



Apperciation

1. How does the author succeed in raising crucial social issues not through open criticism but through subtle suggestion?

Answer: Roy hit the nail right on the head in describing the male chauvinistic society we live in, though suggestively. How pride is all that matters to a male and for a female, no matter how cruel her husband is and even if the love is worn out of their relationship, her want for him never ceases. This the society we live in where a male beats her wife no matter how qualified he is. It does not matter if he is a top notch government official who comes from a so called modern background, he can not tolerate his wife's success. A man always wants his wife to be a subordinate to him. It is in our minds that a woman can not rise higher to her husband. It is also highlighted in the story that how we run after momentary pleasures. Recognition is important for a human undoubtedly; however, the way Pappachi ruined all his life and relations because of what he did not get, rather than accepting that may be it was not fated after all. We humans, especially men, crave for fame and recognition. In what of what we can not have, we lose what we have.

2. Within a few pages the author has packed the important events in the lives of John Ipe and his wife. Discuss how conciseness and economy of expression can achieve effective portrayal of entire lives.

Answer: There are two ways of narrating a story, one style is the elongated narration with the detailing of each and every emotion and situation giving length to the story. The other style is crisp one that keeps the story short yet highlighting the important events and emotions. Roy has narrated using the second style. She has kept the story short, yet she did not miss out anything. She has described the relation of a husband and a wife with all the necessary details, though she did not ponder over the sentiments for long. She explained the face of the society we live in. Jean Genet was so correct when he said that society dwells on images and this is what Roy has tried to emphasise in her story. John having lost the chance to gain the recognition, he could have, felt the loss of identity along with it. Roy is economical when she describes the emotions and makes sure that nothing worthless is portrayed. All that she has spent in the short tale is worth the while. The narration is simple enough and achieves effectively the portrayal of the entire lives of the characters. The disturbance in the marriage, the physical violence, the emotional loss, the intervention of the young child and its impact on the father. All have been portrayed wisely not wasting any time or making the reader to wait for the following happenings.

3. Identify instances of ironical comment in the story.

Answer: It is ironical that despite being brutally beaten by Pappachi, Mammachi used to love him. She cried bitterly on his death. However, the fact is that Mammachi was not in love but was used to Pappachi and his beatings.

Language Work

1. Entomologist and lepidopterist are mentioned in the text and you must have guessed the meanings of these words or found them out in the dictionary.

Now match the kinds of scientists given with the work they do:

A	B
ornithologist	study of the skin
gerontologist	study of cells
ergonomist	study of birds
dermatologist	study of old age
cytologist	study of design of equipment

Answer:

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2. A short report announcing the death of a person in a newspaper is called an 'obituary'. Where would you find the following

a citation	an epitaph	a glossary
an abstract	a postscript	

Answer:

a citation: Words or lines taken from a book or a speech are called citations. It is somewhat similar to quotation.

an epitaph: Lines written in remembrance of a person on her/his gravestone is an epitaph.

a glossary: The list of terms, used in a book, presented at the end with their meanings is called glossary.

an abstract: A short piece of writing containing the main idea in a document is an abstract.

a postscript: The extra message written at the end of any message is called postscript (p.s.).

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