

# **BEEHIVE**

## **STD-IX**

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH**  
**CHAPTER NUMBER: 05**  
**CHAPTER NAME : THE LITTLE GIRL**  
**BY KATHERINE MANSFIELD**

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**CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW**

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE WRITER

Kathleen Mansfield Murry was a prominent New Zealand modernist short story writer and poet who was born and brought up in colonial New Zealand and Wrote under the pen name of Katherine Mansfield.

Born: 14 October 1888, Wellington, New Zealand

Died: 9 January 1923,Fontainebleau, France

Full name :Kathleen Mansfield Beauchamp

Short Stories: The Garden Party, Miss Brill, The Doll's House, Bliss , At the Bay, A Cup of Tea , The Daughters of the late Colonel etc.



# THEME OF THE STORY

Nobody is free of fears. In this story , a little girl is afraid of her father . Later on her feelings for her father change From fear to understanding. We find several themes in this story – fear , control , freedom , independence, acceptance , compassion and change.

The little girl , Kezia avoids her father and stutters when she talks to him as if she is in fear of a giant.

There is a situation in the family when she realizes how loving and protective her father is . For the first time she gets an experience of the important bond of love that children share with their parents. The parents are concerned for the children and beneath the strictness lies a heart full of love for the children.

# INTRODUCTION

- This is the story of a little girl called Kezia , who feared her father greatly.
- Kezia thought that he was hard-hearted and strict and so she always avoided father
- Father often found faults with her , rebuked her and once beat her severely for tearing his important papers.
- One night , when Kezia's mother and grand mother had to stay in hospital, Kezia had a terrible nightmare.
- Kezia was afraid of the dark but, her father gathered her in his arms and put her to sleep in the safety of his strong arms.
- ❖ Kezia compared her father with Mr. Mcdonald ,their neighbour.
- ❖ Then she realised that her father was very good , took pains to keep the family comfortable and had a large heart filled with love.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE CHARACTERS

- KEZIA

An emotional and sensitive girl, she is much affected by her father's disciplinarian attitude. She wishes to experience the love displayed by their neighbour Mr. McDonald to his children. Obedient and timid, she is wise enough to discern human emotions. She is compassionate and innocent but impulsive. She is quick to observe things and appreciates as well as admires others based on her observations. She changes from a frightened girl to an affectionate daughter.

- Father

Strict and domineering head of the family, he demands complete obedience from other members. He wants them to be at his beck and call all the time. However, he is an affectionate father and takes care of his daughter when she really needs it. A typical father, he poses a stern exterior that hides a soft and tender heart, full of love.

## KEZIA'S GRANDMOTHER

- Kezia's grandmother is addressed as 'Grannie' by Kezia and as 'mother' by Kezia's father, her son. Her character emerges as a mature and understanding elder in a household. She does not question the authoritarian attitude of her son but encourages her grand daughter, Kezia ,to make efforts to to build her bond with her parents. She is a mature woman who understands that the upbringing of children is a delicate issue and parents should discipline their children in their own way. She does not interfere but provides the support whenever any family member needs it.

# WORD MEANINGS

- STUTTER - stammer
- BRINK – the extreme edge
- WRETCHED - unhappy
- STRETCHED OUT – lay comfortably
- SCRAPS – small unwanted pieces
- PACE – walk to and fro.
- ROCK – sway to and fro
- TAG – name of a sport
- NIGHTMARE – terrible dream
- TUCK UP – pull the bedclothes up, round and under the mattress
- SNUGGLE – lie or get close to

## MESSAGE

The story is presented as a young child's point of view about her father. It conveys a beautiful message that there is a very strong bond between parents and children. In order to prepare their children for the hardships of life, parents are strict but children fail to understand the true motive of parents. So, responsibility to strengthen the parent-child bond rests equally on both.



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