

Chapter- 6

Should Wizard Hit Mommy?

Concepts

- Childhood Innocence / Simplicity
- Complex Issues of Parenting
- Differences in Human Perceptions
- Generation Gap
- Changing Gender Roles
- Dominance & Hierarchy of Patriarchal Roles
- Parental Authority over Children
- Hatred & Injustice
- Moral Issues Dependent upon Varying Levels of Maturity

Characters

Jack – The central character, the protagonist of the story – a loving and concerned father –

having the typical parental attitude and opinion on parenting--into the habit of telling stories out of the head to his daughter- Jo.

Joanne (Jo)—Jack's four-year-old intelligent, impatient and inquisitive daughter with the pet name –Jo- very logical and argumentative.

Roger Skunk-A fictional character made from Jack's imagination ...a stand-in for Jack ...despised by all except his mother for the foul smell emitted from his body.

Clare- Jack's wife...mother of two children...six months pregnant.

The Wizard-A man endowed with commendable magical/supernatural power capable of giving solutions to any problems. (magician)

Roger's Mother-The Wizard's antagonist....the mother of baby Skunk.

The Owl-A character in the classic Roger story...a wise creature capable of solving any problem.

Bobby- Jack's two-year-old son.

Introduction to the topic and the author.

- A celebrated American novelist, poet, short-story writer, art critic, literary critic.

- For his commendable literary achievements, he was popular worldwide and was honoured with many awards like-The National Book Award, The Pulitzer Prize, St. Louis Literary Award, Ambassador Book Award, Fitzgerald Award for Achievement American Literature, Faulkner Award, Rea Award for the Short Story, National Book Critics' Circle Award and many more.

Steps to comprehensive explanations

a) The theme of Jack's Story

- Jack, the protagonist of the story, has been into the habit of telling bedtime stories to his beloved four –year old daughter – Joanne whom he calls by the pet name –Jo.
- The custom of story-telling started when Jo was only two years old.
- Every story narrated by Jack is a variation of the basic tale.
- Most of the stories revolve around the same plot concerning an animal named Roger.
- In every story, Roger used to be a different animal with some kind of problem.
- The story that time Jack tells his curious daughter is of Roger Skunk smelling awful as a result all other animals despise him and run away from him putting the poor little animal in solitude.

b) The Roger Skunk Story

- Disappointed, helpless Roger thinks of finding the solution to his problem
- With a heat of hope, he goes to the wise Owl to seek his advice and help, who in turn tells him to consult the Wizard.
- Advised by the Wise Owl, Roger Skunk reaches the Wizard's house and speaks out his problem
- The Wizard feels for Roger, uses his magical power.
- He takes out his magic wand and transforms the awful smell emitted from Roger Skunk's body to the smell of roses.
- Roger Skunk feels happy and overjoyed at the change of his body odour.
- All the woodland creatures who were hateful to Roger Skunk earlier now find his body odour quite pleasant and express their willingness to play with him and gather around him, arousing a frenzied feel in him

c) The Owl and Wizard Help Roger.

d) The intriguing Twist to the Story

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e) Jo's Ending to the Roger Skunk Story.

Drilling of words and Linguistic expressions:

- Naps- a short sleep, especially during the day
- Custom: tradition, trend
- Wizard- man endowed with amazing magical power
- magic spell- a form of words used as a magical charm
- Skunk- A small cat-sized animal
- Woodland- land covered with trees.
- Solemnly—Sincerely
- Foresee- Predict/Anticipate
- Rapt- Fascinated/enthralled
- Cranky- Eccentric/eerie
- Lacrosse- A team game played by North American Indians
- Dabbling- Dip/wet
- Skittered- move lightly and quickly or hurriedly.
- Celery- a cultivated plant of the parsley family
- Smock- needle work
- Mouldings- shaping

Related Question from the potion taught:

- Who is Joe? How does she respond to her father's storytelling?
- What possible plotline could the story continue with?
- What was Joe's problem?
- Why did Roger Skunk go to the old owl?
- How did the Wizard help Roger skunk?
- How was Skunk's story different from the other storied narrated by Jack?

Lesson continuation with comprehensive explanations:

- Jack, Joanne's father told her a story every evening.
- Every story was a variation of the basic tale.
- -In the story a small animal, usually named Roger had some problem; he went to the wise owl and the owl advised him to go to the wizard.
- -The story that time was of Roger Skunk, smelling foul.
- The skunk was disliked by his friend due to the bad smell.
- Roger Skunk went to the owl and then to the Wizard to solve his problem.
- Roger Skunk reached Wizard's house and spoke out his problem.
- The Wizard took out his magic wand and Skunk smelt with the smell of roses.
- Roger felt happy at the change of his body odour
- On giving solution to Skunk's problem, Wizard asked for his fee.
- The shortage of money with Skunk was filled up by Wizard's suggestion.
- Roger reached home happy.
- His mother reacted negatively to the change of smell of her son's body.
- Mother and Roger came back to the Wizard.

- Mother gave a blow to Wizard for no fault on his side.
- This ending to the story was not acceptable to Jo and she insisted on changing the ending of the story where a mother would be getting beaten by the Wizard.
- Jack was in a dilemma on what to do in this regard?

THE END