

28.08.21

Ch-3

# The Little Girl



→ Katherine Mansfield

## Theme of the story

The main theme of the story is the relationship between parents and their children. Also, the writer Katherine Mansfield wishes to tell us that children share a very deep bond of love with their parents. Even though young children do not feel that their parents love and care for them, many of their parents' actions appear unfair. Besides, when children grow up they realized that all the acts of their parents were favourable for them. In addition, all along the parents were strict on them and below their strictness lies a heart full love for them. Most importantly, this bond of love between parents and their children has been underlined through the story.

Thinking about the text

I. Given below are some emotions that Kozia felt. Match the emotions.

1) Fear or terror → Father comes home.

2) glad sense of relief → Noise of the carriage grows fainter.

3) a 'funny' feeling, perhaps of understanding → Father comforts her and falls asleep.

II. Q/A

1) Why was Kozia afraid of her father?

Ans. Kozia was afraid of her father because he used to talk to her harshly. He was in a habit of finding out her mistakes.

2) Who were the people in Kozia's family?

Ans. Kozia's family had her grandmother, mother and father.

3. What was Kevja's father's routine?

- ① before going to his office?
- ② after coming back from his office?
- ③ on Sundays?

→ Ans, ① He used to kiss Kevja casually before going to his office.

② He would ask for the newspaper and tea after coming back from his office.

③ On Sundays, he would take rest. He would enjoy sound sleep on the sofa.

4. In what ways did Kevja's grandmother encourage her to get to know her father better?

→ Ans, Kevja's grandmother sent her to her father's room to have a nice talk with him. Besides, she asked her to make a gift of a pin-cushion on her father's birthday.

### III. Long Q/A

↓ Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much. How did this happen?

→ Any Kezia used to be afraid of her father talked to her harshly. ~~and~~ One day her grandmother told her to make a pin-cushion to gift him on his birthday which was approaching. Kezia took it as an opportunity to please him. So, she stitched cotton cloth three sides and looked for the things that could be stuffed into the stitched cloth. Soon she found out many sheets of paper. Actually they contained her father's speech for the post Authority ~~she~~, which was in her mother's bedroom. She tore them into pieces and stuffed her case. One day when her father looked for <sup>the</sup> ~~them~~ papers, he did not find them. After some time, he came to know that Kezia had ~~to~~ tore them into pieces to make a pin-cushion. He got

intimidated and beat her with a ruler. Thus, her efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much.

2. Kerzia decides that there are "different kinds of fathers". What kind of father was Mr. Macdonald, and how was he different from Kerzia's father?

Ans. In Kerzia's opinion, her father was very harsh. He did not talk to her affectionately but rather he used to speak to her stringently. So she avoided him. She did not want to be in front of him because she was afraid of him. Moreover, her father never spent time with her. Macdonald family lived next door to her house. One evening she saw him playing toy with his children. A baby was on his shoulders and two little girls were hanging on to his coat pockets. They were laughing. Also, she saw some boys turn the house on Macdonald and he tried to catch them laughing all the time.

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She found them feel friendly with their father. So, she wished her father like them.

3. How does Rozia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy?

Ans, One night Rozia had a nightmare which made her too terrified. She was crying out of fear. When she woke up, she found her father beside her bed with a candle in his hand. He asked her what the matter was. When he came to know about her nightmare, he blew out the candle, bent down and caught up the child in his arms. He carried her to the big bedroom. He laid her on the bed and pulled the covers up around her. Apart from her feet, he lay down beside her. After some time, still half asleep, she crept close to him, snuggled her head under his arm and held tightly to his shirt. Now she felt comfortable.

Her father told her to rub her feet against his legs and get them warm. Now, Kezia realised that her father was not as harsh as she thought. She realised that her father had to work all day long and get so tired that he could not play with her. She realised that her father wanted her to understand his compulsion. At bottom, he was a very good person.

### Word meaning

1. a figure to be feared → a person to be feared
2. given it up → stopped doing it
3. wretched → unhappy
4. laboriously → with a lot of effort.
5. wandered into → went into
6. Scraps → small pieces of cloth or paper, etc. that are not needed.
7. hue and cry → angry protest
8. Tag → a children's game of catching one another.
9. Nightmare → a bad dream
10. Tucked up → covered up nicely in bed.