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Class - XA

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Subject - English

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Thinking about the Text

1. Given below are some emotions that Ke Xia felt. Match the emotions in Column A with the items in Column B.

Column A	Column B
1. Fear or terror	(i) father comes into her room to give her a goodbye kiss.
2. A calm sense of relief.	(ii) Noise of the carriage grows fainter.
3. a "funny" feeling perhaps of understanding.	(iii) father comes home (iv) Speaking to father (v) going to bed when alone at home (vi) father comforts her and falls asleep. (vii) father stretched out of the sofa snoring.

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Themes 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 realize that all the acts of their parents were favourable for them. In addition, all along the parents were afraid of their strictness lies a heart full of love for them. Most importantly, this bond of love between parents and their children has been underlined through the story.

ii) Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Why was Kexia afraid of her father's father?

Kexia was afraid of her father because he was very strict who always used to give commands to every body else in the house. He never played with her. He had big hands and heavy face, especially his mouth when he yawned were big and she was especially terrified with the manner in which he looked at her over his Spectacles.

2. Who were the people in Kexia's family?

Kexia's family consisted of her mother, father, grandmother and herself.

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

(i) Before going to his office?

Before going to his office, Kexia's father usually went into her room to give her a casual kiss.

(ii) After coming back from his office?

After back from his office, he ordered Jon to bring into the drawing room. He also asked his mother to bring him the newspaper and his slippers, and Kexia to pull off his boots.

(iii) On Sundays?

On Sundays, Kexia's father would stretch out on the sofa. He would cover his face with his handkerchief, he put his feet on one of the cushions and sleep soundly.

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

Kexia's grandmother encouraged her to get to know her father better by sending her to the drawing room to talk to her parents on Sundays.

11. Discuss these questions in class with your teacher and then write down your answers in two or three paragraphs each.

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

Kexia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him. On every Sunday, her grandmother sent her down to the drawing room to have nice talk with

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father and mother. He called her 'little brown one' when Kexia was looking at her father.

~~her~~ ^{one} day grandfather told her that her father's birthday would be next week and suggested that she could make him a pin cushion from cotton with great care and effort, Kexia was stuck as to what to fill the cushion with after stitching three sides. As her grandfather grandmother was leaning in the garden. She searched her mother's bedroom for scraps. Finally she discovered sheet of paper on the bed sheet. She gathered and took them up and filled ~~it~~ it with torn pieces.

Unfortunately, her efforts do please her father not only went in vain but also had an anticipated consequence. This was because the sheet she had torn were then father's speech for the post authority. Her father scolded her for touching things that did not belong to her and punished her by hitting her palm with a ruler.

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

Kexia compared her father with Mr. Macdonald, her next door neighbour. He was a loving, gentle and forgiving father. He was ~~also~~ always smiling and playing his children. He treated his children in a friendly manner.

But according to Kexia his father is just opposite to the Kexia's father. Unlike Kexia's father punished his children and she thinks that her father was very harsh and strict.

How does Kexia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy.

With her mother and grandmother at the hospital, Kexia is left at home in the care of Alice, the cook, at night when

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She was sleeping on the bed
She has a nightmare.
She calls for her
grandmother but, to his surprise,
She finds her father standing
near her bed. He takes her
in her arm and make her
sleep next to him. Half asleep,
She creeps close to him, snuggled
her head under his arm,
and hold tightly to his shirt.
Her father asks her to put
her feet against his legs
for warmth. She expresses her
altered feeling for her father by
telling him that he has a
'big heart'.