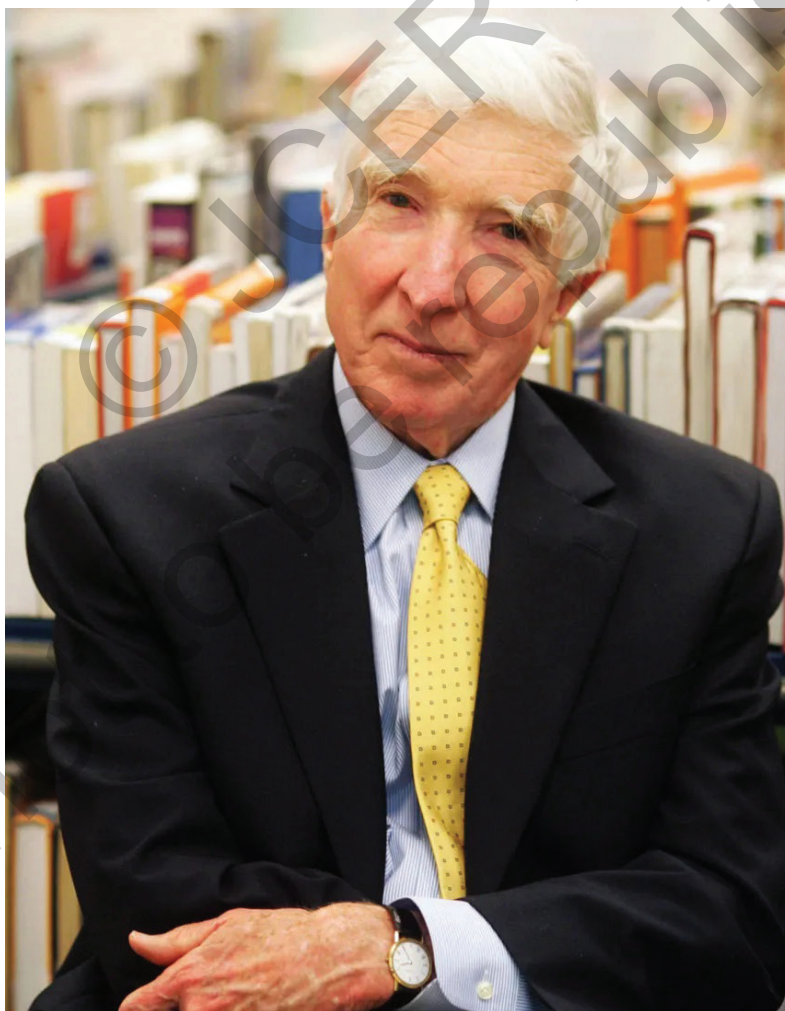


Should Wizard Hit Mommy



John Updike



1. Should Wizard Hit Mommy
2. John Updike
3. About the author
4. Introduction
5. Theme
6. Main Points
7. Character Sketch
8. Main Characters
9. Summary

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

1. **Name of the author:** John Updike
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4. Awards: National Book Award for Fiction, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

5. Nationality: American

INTRODUCTION:

The story 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?' reveals the worldview of a little child to a difficult moral question that shows her mental or psychological richness. Jo warmly responds to her father's story-telling. But she can't excuse Roger Skunk's mother for making poor little Roger smell bad again. Her hero must smell like roses and must not stink at any cost. So she wants her father to make a little change in the story. She wants him to tell a different story. In that changed version, the wizard takes a magic wand and hits Roger Skunk's mommy.

भूमिका:

कहानी 'क्या जादूगर को माँ को मारना चाहिए?' एक छोटे बच्चे की विश्वदृष्टि को एक कठिन नैतिक प्रश्न के सामने प्रकट करता है जो उसकी मानसिक या मनोवैज्ञानिक समृद्धि को दर्शाता है। जो अपने पिता की कहानी कहने का गर्मजोशी से जवाब देती है। लेकिन वह रोजर स्कंक की माँ को गरीब छोटे रोजर की गंध को फिर से खराब करने के लिए माफ नहीं कर सकती। उसके नायक को

गुलाब की तरह महकना चाहिए और किसी भी कीमत पर बदबू नहीं करनी चाहिए। इसलिए वह चाहती हैं कि उनके पिता कहानी में थोड़ा बदलाव करें। वह चाहती है कि वह एक अलग कहानी बताए। उस बदले हुए संस्करण में, जादूगर एक जादू की छड़ी लेता है और रोजर स्कंक की माँ को मारता है।

THEME:

The story deals with certain moral issues and with the adult complexes that clash with childish innocence. Father Jack tells stories to his daughter Jo, influenced by his own childhood experiences, failures and complexes. On the other hand, his daughter lives in her own world of fantasy and doesn't want to come out of it. She feels the pain of being rejected by the playmates when Roger Skunk is rejected due to his bad smell. The story highlights the point that the children also have their egos, identities, views and attitude. The ending of the story also highlights the fact that the children must understand that one must accept one's identity and gracefully accept the way we are created by God.

विषयवस्तु:

कहानी कुछ नैतिक मुद्दों और वयस्क परिसरों से संबंधित है जो बचकानी मासूमियत से

टकराते हैं। फादर जैक अपनी बेटी जो को अपने बचपन के अनुभवों, असफलताओं और जटिलताओं से प्रभावित होकर कहानियां सुनाता है। दूसरी ओर, उनकी बेटी अपनी ही कल्पना की दुनिया में रहती है और इससे बाहर नहीं आना चाहती। जब रोजर स्कंक को उसकी दुर्गंध के कारण रिजेक्ट कर दिया जाता है, तो उसे प्लेमेट्स द्वारा रिजेक्ट किए जाने का दर्द महसूस होता है। कहानी इस बात पर प्रकाश डालती है कि बच्चों का भी अपना अहंकार, पहचान, दृष्टिकोण और दृष्टिकोण होता है। कहानी का अंत इस तथ्य पर भी प्रकाश डालता है कि बच्चों को यह समझना चाहिए कि किसी को अपनी पहचान को स्वीकार करना चाहिए और जिस तरह से हम भगवान द्वारा बनाए गए हैं उसे अनुग्रहपूर्वक स्वीकार करना चाहिए।

MAIN POINTS:

1. Jack used to tell stories to his little daughter Jo.
2. Every story had a little variation from the basic tale.
3. Each story had a little creature Roger, a wise old owl and a wizard.
4. Today he narrated Jo the story of Roger Skunk.
5. Roger Skunk smelled very badly.
6. He smelled so badly that all the little creatures kept away from him. They neither gave him company nor played games with him.

7. He went to the wise old owl who advised him to go to the wizard.



8. The wizard demanded seven pennies. Roger had four and found three more in a magic well.
9. The wizard was happy to receive seven pennies and made Roger Skunk smell like roses.



10. Roger was very happy. All other little animals played with him as he smelled so good now.
11. Roger's mother became furious. She didn't like her son smelling of roses. He must smell like a Skunk.
12. She took Roger straight back to the wizard and hit the wizard on his head hard.

13. The wizard had no problem in making Roger Skunk smell bad again.

14. Roger's mother was very happy now. At least, her son now smelled like a skunk. She hugged and loved him.

15. Roger's father returned from Boston and all of them had a nice dinner.

16. Jo wanted her father to change the ending. She wanted the wizard to hit the mother back and Roger never smelled bad again. This raised a difficult moral question whether parents possess the right to impose their will on their children.

17. Her father finds it difficult to answer her question.

CHARACTER SKETCH:

1. Joanne: a four year old girl, lovingly called as 'Jo'.
2. Jack: Father of Joanne
3. Clare: Wife of Jack, mother of Joanne.
4. Skunk: a baby creature with a bad smell.
5. Mother Skunk: Mother of baby Skunk.
6. Owl: a wise creature that solves the problems.
7. Wizard: A magician.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

Jack:

1. Jo's father and Clare's husband.
2. Does not like women contradicting him and fears that his daughter would also begin contradicting him like his wife.
3. Much like Roger Skunk the character in his story in his real life.
4. Was bullied at school when he was a child just like Roger Skunk was disliked for his bad smell.
5. Dutiful and responsible towards his family.
6. Smart and Manipulative as he cleverly changes the plot to regain Jo's attention and also chooses the twist to make Jo understand the meaning of compromise.

Jo:

1. Jack and Clare's four-year-old daughter
2. Curious by Nature
3. Very Interrogative
4. Stubborn
5. Empathetic as she relates to Roger Skunk's desire to be accepted by other animals.
6. A Too innocent and young therefore believes that Roger

Skunk's mother is the villain of the story.

7. Jo's suggestion that the wizard should hit Roger's mother for her misbehavior implies that Jo has picked up on the unhappy (and potentially violent) nature of her parent's marriage.

Roger Skunk:

1. The protagonist of the story that Jack narrates to Jo.
2. He is a little black animal who lives in the dark forest.
3. He looks like a squirrel and smells very bad.
4. He is bullied for his foul Skunk smell.
5. He has no friends.
6. He wants nothing more than to play with the other animals.
7. His bad smell is changed into a rose smell by the magician.
8. He ultimately acquiesces to his mother's wishes and accepts that his smell cannot be changed because it is part of who he is.

Wizard:

1. A constant or fixed character in Jack's bedtime stories.
2. Gives a solution to Roger's problems in the story.
3. Performs magic spells.

4. Changes Roger Skunk's foul smell to that of scented roses and later reverses the spell as demanded by Roger Skunk's mother.

SUMMARY:

The story revolves around a father named Jack and his two kids, Bobby and Jo. Jack's wife is Clare. She was bearing the third child of the couple. Thus, to put her daughter to bed, Jack would make up stories for her daughter. This story-telling tradition started when Jo was 2 and thus continued ever since. Jack makes sure that he tells a different story every time and his daughter loves it. However, a small creature was always common, Roger. For instance, it was either Roger Fish or Roger Chipmunk. Roger goes to the wise old owl with problems that would send him to a Wizard. The wizard casts a spell in exchange for a service fee.

कहानी जैक नाम के एक पिता और उसके दो बच्चों बॉबी और जो के इर्द-गिर्द घूमती है। जैक की पत्नी क्लेयर हैं। वह दंपति की तीसरी संतान को जन्म दे रही थी। इस प्रकार, अपनी बेटी को सुलाने के लिए, जैक अपनी बेटी के लिए कहानियाँ बनाता था। कहानी कहने की यह परंपरा तब शुरू हुई जब जो 2 साल के थे और इस तरह तब से जारी हैं। जैक यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि वह हर बार एक अलग कहानी कहे और उसकी बेटी को यह पसंद आए। हालांकि, एक छोटा जीव हमेशा आम था, रोजर। उदाहरण के लिए, यह रोजर फिश या रोजर चिपमंक था। रोजर

बुद्धिमान बूढ़े उल्लू के पास समस्याओं के साथ जाता है जो उसे एक जादूगर के पास भेज देगा। जादूगर एक सेवा शुल्क के बदले में जादू करता है।

The name of the story makes it more interesting. Students will be compelled to think about why a wizard would hit mommy. Jo is growing up and has started to develop her senses. She is making more sense now and her frequency of asking questions has increased a lot. As per the story 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy', Jack told the story of a Skunk named Roger. His problem was that he smelled awful. The skunk went to the wizard to find a proper solution to this problem as no one was coming closer to him. The wizard asks what kind of smell he wanted on his body. The skunk answered that he wanted to smell like roses. The wizard grants his wish and casts a spell to make Roger smell like roses. The skunk then returns to his mom. Jo thought that the story had ended but Jack continued.

कहानी का नाम इसे और दिलचस्प बनाता है। विद्यार्थी यह सोचने पर विवश हो जाएंगे कि कोई जादूगर मम्मी को क्यों मारेगा। जो बड़ी हो रही है और उसने अपनी इंद्रियों को विकसित करना शुरू कर दिया है। वह अब ज्यादा समझदार हो रही है और उसके सवाल पूछने की बारंबारता बहुत बढ़ गई है। 'शौल्ड विजार्ड हिट मॉमी' कहानी के अनुसार जैक ने रोजर नाम के एक बदमाश की कहानी सुनाई। उसकी समस्या यह थी

कि उसे भयानक गंध आ रही थी। बदमाश इस समस्या का उचित समाधान खोजने के लिए जादूगर के पास गया क्योंकि कोई भी उसके करीब नहीं आ रहा था। जादूगर पूछता है कि उसे अपने शरीर पर किस तरह की गंध चाहिए। बदमाश ने जवाब दिया कि वह गुलाब की तरह महकना चाहता है। जादूगर उसकी इच्छा को पूरा करता है और रोजर को गुलाब की तरह महकने के लिए जादू करता है। बदमाश फिर अपनी माँ के पास लौट आता है। जो ने सोचा कि कहानी खत्म हो गई है लेकिन जैक ने जारी रखा।

After reaching home, the mummy noticed the awful smell and asked Roger who did this. Roger Skunk told her that he did not like the way he smelled so he asked the Wizard to help him smell like roses. This infuriated the mother and told him to accept himself for what he was. She went to the Wizard all angry and asked him to return the skunk smell after hitting him.

घर पहुंचने के बाद, माँ ने भयानक गंध देखी और रोजर से पूछा कि यह किसने किया। रोजर स्कंक ने उसे बताया कि वह जिस तरह से सूंघता है वह उसे पसंद नहीं है इसलिए उसने जादूगर से उसे गुलाब की तरह सूंघने में मदद करने के लिए कहा। इसने माँ को क्रोधित कर दिया और उससे कहा कि वह जो है उसके लिए खुद को स्वीकार कर लो। वह सभी गुस्से में जादूगर के पास गई और उसे मारने के बाद बदबूदार गंध वापस करने के लिए कहा।

Thus, the Wizard reversed his spell and Roger Skunk was back to smelling like he did before. After completing the story he asked Jo to go to sleep but Jo asked her father to tell him another story tomorrow where the wizard must hit Roger Skunk's mother over the head with his wand. Jack explained to her that because Roger skunk loved his mother more than the company of any other animal, he was better off with his old smell.

इस प्रकार, जादूगर ने अपना जादू उलट दिया और रोजर स्कंक पहले की तरह महकने लगा। कहानी पूरी करने के बाद उसने जो को सोने के लिए कहा, लेकिन जो ने अपने पिता से कल उसे एक और कहानी सुनाने के लिए कहा, जहां जादूगर को रोजर स्कंक की माँ को मारना होगा। उसकी छड़ी के साथ सिर। जैक ने उसे समझाया कि क्योंकि रोजर स्कंक किसी भी अन्य जानवर की कंपनी से ज्यादा अपनी माँ से प्यार करता था, वह अपनी पुरानी गंध से बेहतर था।

Jack went down without answering her and sat on a chair and watched his wife repaint the room. He saw the molding in their house as a cage surrounding him and his wife and he did not feel the desire to help her.

जैक उसका जवाब दिए बिना नीचे चला गया और एक कुर्सी पर बैठ गया और अपनी पत्नी को कमरे को फिर से रंगते हुए देखा। उसने अपने घर में ढलाई को अपने और अपनी पत्नी के चारों ओर एक पिंजरे के रूप में देखा और

उसने उसकी मदद करने की इच्छा महसूस नहीं की।

DIFFICULT WORDS

Nap- (a short sleep). आराम करना

Custom: (habit) आदत

Wizard- (magician) जादूगर

Magic Spell- (a form of words used as a magical charm) जादुई मंत्रोच्चारण

Pennies- (a small sum of money) पैसा

Supper- (dinner) रात्रि का भोजन

Fatiguing- cause (someone) to feel exhausted. थकाऊ

Rite- (traditional act). पारम्परिक काम

Futile- (meaningless). बेकार

Skunk- (A small cat-sized animal smelled bad). बिल्ली जैसा दिखने वाला जानवर

Woodland- (land covered with trees) जंगल

Solemnly- (with deep sincerity) गंभीरता से

Zest (great enthusiasm and energy) ऊर्जावान

Humiliation- (to insult someone) बेइज्जत करना

Stinky- (having a strong or unpleasant smell) दुर्गन्ध

Enormous- (a large number of) असंख्य

Eager- (anxious). उत्सुक

Swamp- (an area of low-lying) दलदल

Crick- A small river. छोटी नदी

Rapped- (strike) दस्तक

Relapsed- (return to a less active or a worse state) .पुनरावर्तन

Sill- (slab of stone) पत्थर से बना स्लैब

Clenched- (closed into a tight ball) बंधी हुई मुट्ठी

Infantile- (childish) नादानी

Scrunching- make a loud crunching noise जोर जोर से आवाज़ करना

Whining- (high-pitched cry or sound) चिल्लाकर रोना

Rheumy- (watery)

Jumbled- (untidy way) अव्यवस्थित

Heap- (jalopy) ढेर

Smugly- (pride in oneself) खुद पर गर्वित

Trance- (a half-conscious state) अवचेतन

Gaze- (look steadily and intently) घूरना

Chanted- (intonate) गा गा कर पढ़ना

Rapt- (completely fascinated) मोहित होना

Nostrils- either of two external openings of the nose नाक का छिद्र

Grin- smile broadly. मुस्कुराना

Cranky- (irritable) विचित्र

Rumbled- make a continuous deep sound लगातार गहरी आवाज़ में चिल्लाना

Pretense- (to appear true) ढोंग

Gingerly- (carefully or cautiously) सावधानीपूर्वक

Heave- (produce a sigh) सांस लेना

Stroking- (move one's hand with gentle pressure) हाथ फेरने की क्रिया

Spank- (slap with one's open hand) तमाचा

Weariness- (extreme tiredness) अत्यधिक थकान

Awful- (very bad or unpleasant). डरावनी

Fright- (fear) भय

Skittered- (move lightly and quickly) जल्दी से भागना

Underbrush- (shrubs and small trees) छोटा सा जंगल

Agitation- (anxiety) चिंता

Rare- (not occurring very often) विरल

Emphasis- (special value given to something) जोर देना

Tiptoed- (walk quietly) दबे पांव

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Who is the author of the lesson?

- (a) John Updike
- (b) John Donne

(c) William Blake

(d) John Williams

Answer

2. What is Jo a short form of?

(a) John

(b) Joe

(c) Joanne

(d) Jane

(c) Joanne

3. Jo wanted ____ in the story the next day

(a) skunk to smell of roses

(b) skunk mommy to relent

(c) wizard to hit mommy

(d) animals to love skunk

Answer

4. Mommy skunk was ____ with the wizard.

(a) angry

(b) pleased

(c) indifferent

(d) civil

Answer

5. What did mommy skunk call the smell of roses?

(a) Pleasant

- (b) Unusual
- (c) Heavenly
- (d) Awful

Answer

6. How many times did the wizard ask Roger to turn at the end of the lane?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5

(b) 3

7. What did Jack mistakenly call Roger Skunk?

- (a) Roger Rabbit
- (b) Roger fish
- (c) Roger squirrel
- (d) Roger monkey

Answer

8. What did Roger Skunk want to smell like?

- (a) Roses
- (b) Lilies
- (c) Lavender
- (d) Jasmine

Answer

9. Roger Skunk's smell makes _____ creatures run away

- (a) Woodland
- (b) Wood York
- (c) Yorkshire
- (d) Wood hills

Answer

10. Roger's daddy returns home from _____

- (a) New York
- (b) Boston
- (c) Washington
- (d) Reading

Answer

11. Jack narrates the story in the evenings and for ____ naps.

- (a) Monday
- (b) Saturday
- (c) Sunday
- (d) Tuesday

Answer

12. 'Should Wizard hit mommy?' is a _____ within a story.

- (a) story
- (b) digression
- (c) metaphor

(d) moral

Answer

13. What does a 4 year old child symbolise in the story?

- (a) innocence
- (b) smartness
- (c) obstinacy
- (d) none

Answer

14. What do adult people signify in the story?

- (a) maturity and experience
- (b) wise words
- (c) cruelty
- (d) indifference

Answer

15. Who is Jo?

- (a) A 4 years old boy who is curious to find unknown aspects of the stories told by his father
- (b) a girl child
- (c) a naughty girl
- (d) A 4 years old girl who is curious to find unknown aspects of the stories told by her father.

Answer

16. Why did Jo have a different opinion from her father?

- (a) because she was a child
- (b) because she was unable to see beyond facial expressions
- (c) because she wanted a happy ending
- (d) All these

Answer

17. Why did Roger want to change his smell?

- (a) because no one liked him
- (b) none was ready to play with him
- (c) he smelt very badly and it made people cry
- (d) All these

Answer

18. Where does Jo prefer to live?

- (a) in the world of friends
- (b) in the school of swings
- (c) in her world of dreams and fantasies
- (d) none

Answer

19. Why did Roger visit the wizard?

- (a) to learn magic

- (b) to gossip
- (c) to get rid of his mother
- (d) to seek advice to get rid of foul smell

Answer

20. What part of the story did Jack himself enjoy the most?
- (a) when mother hits the wizard
 - (b) when Roger finds pennies from the magic well
 - (c) when at the wizard's house, Roger imitates wizard's voice
 - (d) none

Answer

21. What advice did the wise owl give to Roger Skunk?
- (a) to visit his friends
 - (b) to think deeply
 - (c) to consult his mother
 - (d) to consult the wizard

Answer

22. What did the wizard demand to make Roger smell like a rose?
- A) 10 pennies
 - B) 4 pennies
 - C) 5 pennies
 - D) 7 pennies

D) 7 pennies

23. How many pennies did Roger have to pay?

- (a) 7 pennies
- (b) 6 pennies
- (c) 8 pennies
- (d) 4 pennies

(d) 4 pennies

24. Where did the wizard suggest Roger to get rest three pennies?

- A) from a tree
- B) from a river
- C) from the ocean
- D) from a magic well

D) from a magic well

25. What idea does Jo not approve?

- (a) Roger's mother have rosy smell
- (b) Wizard hit Roger's mother
- (c) Roger's mother hit the wizard
- (d) None

Answer

26. Why does Jo call Roger's mom stupid?

- (a) because she doesn't listen
- (b) because she is stupid

- (c) because it is because of her action that Roger start smelling bad again
- (d) none

Answer

27. Why did Jack start finding storytelling telling ritual a chore ?

- (a) because it became a routine to make Jo sleep
- (b) because it was becoming interesting day by day
- (c) friends were liking it
- (d) none

Answer

28. What is the moral of the story?

- (a) Parents are wise and know what is best for them
- (b) mothers should not interfere in their children's affairs
- (c) mothers are cruel
- (d) children are cute and right
- (a) Parents are wise and know what is best for them**

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

1. What is the moral issue that the story raises?

The story raises a very sensitive issue of a child and a father's perspective

of thinking. The narrator asks parents to help them to achieve a goal, not to establish the authority of being elder and experienced. If a child has a different goal that she/he wants to continue, the parents should not create an obstacle to achieve the same. The parents must be cooperative and let the child decide his/her future in their way.

2. How does Jo want the story to end and why?

Jo wants the story to end in a different way. She wants the wizard to hit the mother and not to restore the previous smell because Skunk was very happy with this rose smell. She simply says that a child must have the right to choose his/her career. The parents have only the right to support them, not to decide the future of their children.

3. Why does Jack insist that it was the wizard that was hit and not the mother?

Jack is the father of Jo and he is a very protective and caring father. He is a man of traditional thinking and believes that parents must have the right to decide the future of their children. He is not aware of modern culture. Therefore, he positively takes the mother and supports her blindly when she hits the wizard and asks her to restore the previous smell.

4. What is your stance regarding the two endings to the Roger Skunk story?

Both, two endings are good as per the different perspectives of thinking.

But, I would support Jo's point of view. She has raised a very sensitive issue on the Indian parenting system. In our system, a child becomes a puppet at the hand of his/her parents. There is no doubt in saying that parents are always well-wishers. But, a child must have the freedom to choose his career as per his/her will.

5. Why is an adult's perspective on life different from that of a child's?

An adult's perspective on life is always different from that of a child because an adult's thinking schema is based upon experiences and exposure to the world around them. Many of them are still having that of traditional and ancient thinking but the world is changing very fast. A child thinks very tenderly and his opinion is based upon the things that he or she sees around. They want to run for their passion and aspiration.