



7. Bring out the traits in Mrs. Slater's personality quoting evidence from the play.

Trait	Evidence from the play
Greedy	
Overpowering/ dominating	
Blunt/ straight talking	
Impolite	
Insensitive	

Answer:

Trait	Evidence from the play
Greedy	She shifted grandfather's bureau and clock from his room before her sister arrived so that she could not lay a claim on it.
Overpowering/ dominating	She made her husband shift the bureau in spite of his reluctance.
Blunt/ straight talking	She told everybody that her father had been a little drunk that morning
Impolite	She misbehaved with her sister when she accused her of robbing grandfather of his things in spite of the fact that she was guilty of the same.

Insensitive	She did not even wait for grandfather's funeral before she started dividing things between them.
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8. Answer the following with reference to the context.

1. "Are we pinching it before Aunt Elizabeth comes?"

- What does 'it' refer to here?
- How does Vicky conclude that her parents are 'pinching it'?
- Mention the two reasons that Mrs. Slater gives for her action.
- What does it reveal about the difference between the attitude of the elders and that of Vicky?

Answer:

- "It" refers to the bureau that was grandfather's room.
- When Victoria was told by her father that he and his mother were shifting the bureau downstairs, she concluded that her parents are "pinching it" because everything that was in grandfather's room had to be equally divided amongst the two sisters.
- Firstly, she always like the bureau of grandfather. Secondly, she knows that her sister Elizabeth would not let her take it.
- The elders instead of mourning the death were busy dividing grandfather's things. Victoria, on the other hand, had wisdom beyond her years. She immediately understood the meaning of their actions. She did not like her parents shifting the bureau.

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2. "I don't call that delicate, stepping into a dead man's shoes in such haste."

- Who makes this comment?
- What prompts the speaker to say this?
- Bring out the significance of this statement.

Answer:

- Mrs. Jordan made this comment.
- When grandfather sees Henry wearing it, Mrs. Slater quickly gives them back to him. This prompts Mrs. Jordan to make this comment.
- Stepping into dead man's shoe is to take the position of the dead man although one might not be capable of it. Mrs. Jordan on seeing her brother-in law wearing grandfather's shoes feels that he was in too much of a hurry to step into the grandfather's shoes. He didn't even wait for his funeral.

3. "Now, Amelia, you mustn't give way. We've all got to die some time or other. It might have been worse."

- Who is the speaker of these lines?
- What prompts the speaker to say these words?
- What does he mean when he says 'It might have been worse'?
- What does it reveal about the speaker's character?

Answer:

- Ben is the speaker of these lines.
- When he sees Mrs. Slater shedding tears for grandfather, he makes this formal statement to console and sympathise with her.
- He means to say that death of grandfather at the age of 72 is quite normal. His death might have been worse than this death.
- The speaker Ben is not serious at all. He is ironical and formal.

Writing

9. Victoria Slater is truly attached to her Grandpa. As she sees the elders in her family quarrel over the inheritance, she is bewildered and upset by their attitude. As Victoria write a diary entry outlining the incident and your feelings. (150 words)

Answer:

Date:
Day:
Time:

Today is the worst day of my life, when Grandpa was supposed to have passed away. I am deeply shocked at the behaviour of my mother and father, who are pinching the belongings of my Grandpa. Imagine none even went to look up Grandpa. I know Grandpa was not happy living with us, I tried my best but mummy never listens. Even papa supports her. I am so ashamed to see their hypocrisy. I don't know how they will expect respect from me, when they have behaved so abominably. I pity Grandpa for this treatment. Oh! how I wish I was grown up enough to look after him. Victoria.

***** END *****