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Thinking about the Text

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

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

Answer:

A	B
1. 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
2. glad sense of relief	(i) father comes into her room to give
	(ii) her a goodbye kiss noise of the carriage grows fainter
3. a "funny" feeling, perhaps of understanding	(vi) father comforts her and falls asleep

II. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

- Why was Kezia afraid of her father?
- Who were the people in Kezia's family?
- What was Kezia's father's routine
  - before going to his office?
  - after coming back from his office?
  - on Sundays?
- In what ways did Kezia's grandmother encourage her to get to know her father better?

Answer:

1. Kezia was afraid of her father because he was very strict who always used to give commands to everybody else in the house. He never played with her. He had big hands and heavy face especially his mouth when he yawned were big and she was especially terrified with the manner in which he looked at her over his spectacles.

2. Kezia's family consisted of her mother, father, grandmother and herself.

3. (i) Before going to his office, Kezia's father usually went into her room to give her a casual kiss.

(ii) After coming back from his office, he ordered for tea to be brought into the drawing room. He also asked his mother to bring him the newspaper and his slippers, and Kezia to pull off his boots.

(iii) On Sunday, Kezia's father would stretch out on the sofa. He would cover his face with his handkerchief, put his feet on one of the cushions and sleep soundly.

4. Kezia's grandmother encouraged her to get to know her father better by sending her to the drawing room to talk to her parents on Sundays. She also suggested Kezia to make a pin cushion out of a beautiful piece of yellow silk as a gift for her father's birthday.

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?

Answer:

Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him. On every Sunday, her grandmother sent her down to the drawing room to have a nice talk with father and mother. But her presence always irritated the father. He used to call her 'little brown owl'.

One day her grandmother told her that her father's birthday would be next week and suggested that she should make him a pin-cushion for a beautiful gift. After stitching three sides of the cushion with double cotton with great care and effort, Kezia was stuck as to what to fill the cushion with. Since her grandmother was busy in the garden, she searched her Mother's bedroom for scraps. Finally, she discovered sheets of paper on the bed table. She gathered these, tore them up and filled the cushion with the torn pieces.

Unfortunately, her efforts to please her father not only went in vain but also had an unanticipated consequence. This was because the sheets she had torn were her father's speech for the Port Authority. Her father scolded her for touching things that did not belong to her and punished her by hitting her palm with a ruler.

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?

Answer:

Kezia compared her father with Mr. Macdonald, her next door neighbour. He was a loving, gentle and forgiving father. He was always smiling and playing with his children. He treated his children in a friendly manner.

He was just opposite to the Kezia's father. Unlike Kezia's father he never punished his children. He played with them whenever he was free. Kezia's father was very harsh and a strict disciplinarian.

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

Answer:

With her mother and grandmother at the hospital, Kezia is left at home in the care of Alice, the cook. At night, after she is put to bed by the cook, she has a nightmare.

She calls for her grandmother but, to her surprise, she finds her father standing near her bed. He takes her in his arms and makes her sleep next to him. Half asleep, she creeps close to him, snuggles her head under his arm, and holds tightly to his shirt. Her father asks her to rub her feet against his legs for warmth.

Her father goes off to sleep before her. This makes her understand that he has to work hard every day and this leaves him too tired to

be like Mr Macdonald. She expresses her altered feelings for her father by telling him that he has a 'big heart'.

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