |  |  | Why was Nancy excited for Miss Polly to have her niece around?   1. Nancy was excited to have someone youthful around 2. Nancy would like another sister 3. **Miss Polly would have been happier** 4. It would make life more exciting and fun in the house |
| 17 |  |  | “She vaguely felt that somehow she must prepare a welcome for this lonely little stranger.” What do we learn about Nancy from this sentence?   1. She is irresponsible and inattentive 2. She likes to do things for other people 3. **She is caring and wants to help others** 4. She ignores people’s feelings |
| 18 | 11 | inference  “Of course, ma'am; it was only that I thought a little girl here might—might brighten things up for you,” she faltered.  “Thank you,” rejoined the lady, dryly. “I can't say, however, that I see any immediate need for that.”  “But, of course, you—you'd want her, your sister's child,” ventured Nancy, vaguely feeling that somehow she must prepare a welcome for this lonely little stranger. | ““But, of course, you—you'd want her” What is happening in this line?   1. Nancy corrected herself just as she was about to say something rude 2. **Nancy interrupted herself to say something Miss Polly would like** 3. Miss Polly interrupted Nancy 4. Nancy is trying to convince Miss Polly that she needs Pollyanna |
| 19 | 12 | she had said she would take the child, of course. She HOPED she knew her duty well enough for that!—disagreeable as the task would be. | Why is “HOPED” in capital letters (line X)?   1. For it to be read loudly 2. **To emphasise the depth of her hope** 3. To emphasise the topic of the sentence 4. It is the style of writing at the time |
| 20 | 13 | Vocabulary in context | What is another word for “remonstrances” (line X)?   1. Support 2. Circumstances 3. Reminders 4. **Objection** |
| 21 | 14 |  | Why did Jennie marry the young minister? Complete the sentences.  Jennie married the young minister because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(answer the question)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We know this because it says “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(give your proof)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” |
| 22 | 15 |  | How would you describe Miss Polly? (2 marks)  Miss Polly is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(adjective)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I think this because she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(list things she does that make you think that)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. |