

## Chapter 3 The little Girl

### Rain on the Roof - Thinking about the Poem

**Q. 1** What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.

- (i) humid shadows
- (ii) starry spheres
- (iii) what a bliss
- (iv) a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start
- (v) a thousand recollections weave their air threads into woof

**Ans. :**

- (i) Humid shadows refer to the dark black clouds that float in the air.
- (ii) Starry spheres refer to the night sky which has been lit up by the stars.
- (iii) The phrase 'What a bliss' highlights the magnitude of happiness and joy that the poet derives from the pitter-patter of the rain.
- (iv) 'A thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start' refers to the dreams and fantasies that abound the poet's mind.
- (v) 'A thousand recollections weave their air threads into woof' refers to the memories that the poet recollects just like the threads which are woven across the loom to form an exquisite picture.

**Q. 2** What does the poet like to do when it rains?

**Ans. :** The poet experiences an extreme feeling of joy and pleasure as he lies on the cottage-chamber bed pressing a pillow. Consequently, listening to the pitter-patter of the soft rain takes him to the seventh heaven.

**Q.3** What is the single major memory that comes to the poet? Who are the 'darling dreamers' he refers to?

**Ans.:** The single major memory that comes to the poet's mind is the memory of his mother.

The 'darling dreamers' refers to are all lovely dreamers who remember their mothers in the same way as the poet does.

**Q.4** Is the poet now a child? Is his mother still alive?

**Ans.:** No, the poet is not a child anymore. He is a grown-up individual.

The poet's mother is not alive. However, that motherly affection and love can be felt by the poet as he enjoys the patter of the soft rain in his cottage-chamber.

**Q. 1** When you were a young child, did your mother tuck you in, as the poet's did?

**Ans. :** Yes, my mother used to tuck me in the manner in which poet's mother did when I was a young child.

NOTE-This question requires the students to share their own experience.

**Q. 2** Do you like rain? What do you do when it rains steadily or heavily as described in the poem?

**Ans.:** Yes, I like rain as well as its soft pitter-patter voice. I love to get wet in the heavy showers which is just like an energy drink for me.

No, I don't like rain as it has a very disturbing impact on the lives of those who live in kutchha houses and on the footpaths and elsewhere. Excessive rains also destroy the crops of the farmers which their only means of livelihood.

**NOTE-**This question requires the students to share their own views and opinions and experiences according to their likes and dislikes.

**Q. 3** Does everybody have a cozy bed to lie in when it rains? Look around you and describe how different kinds of people or animals spend time, seek shelter etc. during rain.

**Ans. :** No, everybody is not fortunate enough to enjoy a cozy bed when it rains. Everybody in this world does not have an opportunity to feel the pleasure and energy it accompanies.

Animals such as birds, stray dogs etc. often take shelter inside their nests and thatched roofs made of reed and straw respectively.

However, many people are faced with difficulties of taking shelter, many houses are ruined because of heavy rainfall and many people often die due to the disastrous consequences such as lightning which may fall or trees that fall apart due to a thunderstorm. Such a situation, therefore, has its own pros and cons every time it comes.

### **Thinking about Language**

**Q. 1 A** There was a glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter...

Here, glad means happy about something.

Glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled and overjoyed are synonyms. (words or expressions that have the same or nearly the same meaning.) However, they express happiness in certain ways.

Read the sentences below:

- She was glad when the meeting was over.

- The chief guest was pleased to announce the name of the winner.

Use an appropriate word from the synonyms given above in the following sentences. Clues are given in brackets.

- (i) She was ----- by the news of her brother's wedding. (very pleased)
- (ii) I was \_\_\_\_\_ to be invited to the party. (extremely pleased and excited about)
- (iii) She was \_\_\_\_\_ at the birth of her granddaughter. (extremely happy)
- (iv) The coach was \_\_\_\_\_ with his performance. (satisfied about)
- (v) She was very \_\_\_\_\_ with her results. (happy about something that has happened)

**Ans. :** (i) She was overjoyed by the news of her brother's wedding.

(ii) I was delighted to be invited to the party.

(iii) She was glad at the birth of her granddaughter.

(iv) The coach was pleased with his performance.

(v) She was very happy with her results.

**Q. 1 B** Study the use of word big in the following sentence.

He was so big ..... his hands and his neck, especially his mouth...

Here, big means large in size

Now consult a dictionary and find out the meaning of big in the following sentences. The first one has been done for you.

(i) You are a big girl now. Older

(ii) Today you are going to take the biggest decision of your career.

\_\_\_\_\_

(iii) Their project is full of big ideas. \_\_\_\_\_

(iv) Cricket is a big game in our country. \_\_\_\_\_

(v) I am a big fan of Lata Mangeskar. \_\_\_\_\_

(vi) You have to cook a bit more as my friend is a big eater. \_\_\_\_\_

(vii) What a big heart you've got, Father dear. \_\_\_\_\_

**Ans. :** (ii) Today you are going to take the biggest decision of your career. Consequential

(iii) Their project is full of big ideas. Extraordinary

(iv) Cricket is a big game in our country. Popular

(v) I am a big fan of Lata Mangeskar. Great admirer

(vi) You have to cook a bit more as my friend is a big eater. Gourmet

(vii) What a big heart you've got, Father dear. Compassionate

**Q. 2 A** Study the following sentences.

- "What!" screamed Mother.
- "N –n-no", she whispered.
- "Sit up," he ordered.

The Italicized words are verbs of reporting. We quote or report what someone has said or thought by using a reporting verb. Every reporting clause contains a reporting verb. For example:

- He promised to help in my project.
- "How are you doing?" Seema asked.

We use verbs of reporting to advise , order, report statements, thoughts, intentions, questions, requests, apologies, manner of speaking and so on.

Underline the verbs of reporting in the following sentences.

- (i) He says he will enjoy the ride .
- (ii) Father mentioned that he was going on a holiday.
- (iii) No one told us that the shop was closed.
- (iv) He answered that the price would go up.
- (v) I wondered why he was screaming.
- (vi) Ben told her to wake him up.
- (vii) Ratan apologised for coming late to the party.

- Ans. :** (i) He says he will enjoy the ride.
- (ii) Father mentioned that he was going on a holiday.
- (iii) No one told us that the shop was closed.
- (iv) He answered that the price would go on.
- (v) I wondered why he was screaming.
- (vi) Ben told her to wake him up.
- (vii) Ratan apologised for coming late to the party.

**Q. 2 B** Some verbs of reporting are given in the box. Choose the appropriate verbs and fill in the blanks in the following sentences.

were complaining	Shouted	Replied
Remarked	Ordered	Suggested

- (i) I am not afraid ,” \_\_\_\_\_ the woman.
- (ii) “Leave me alone, “my mother \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iii) The children \_\_\_\_\_ that the roads were crowded and noisy.

(iv) “Perhaps he isn’t a bad sort of a chap after all,” \_\_\_\_\_ the master.

(v) Let’s go and look at the school ground ,” \_\_\_\_\_ the sports teacher.

(vi) The traffic police \_\_\_\_\_ all the passers-by to keep off the road.

**Answer :**

(i) I am not afraid,” replied the woman.

(ii) “Leave me alone,” my mother shouted.

(iii) The children were complaining that the roads were crowded and noisy.

(iv) “Perhaps he isn’t a bad sort of chap after all,” remarked the master.

(v) Let’s go and look at the school ground,” suggested the sports teacher.

(vi) The traffic police ordered all the passers-by to keep off the road.

**Thinking About the Text**

Q. 1 Given below are some emotions that Kezia 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) glad 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

Ans. :

column A	Column B
(1) Fear or terror	(i) father comes home (iv) speaking to father (v) going to bed when alone at home (vii) father stretched out on the sofa, snoring.
(2) glad sense of relief	(i) father comes into her room to give her a goodbye kiss. (ii) noise of the carriage grows fainter.
(3) a “funny” feeling. perhaps of understanding.	(vi) father comforts her and sleep

**Q. 2 A** Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

**Ans. :** Kezia, the little girl was afraid of her father due to his

1. authoritative and dominating nature. 2. Moreover, his loud voice coupled with his massive physical appearance was what terrified Kezia.

**Q. 2 B** Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

Who were the people in Kezia’s family?



**Ans. :** There were five members in the family including Father, Mother, Grandmother, Alice the cook and Kezia herself.

**Q. 2 C** Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

What was Kezia's father's routine:

- (i) before going to his office?
- (ii) after coming back from his office?
- (iii) on Sundays?

**Ans. :** (i) Before going to his office, Kezia's father usually visited her room to give her a casual kiss before leaving the house.

(ii) After coming back from his office, Kezia's father ordered for a tea to be brought into the drawing room. He further used to raise questions enquiring about the paper and asked to bring his slippers. Kezia was also called upon to remove her father's boots.

(iii) On Sunday afternoons, Kezia usually saw her father stretched out on the sofa with a handkerchief on his face, his feet on one of the best cushions, sleeping soundly and snoring.

**Q. 2 D** Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

In what ways did Kezia's grandmother encourage her to get to know her father better?

**Ans. :** Kezia's grandmother used to send her down to the drawing room on Sunday afternoons to have a nice and warm talk with her father and mother. In addition to this, she also gave Kezia, a brilliant idea of surprising her father with a pin-cushion made out of yellow silk on his birthday in order to make him happy and feel special.

**Q. 3 A** Discuss these questions in class with your teacher and then write down your answers in two or three paragraphs each.

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

**Ans.:** Kezia, the little girl was very scared of her father who was a dominant personality with authoritative traits. One day, when she was kept indoors due to cold, her grandmother acquainted her about her father's birthday next week and suggested her about making a pin-cushion out of a beautiful piece of yellow silk.

The little girl worked assiduously stitching the three sides with double cotton but did not know what was to be filled inside the cushion. During that particular situation, her grandmother was out in the garden because of which she herself went to her mother's room to look for scraps. As soon as she came across a number of sheets of paper on the bed table, she gathered them and tore them into tiny pieces and stuffed them up in the cushion, following which she sewed up the fourth side.

Although, Kezia's purpose of tearing the pages was only for her father's birthday present the situation turned bitter and unpleasant because the papers she tore had father's great speech for the Port Authority. After knowing the truth, Kezia's father lost his temper in no time and scolded her for touching things that did not belong to her and punished her by hitting her palm with a ruler and her efforts went on to displease her father very badly.

**Q. 3 B** Discuss these questions in class with your teacher and then write down your answers in two or three paragraphs each.

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

**Ans.:** Kezia decided that there were “different kinds of fathers” after watching Mr. Macdonald play with his five children who lived next door.

Kezia considered Mr. Macdonald to be a very soft-hearted and loving father in comparison to her father. He was very gentle in his approach and had a healthy relationship with his children.

As opposed to Mr. Macdonald’s personality traits, Kezia’s father was a very strict disciplinarian with a short-tempered attitude. He had a dominating nature and because of his volatile temperament, Kezia was very scared of him and his presence every time.

**Q. 3 C** Discuss these questions in class with your teacher and then write down your answers in two or three paragraphs each.

How does Kezia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy?

**Ans. :** When Kezia’s mother fell ill, she was left alone in the house with Alice, the cook as grandmother went to the hospital. The daytime went on but as Alice was putting her to bed at night, she suddenly grew afraid as the thoughts of the nightmares she experienced kept on disturbing her.

Unfortunately, Kezia’s worst fears came true and she experienced the same old nightmare of the butcher and a knife. As she woke up screaming “grandma grandma”, she saw her father beside her bed. Her father immediately took her in his arms and carried her to the big bedroom and lay beside her. With the thought of the butcher still on her mind, she crept close to her father, snuggled her head under his arm and held tightly to his shirt. The father asked Kezia to rub her feet against his legs to keep them warm and fell asleep with her.

Kezia understood the magnitude of the hard work her father did every day which left him too tired to become like “Mr Macdonald”. As she trembled

and sighed, she expressed her transformed feelings by telling her father about the beauty of the 'big heart' he had.

## Writing

**Q. 1** Has your life been different from or similar to that of Kezia when you were a child? Has your perception about your parents changed now? Do you find any change in your parent's behavior vis-a-vis yours? Who has become more understanding? What steps would you like to take to build a relationship based on understanding? Write three or four paragraphs (about 150-200 words ) discussing these issues from your own experience.

**Ans. :** Life is full of troubles, stress and anxieties. There comes a time when our parents are circumstantially forced to abide by certain things which keeps them much pre-occupied. They even fail to think for themselves or their own interests. Such was the case with the Father of Kezia.

Living in a joint family, I have been given utmost love, care and concern in every field by my parents, my grandparents, my uncle and aunt as well as the other members of my family . So as compared to the experience of Kezia, my life and childhood was quite different.

As a young child, I often used to feel bad about some things for which I was repeatedly scolded or corrected at. Just the way Kezia was scolded for tearing the important pages written by her father, I was also similarly criticized for my bad habits and wrong deeds. They definitely did pinch me at that particular point of time. However, as I have grown up over the years, I have gradually noticed a big change in the attitude of my parents towards me. They have given me the freedom to explore myself freely at every stage of my life wherever it was required.

From a small child to the years of adolescence, I have not only witnessed the kind of freedom but at the same time understood all the things that I was corrected at repeatedly or told not to do this or do that. Over the years, I have become more understanding and mature. Although, children at a younger age might feel bad about certain things, but it is very fundamental to their overall development as an individual because correcting them and making them learn the right things at a younger stage is much easier than at a later stage.

These experiences of my life have taught me some very important lessons which I would definitely carry forward for the rest of my life and above all, the difference between the right and the wrong, and the good and the bad.

NOTE-Students can share their own experience. The above answer is just an example.