

1. From paragraph 1, what is the author's purpose in sharing her personal experience? [1]

From the passage		Inferred	Mark
There's a story my daughter loves to hear me tell: The day after I came home from the hospital with her big brother, my first child, I was seized by the certainty that I was about to die. I sobbed uncontrollably; I asked my husband: "But who will keep him in socks? Who'll make sure he's wearing his little socks?"	a	<i>Note: Must have both points a and b</i> Function/Intention To introduce the issue To engage/get the reader to think about the issue of To connect with the reader/establish a rapport with the reader	1
	b	Context/Explanation of mothers' anxiety about child-minding	

2. How do the two questions in line 3 demonstrate the author's excessive anxiety? [1]

From the passage	Inferred	Mark
But who will keep him in socks? Who'll make sure he's wearing his little socks?	<i>Focus: content of her questions</i> They reveal her anxiety by asking something trivial.	1

3. "And the shouldering of that one task can snowball into responsibility for the whole assembly line of child-minding." (lines 6-8)

- i. What does "snowball" suggest about the nature of child-minding? [2]

From the passage		Paraphrase + Inferred	Mark
[Cause] And the shouldering of that one task	a	It suggests that bearing responsibility for one task	1
[Effect] can snowball into responsibility for the whole assembly line of child-minding.	b	can lead to an avalanche of other duties connected to that initial task	1

- ii. Why does the author describe child-minding as an "assembly line"? [1]

From the passage	Inferred	Mark
And the shouldering of that one task can cascade into responsibility for the whole assembly line of child-minding.	Both are equally routine/repetitive/mundane. OR Both involve different/many things being put together.	1

4. From paragraph 3, what are the consequences in the workplace for the mother as a result of her “worry work” (line 16) at home? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the passage		Re-exp	Mark
scatter her focus on what she does for pay or [distracting grind of apprehension and organisation]	a	Her ability to pay full attention at work is compromised/She cannot pay attention to her job	1
clean off a career path	b	and this also destroys her professional/job prospects. OR This limits her access to certain job opportunities.	1
This grind of apprehension and organisation may be one of the least movable obstacles to women's equality in the workplace.	c	The tedium of worrying makes it [worrying] the least changeable/most difficult barrier to overcome gender bias.	1

5. Why does the author find the situation of gender discrimination towards household supervision “surprising” (line 19)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [2]

From the passage		Re-exp	Mark
In the United States today, more than half of all women work , and women are 40 percent of the sole or primary breadwinners in households with children under 18.	a	<i>Expectation (Work)</i> It is surprising because although a large proportion/majority of women are now supporting their families financially/holding jobs <i>Note: either one of the above</i>	1
“It’s surprising that household supervision resists gender reassignment to the degree that it does.”	b	<i>Reality (Domestic)</i> [inf] they still hold the main responsibility of household /child-minding chores.	1

6. What does this insertion in parentheses (lines 22-24) reveal about women's new approach towards housework? [1]

From the passage	Inferred	Mark
The apportionment of the acts required to keep home and family together has also been evening out during the past 40 years (though, for housework, this is more because women have sloughed it off rather than because men have taken it on).	It shows that women have also learnt to be less attentive/less obsessive about housework.	1

7. From lines 32-33, show how mothers' concerns about their children reveal a contradiction in their own situation. **Use your own words as much as possible.** [2]

From the passage		Inferred	Mark
We fret that we're overscheduling the children,	a	If mothers worry about planning excessively/over-planning their children's lives,	1
but don't seem to realise that we're also overscheduling ourselves.	b	they should also see how they shouldn't do the same to their own lives but they don't.	1

Note: 2m or nothing

8. "And when I say 'we', you know who I mean." (lines 33-34)

- i. Identify the tone used by the author when she says "And when I say 'we', you know who I mean". [1]

Ans: The author's tone is sarcastic/ sardonic /wry/ironic/tongue-in-cheek.

- ii. What is the author's intention in saying this? [1]

From the passage	Inferred	Mark
"And when I say 'we', you know who I mean."	The author intends/wants to reinforce/show the inequality of gender roles in family duties.	1

9. What do lines 38-41 suggest about how men and women see their contributions to housework? [1]

From the passage	Inferred	Mark
There are many more men in charge of child care than there were 20-odd years ago. How many more depends on whether you ask men or women: half of the men surveyed in a Families and Work Institute study from 2008 said they were either the responsible parent or shared the role equally with their spouse, while two-thirds of the women said they were the one in charge.	This suggests that men and women both overestimate their contribution.	1

10. Suggest one reason why the author ends the passage with the sentence "Just ask the Finnish mothers." (line 85) [1]

From the passage	Inferred	Mark
It's about time things get easier when Mom and Dad feel happier looking after junior. Just ask the Finnish mothers.	To show how they are enjoying the fruits/benefits of equal participation. <i>Note: Accept any reasonable answer that includes a reasonable rationale</i>	1

11. Using materials from paragraphs 8 to 12 only (lines 47-70), summarise what the author has to say about why mothers get stuck with the micromanagement of child-minding and end up worrying more than fathers about their children.

Write your summary in no more than 120 words, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.** [8]

Mothers get stuck with micromanagement because ...

From the passage (lines)		Paraphrase
we don't see it coming (line 47)	a	unaware that it will happen
not at first (lines 47-48)	b	initially / at the start/beginning
(Mostly women...spend a semester reading about the gendered division of domestic labour) ... even they (lines 49-50)	c	[Inf] and even women who are aware of this inequality
slip up and talk about men "helping out". (line 50)	d	make the mistake of seeing husbands as providing assistance only when asked/needed
...my friends and I have never gotten around to drawing up the List of Lists (lines 54-55)	e	Mothers do not spell out responsibilities/tasks
insisting that we split it (line 55)	f	and demand that these be divided.
... having to answer for the completion of domestic tasks stresses them out more than any other aspect of family life, (lines 56-57)	g	Despite the enormous pressure of being accountable for domestic tasks,
... I suspect they're not always willing to cede control (line 57)	h	mothers fear relinquishing child-minding authority
... guilty of "maternal gatekeeping" (line 58)	i	[Inf] and are critical of paternal involvement
But women can't help themselves (line 61)	j	However, mothers can do little to change their anxiety over their children.
They have their standards (line 61)	k	They have exacting /demanding requirements that they feel only they can meet
... helicopter-ish though they may be (line 61)	l	even if these might be excessive/obsessive.
... women simply worry more about their children. (lines 63-64)	m	Mothers just/basically/fundamentally agonise over their children more than fathers.
This is largely a social fact (line 64)	n	This is primarily a social issue/socially true
Mothers live in a world of other mothers, not to mention teachers and principals (lines 64-65)	o	as mothers feel that other mothers and educators/ women/people

who judge us by our children (<i>line 65</i>)	p	assess them based on the behaviour and actions of their children
Or maybe we just think they're judging us. (<i>line 65</i>)	q	or are paranoid that they do.
... biological explanation: we have been conditioned to worry (<i>line 66</i>) ... the female of the species is programmed to do more than the male (<i>lines 67-68</i>)	r	Women have also biologically evolved to agonise over their children
... to help their offspring thrive (<i>line 68</i>)	s	and assist in their success / flourishing.
Neurological and endocrinological changes, the production of hormones such as oxytocin and estrogen during pregnancy and after birth (<i>lines 68-69</i>)	t	Changes in the brain's chemistry and the release of hormones
exert a profound influence (<i>lines 69-70</i>)	u	have a deep influence/significantly influence
over mothers' moods (<i>line 70</i>)	v	mothers' temperaments fundamentally
and regulate the depth of (<i>line 70</i>)	w	and control the intensity of the feelings
their attachment to their children (<i>line 70</i>)	x	that bind them to their children

Total available: 24 points

Mark allocation

Points	Mark
1-2	1
3-4	2
5-6	3
7-8	4
9-10	5
11-12	6
13-14	7
15 and above	8

Application Question

12. Judith Shulevitz argues that mothers play more of an active role in their children's lives than fathers. How far would you agree with the author's views? Relate your views to both you and your society. [10]

Points to raise:

- Women's role in the public sphere (workforce) vs their role in the private sphere (main care-givers)
- Patriarchal society and how this affects parental involvement
 - Patriarchy, rather than eradicated, has evolved into a more subtle and nuanced form of oppression. We should not be fooled into thinking that patriarchy is at its "twilight" in SG just because there are more women in the workforce, including more women working in "male" professions.
 - In advanced patriarchies, patriarchy does not simply mean that men rule. It is a value system that is liable to recur because it serves to keep birthrates high among the affluent, while also maximising parents' investments in their children.
- Gender norms and parenting in SG
 - Do cultural definitions of manliness prevent men and fathers from optimising their role as fathers?
 - Or are we seeing changing cultural norms and the rise of new age fathers, especially amongst the millennial set? Even if this is the case, has this resulted in shifting perceptions towards parenthood?
 - Increasing cognizance of fathers' role in parenting;
 - Both mothers and fathers contribute uniquely to their child's development but there is a growing realisation that fathers generally remain an under-tapped resource
 - Platforms such as the Centre for Fathering and Dads for Life Movement's Fathers@Schools Programme were conceived to mobilise this resource to ensure the best outcomes for children.
- Attitudes towards motherhood in SG?
- Parentocracy and Tiger mums - competitive, anxious parenting of middle- and upper-class SG mothers?
- Is there adequate governmental and policy to support greater paternal involvement?
- Role of domestic workers and grandparents in child-minding?