

CHAPTER : MOTHER'S DAY

Introduction

- The play written by J.B. Priestly reveals how a mother's efforts are ignored by her family.
- It narrates how the family members who work eight-hour shifts a day look upon her although she works for the whole day and all week.
- After all, she does for them, they take her for granted. They make her feel obligated to provide for them and do not even appreciate her efforts.
- It revolves around how her friend Mrs. Fitzgerald who is a fortune teller helps her earn the place and respect she deserves as the woman of the house.

Mother's Day Theme

- This humorous play portrays the status of a mother in the family.
- The author brings out the plight of the mother very realistically in the play.
- Mrs. Annie Pearson, the mother, is not treated well by her husband and children.
- With the help of her neighbor Mrs. Fitzgerald and a magic spell which temporarily allows them to interchange their roles, she stands up for her rights.
- Mrs. Annie Pearson's family is shocked at the change, but they learn to behave properly with her so that she gets the respect that she deserved.

Chapter Explanations

- The chapter portrays the practical experience of a mother, Mrs. Pearson. On a daily basis, her kids disrespect and disregard her. In her own home, she was treated as a slave. Thus, she fell a lot of ignorance and embarrassment every day not only from her Daughter Doris and son Cyril but also from her husband George Pearson who has completely turned a blind eye from his wife.
- Mrs. Pearson's life turns when she meets Mrs. Fitzgerald, a fortune teller, and discusses her family members and their terrible behavior. She tells Mrs. Fitzgerald everything about her family behavior. Moreover, Mrs. Fitzgerald (strong and sinister personality) recommends her to exchange personalities to teach her family a good lesson. At first, Mrs. Pearson didn't agree but after some encouragement, she agrees to switch bodies.

- After that, Mrs. Fitzgerald casts a spell and swaps her personality with Mrs. Pearson. In a matter of seconds, their personality switch, and Mrs. Pearson who was calm and composed is now smoking and drinking. And Mrs. Fitzgerald is now sitting idle.
- The scene changes, and now Mrs. Pearson is in her home and Doris enters home. She hands her a dress and asks her to iron as she has to go on a date with her boyfriend Charlie Spence. Also, she even objects her mother's smoking. And when she asks her, Mrs. Pearson replies very harshly and advises her to do her work herself. Further, she makes fun of her boyfriend. Afterward, Doris feels miserable and shamed and starts crying when her mother insults and rebukes her.
- After this, her son Cyril enters asks his mother hurriedly if his tea is ready. On which Mrs. Pearson refuses and advises him to prepare it himself. After seeing her mother's reaction and her sister crying he raises his voice. Also, calls Mrs. Fitzgerald an old hag on which Mrs. Pearson instructs him to mind his language.
- When the kids talk about being worn-out after work. She makes it very clear to both of them that they all will work equally from that day onwards. And she will not work at weekends and enjoy it with her friends.
- At that point, Mr. Pearson enters the house and expresses his surprise on seeing her wife drinking and smoking. He objects Mrs. Pearson makes him realize that if he can drink then she can too. Further, he tells him that instead of spending his time with her wife he is spending time with people who are making fun of him behind his back.
- Mrs. Pearson on seeing her family insult asks Mrs. Fitzgerald to stop all this. However, she doesn't let her speak until she teaches all of them a good lesson of respecting and honoring their mother. Soon after they switch personality again. And after that, the son, daughter, and husband learn their lesson and start supporting their mother and wife.

Mother's Day

-J.B. PERIESTLEY

A play by J.B. PERIESTLEY portraying the status of a mother in a household

Characters

Cyril Pearson: He is Mrs Annie Pearson's son who is equally demanding and never sympathises with his mother.

Mr George Pearson: He is Mrs Pearson's proud husband who is not as respected in society as expected. He dominates his wife, but he is ridiculed in the club where he is a member.

Doris Pearson: She is Mrs Pearson's daughter. She fails to understand her mother's struggle and doesn't help her in household work.

Mrs Fitzgerald-Mrs Annie Pearson's neighbour. She is quite strong-willed, knows magic and helps Mrs Pearson to reform the spoilt members of her family.

Mrs Annie Pearson: She is a pleasant but nervous type of woman whose excessive love and care has spoilt her two children and husband.

CONCLUSION- The writer wants to say that we all should respect, care, and help our mother for all the hardship she does for us.