

SEC (English): Bryan MacMahon: The Ring

1. The grandmother was the narrator's paternal/maternal grandmother?

Ans: Maternal grandmother.

2. Where was the farm of his grandmother located?

Ans: The farm was located in the **Kickham country in Tipperary.**

3. What does the author refer to by 'the teeth of the Galtees'?

Ans: By the 'teeth of the Galtees, the narrator refers to the heights of the Galtee mountain range, in Munster, Ireland, whose sharpness is compared with the terrain where the narrator's grandmother's house was located.

4. Where did the author spend his summer holidays each year?

Ans: Each year, the greater part of his summer holidays was spent in his **grandmother's farm.**

5. What is the name of the author's uncle?

Ans: Uncle Con.

6. Who held the main authority of the farm, the grandmother or Uncle Con?

Ans: Grandmother.

7. What did the first child of Uncle Con become in the later life?

Ans: She became a nun in a convent on the Seychelles islands.

8. Who was Uncle Con's wife?

Ans: Aunt **Annie.**

9. What was the name of the narrator's grandfather?

Ans: **Martin Dermody.**

10. How many children she had when grandmother lost her husband?

Ans: She had six young children **five girls** and **one boy.**

11. What did the narrator pick up once at a race-meeting?

Ans: The narrator picked up **a jockey's crop.**

12. What did the jockey's crop remind the narrator?

Ans: It reminded him about his grandmother.

13. What did the grandmother lose in the hay?

Ans: She lost her wedding ring.

14. What is Castle Connell greenheart?

Ans: It is a fishing rod made of Greenheart wood.

15. What is limekiln?

Ans: Limekiln is a furnace or oven where lime processing is done through calcination.

16. What do you mean by a ring's keeper?

Ans: A keeper is an outer ring covering the actual ring which together made the ring set.

✓ 17. What is the name of the narrator's village?

Ans: Kerry.

✓ 18. What is the motto of the grandmother for working hours?

Ans: 'Six to six'.

✓ 19. On which day the ring was lost?

Ans: It was on Monday evening.

* Short Type Questions & Answers

✓ 1. What reason did the narrator offer for his spending time in his grandmother's farm?

Ans: The narrator spent a greater part of his summer holidays in his grandmother's farm. He says that it had been a great change for him to leave their home in a bitter sea-coast village and visit his grandmother's farm.

✓ 2. What, according to the narrator, was pity to see?

Ans: According to the narrator, it was pity to see hundred yard of fine grass go to waste by the verge of road in Tipperary KINEMASTER 3. How did the grandmother manage to control the situation after her husband's death?

Ans: After her husband's death, the grandmother began to look after the farm. At that time, she was left with six children-five girls and one boy. But she was brave enough to face the hard world and managed everything well. ✓ 4. What were the things that reminded the narrator of his grandmother? Ans: Once, the narrator picked up a jockey's crop at a race-meeting. When he balanced it on his palm, it reminded him of his grandmother. Again, the narrator had once caught a huge salmon fish weighed up to twenty-two pound by a sixteen feet greenheart rod. That rod too reminded him of his grandmother.

5. What comparison does the narrator make between the crop and rod and his grandmother?

Ans: Like crop and rod, the narrator's grandmother had an element of flexibility, but like these two things, there was no trace of fragility in her.

✓ 6. What was the incident when the narrator made his grandmother laugh warmly?

Ans: It was when the narrator told his grandmother about a man who had stopped him on the road and asked him if he were a grandson of Martin Dermody. When he replied that he was, the man gave him a shilling and enquired whether he was called Martin after his grandfather. The narrator then replied that he was called 'Con' after his Uncle Con.

7. How did Uncle Con react when the narrator told that he was called 'Con after his Uncle Con?

Long Type Questions & Answers :

1. How does the narrator show that his grandmother had a strong hold over everything in the house? Ans: The narrator says that although his uncle got married, his grandmother held the whip hand in the farm. After the death of her husband, the grandmother controlled everything in the farm. She was left with six young children-five girls and one boy. She faced the world bravely and managed well. The narrator shows the strong and bold nature of his grandmother with two examples. Once, the narrator picked up a jockey's crop at a race-meeting. When he balanced it on his palm, it reminded him of his grandmother. Again, the narrator had once caught a huge salmon fish weighed up to twenty-two pound by a sixteen feet greenheart rod. That rod too reminded him of his grandmother. Like crop and rod, the narrator's grandmother had an element of flexibility, but like these two things, there was no trace of fragility in her.

2. Give a pen picture of the activities in the hayshed

Ans: The grandmother lost her wedding ring while she was working in the hayshed. The narrator gives a very vivid picture of their workings in the hayshed.

At that time, the narrator was with his bare legs trailing from the heel of a loaded hay-float. He was watching the broad silver parallels they were leaving in the clean after-grass. His uncle was standing in the front of the float guiding the mare. They were drawing in the hay to the hayshed. They had already filled a pillar and a half of the hayshed. The grandmother was up on the hay and she was forking the lighter trusses. The servant was handling the heavier forkfuls. A neighbour was throwing it up to them.

3. Narrate how the search operation of the wedding ring was taken place.

Ans: On a Monday evening, while working in the hayshed, the narrator's grandmother lost her wedding ring. At that time, the grandmother was up on the hay and she was forking the lighter trusses. The servant was handling the heavier forkfuls. A neighbour was throwing it up to them.

When grandmother came to know about the loss of the ring, she immediately stopped the working and began to search for it. She searched wisp by wisp, even sop by sop. As it was not found, she again began her searching the next day. She did not let others to do it. She worked hard all day and stopped her searching sharply at six, as her motto of working was, 'six to six'

Till Wednesday, she was unable to find the ring, though she had made a fair gap in the hay. When the narrator and his uncle enquired about her success in the evening, she looked very pale. On Thursday morning, she seemed more strained and was reluctant to leave the rick even to take her meals. The family members provided her tea several times during the day. Friday was also an unsuccessful day. All the people of the house became stressed.

By Saturday afternoon at about three o'clock, grandmother found the keeper of the ring. She again continued to search till six o'clock. At six, she came in and took her tea. But, after an hour or so, she became restless and announced that laws were made to be broken and began her search again. At dusk, she returned and lighted a lantern and went back to resume her search. After some time, Uncle Con took her coat and threw it across her shoulders as it was cold

Con took her coat and threw it across her shoulders as it was cold outside. Then Uncle Con, Aunt Annie and the narrator were sitting around a big fire waiting for grandmother.

It was about twelve o'clock at night, when they heard her footsteps on the cobbles. Placing the lantern on the ledge of the dresser, she announced that she had found the ring at last.

4. Narrate, how the grandmother reacted after her finding of the ring. What does the reaction show?

Ans: The narrator gives a vivid description of the incident that was taken place just after finding the ring. On Saturday night at twelve o' clock, grandmother found the ring. At that time, Uncle Con, Aunt Annie and the narrator were sitting around a big fire waiting for her. They heard her footsteps on the cobbles. Placing the lantern on the ledge of the dresser, she announced that she had found the ring. Grandmother came and sat by the fire. Her face was as cold as death and her eyes did not even flicker. The wedding ring was inside its keeper and she kept twirling it round and round with the fingers of her right hand. But suddenly she hid her hands under her check apron. It seemed as if she was ashamed of her finger's betrayal. At that moment, without any prediction, she touched her fists with her face and uttering her husband's name she began to sob and cried like the rain. The reaction which grandmother showed reflected her emotional attachment with her deceased husband Martin'.

5. How does the character of the grandmother show that sternness and emotion can coexist? Discuss with the help of your study of the character of the grandmother.

Ans: In the story, 'The Ring', the writer depicts the character of the grandmother in a very balanced way. Though, at the beginning of the story, we find a very stern grandmother, yet, gradually her character has been transformed with a touch of emotion to it. The narrator says that although his uncle got married, his grandmother held the 'whip hand in the farm'. After the death of her husband, the grandmother controlled everything in the farm. She was left with six young children-five girls and one boy. She faced the world bravely and managed well. The narrator shows the strong and bold nature of his grandmother with two examples. Once, the narrator picked up a jockey's crop at a race-meeting. When he balanced it on his palm, it reminded him