

CHAPTER 03

The Little Girl

General Introduction:

The writer Katherine Mansfield wishes to tell us that children share a very deep bond of love with their parents. Although young children do not feel that their parents love and care for them because they are strict, and to them, many of their parents' actions appear unfair.

Through the little girl, the writer wants to portray the bond of love and care between the parents and their children.

About the Author:

Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923) is New Zealand's most internationally famous author. She was a writer of short stories, poetry, articles, journals, and reviews, and changed the way the short story was written in the English language. She was a rebel and a modernist who lived her short life of 34

years to the full. Before dying at the age of thirty-four she had achieved a reputation as one of the most talented writers of the modern short story.

Short Summary:

Kezia was a little girl who lived with her mother, her father and her grandmother. She was afraid of her father and used to avoid him. She used to feel relieved on seeing her father going to his office. Kezia was so afraid of her father that she stuttered in front of him. He appeared to her as a harsh, rude and critical human being. Her Grandmother wanted her to understand her parents better, and would ask her to go to the drawing room to chat with her parents. But she found them indifferent towards her.

One day Grandmother suggested that she should prepare a pin cushion for her father's birthday. Kezia stitched

the three sides of the pin cushion casing. Now she wanted to stuff it with something. In her mother's room on the bed table, she found many sheets of fine paper. She tore them off into small pieces, filled the pin cushion and stitched the fourth side. By mistake she had used the very papers, which contained her father's very important speech for the Port Authority. Though she accepted her mistake and tried to explain the reasons behind it, her father was too angry to listen to anything and punished her with a bashing of the ruler on her palms. She failed to understand the punishment meted out to her when she had already accepted her mistake. Bitterly she said, 'Why did God make fathers for ?'

One evening, she saw Mr. McDonald playing with his five children, laughing and enjoying with them. This convinced Kezia that all fathers are not alike. Some are loving and caring like Mr. McDonald and some are cruel like her father.

But soon, her attitude towards her father also changed. One day, her mother had to be taken to the hospital and her grandmother accompanied her. Kezia was left alone in the house with the cook. The day was fine. But the night was a different issue. She woke up in the middle of the night screaming as she had a horrible nightmare. She was weeping out of fear. When she

opened her eyes, she saw her father beside her bed. He carried her to his bedroom, and made her warm and comfortable on his bed. Father told her to rub her feet with his legs and set them warm. She felt very safe and comfortable with him.

It was then she realized that her father was not a giant after all. She could also sense that he loved and cared for her in his own way. She realized that he had to work the whole day to provide for his family and was too tired by the evening to play with her.

पाठ का सारांश

केज़िया एक छोटी लड़की थी जो अपनी माँ, अपने पिता और अपनी दादी के साथ रहती थी। वह अपने पिता से डरती थी और उससे बचती थी। पिता को ऑफिस जाते देख वह राहत महसूस करती थी। केज़िया अपने पिता से इतना डरती थी कि उसके सामने ही हकलाती थी। वह उसे एक कठोर, और आलोचनात्मक इंसान के रूप में दिखाई दिया। उसकी दादी चाहती थी कि वह अपने माता-पिता को बेहतर ढंग से समझे, और उसे अपने माता-पिता से बात करने के लिए ड्राइंग रूम में जाने के लिए कहें। लेकिन उसने उन्हें अपने प्रति उदासीन पाया।

एक दिन दादी ने सुझाव दिया कि उन्हें अपने पिता के जन्मदिन के लिए एक पिन कुशन तैयार करना चाहिए। केज़िया ने पिन कुशन केसिंग के तीनों किनारों को सिला। अब वह

उसमें कुछ भरना चाहती थी। बिस्तर की मेज पर अपनी माँ के कमरे में, उसे बढ़िया कागज़ की कई चादरें मिलीं। उसने उन्हें छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों में फाड़ दिया, पिन कुशन भर दिया और चौथी तरफ सिलाई कर दी। गलती से उसने उन्हीं कागज़ों का इस्तेमाल किया था, जिसमें पोर्ट अथॉरिटी के लिए उसके पिता का बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भाषण था। हालाँकि उसने अपनी गलती स्वीकार कर ली और इसके पीछे के कारणों को समझाने की कोशिश की, लेकिन उसके पिता कुछ भी सुनने के लिए बहुत गुस्से में थे और उन्हें शासक की हथेलियों पर कोसने से दंडित किया। जब वह अपनी गलती स्वीकार कर चुकी थी तो उसे मिलने वाली सजा को वह समझने में विफल रही। उसने कड़वाहट से कहा, ‘भगवान ने पिता को किस लिए बनाया है?’

एक शाम, उसने मिस्टर मैकडॉनल्ड्स को अपने पांच बच्चों के साथ खेलते हुए, उनके साथ हँसते और आनंद लेते हुए देखा। इससे केजिया को यकीन हो गया कि सभी पिता एक जैसे नहीं होते। कुछ मिस्टर मैकडॉनल्ड्स की तरह प्यार करने वाले और देखभाल करने वाले होते हैं और कुछ उसके पिता की तरह क्रूर होते हैं।

लेकिन जल्द ही, अपने पिता के प्रति उसका रवैया भी बदल गया। एक दिन, उसकी माँ को अस्पताल ले जाना पड़ा और उसकी दादी उसके साथ गई। रसोइया के साथ केजिया घर में अकेली रह गई थी। दिन ठीक था। लेकिन रात की बात ही कुछ और थी। एक भयानक दुःस्वप्न के रूप में वह चिल्लाते हुए

आधी रात में जाग गई। वह डर के मारे रो रही थी। जब उसने अपनी आँखें खोलीं, तो उसने अपने पिता को अपने बिस्तर के पास देखा। वह उसे अपने बेडरूम में ले गये, और उसे अपने बिस्तर पर गर्म और आरामदायक महसूस कराया। पिता ने उसे अपने एक पैरों को अपने दूसरे पैरों से रगड़ने और उन्हें गर्म करने के लिए कहा। वह उसके साथ बहुत सुरक्षित और सहज महसूस करती थी।

तब उसे एहसास हुआ कि उसके पिता आखिर विशालकाय नहीं थे। वह यह भी समझ सकती थी कि वह अपने तरीके से उससे प्यार करता है और उसकी देखभाल करते हैं। उसने महसूस किया कि उसे अपने परिवार का भरण-पोषण करने के लिए पूरे दिन काम करना पड़ता था और शाम तक उसके साथ खेलने के लिए बहुत थक गया था।

Upset = sad = उदास, परेशान;

feelings = emotions = भावनाएं ;

echo = sound = आवाज़ ;

figure = form = आकृति ;

avoid = keep away = दूर रहना ;

casual = informal = अनौपचारिक ;

respond = answer = उत्तर देना ;

relief = comfort = राहत ;

slippers = a type of shoe = चप्पल ;

terrify = frighten = भयभीत करना ;

stutter = stammer = हकलाना

Properly = in a right manner = उचित ढंग से ;

wretched = unhappy = दुःखी ;
brink = the extreme edge = किराना ;
suicide = to kill oneself stretched = आत्महत्या करना ;
out = lay comfortably = लेटा हुआ ;
snore = breathe noisily while sleeping = खर्राटे भरना ।
Double cotton = double stitch = दोहरा धागा ;
stitch = sew = सीना ;
scraps = small unwanted pieces = कतरनें ;
stuff = fill tightly with = से भरना ;
search = look for = ; instant = moment = पल ;
dragged = pulled = घसीटा ;
pace = walk to and fro = चहलकदमी करना ;
shadowed = closed = बंद ;
pattern = Structure = ढाँचा ।

This content has been designed by the experts keeping in mind the exam score. Go through **The Little Girl Word Meaning** and add highest value to your studies. **Rock** = sway to and fro = आगे —पीछे हिलाना या हिलना ; **clung** = to hold tightly = चिपट गया । **upset** = worried = परेशान ; **tag** = name of a sport = एक खेल का नाम ; **hose** = flexible tube of rubber etc. = रबड़ आदि की बनी हुई लचीली ट्यूब ; **nightmare** = terrible dream = दुः स्वप्न ; **grannie** = grandmother = दादी । **Dreadful** = terrible = भयानक ; **passage** = corridor = गलियारा ; **tuck up** = pull the bedclothes up round and under the mattress = बिस्तर में सुला देना ; **snuggle** = lie or get close to = सटकर लेट जाना या सट जाना ; **funny** = strange = अनोखा ; **stir** = move = हिलना —डुलना ; **sigh** = a deep breath = आह भरना ।

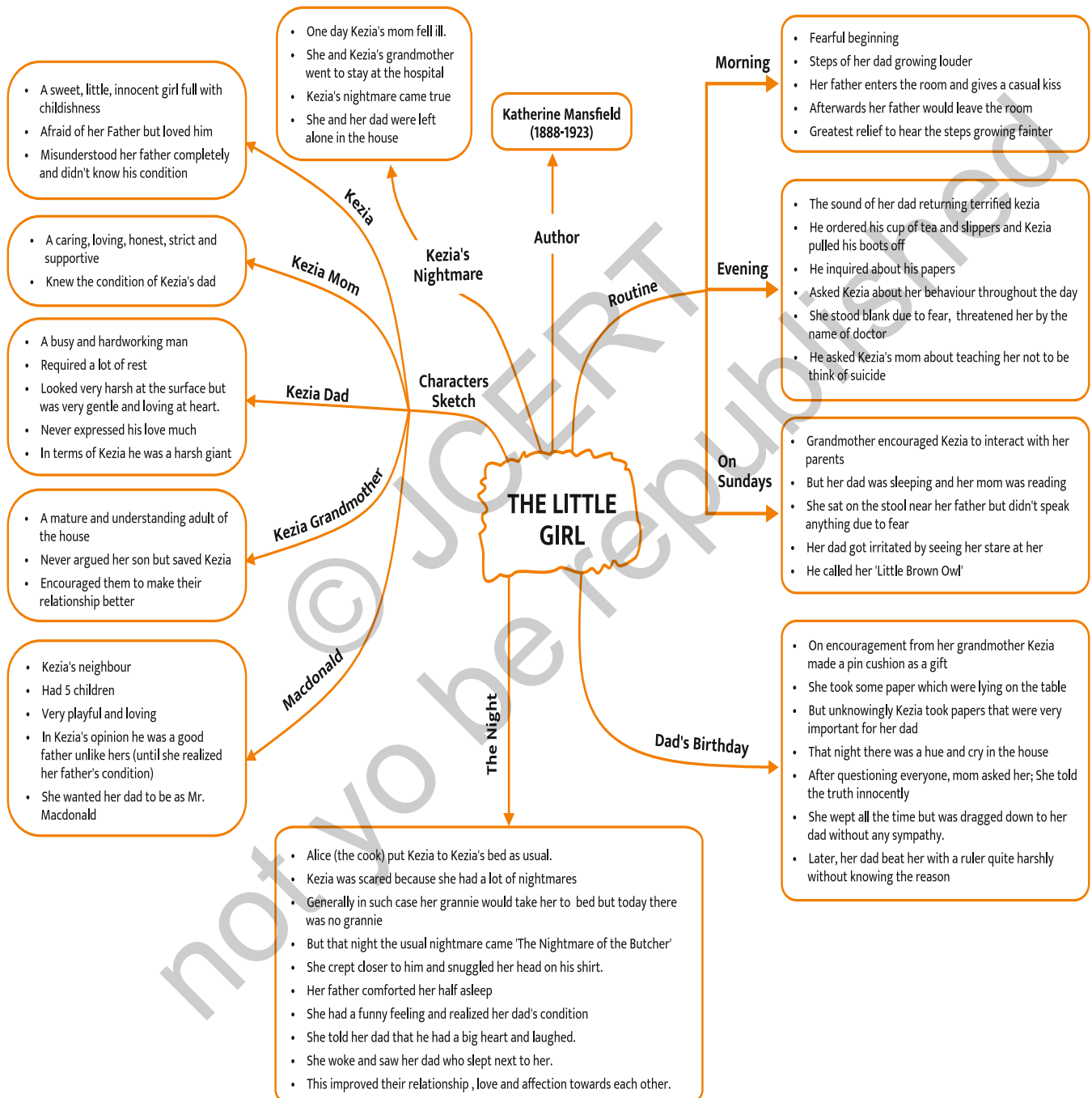
Key Words:

S. NO	WORDS	MEANINGS
1	Casual	Relaxed and normal
2	Respond	To reply back
3	Glad	Very happy
4	Carriage	A vehicle that is mostly drawn by horses
5	Fainter	Becoming mild or dim
6	Patriarch	A male who is the head of the family
7	Boots	A type of footwear that reaches above the ankle
8	Drawing-room	A hall or main room where guests are entertained
9	Terrifying	Scary
10	Stutter	To have difficulty in speaking
11	Intimidating	To have a fearful approach
12	Validation	To seek appreciation
13	Wretched	In a bad form
14	Brink of suicide	About to end one's life
15	Yawn	Involuntarily opening one's mouth due to feeling sleepy
16	Self conscious	Becoming more aware of one's actions
17	Cautious	Very careful
18	Rectify	To make things right
19	Stretched	To push out arms and legs in order to rest
20	Snoring	To breathe noisily when one is asleep
21	Gravely	Seriously

22	Rapport	A friendly relationship
23	Pin-cushion	A cushion in which pins are stuck
24	Laboriously	Working hard
25	Sew	To stitch two pieces of cloth
26	Scraps	Tiny bits of paper or cloth
27	Hesitant	Slow to take a step
28	Consequence	The result of doing something
29	Dragged	To pull someone/something with force or difficulty
30	Damned thing	Slang for showing annoyance or dislike
31	Ruler	A measuring scale
32	Palms	The open area of the hand
33	Hot-headed person	Angry person
34	Wrapped	To put a cover over
35		Clung To hold onto
36	Rocking-chair	A chair that moves to and fro
37	Hanky	Handkerchief
38	Fence	A boundary to separate two houses
39	Flower-beds	A piece of the garden where flowers are grown
40	Tag	A game where people try to catch each other
41	Hose	A long tube through which water can flow
42	Nightmare	An unpleasant dream
43	Whisper	To talk slowly
44	Butcher	A person who cuts or sells meat
45	Dreadful	Worse
46	Passage	The way that leads to a room

47 Tucked up
48 Snuggled
49 Crept
50 Breadwinner

To pull the bed covers over someone
To get comfortable with another person
Get closer slowly
One who earns for the family



MCQ Questions:

1. The pin-cushion gift was made of a beautiful piece of

(a) Blue silk
(b) Pink silk
(c) Orange silk
(d) Yellow silk

Answer: (d) Yellow silk

2. When Kezia's father arrived in the room with a ruler, she went hiding

(a) Under the bed
(b) Inside the storeroom
(c) In the garage
(d) Under the bedclothes

Answer: (d) Under the bedclothes

3. What did the grandmother give to Kezia when she was sobbing?

(a) A clean hanky
(b) A chocolate
(c) An ice cream
(d) A toy

Answer: (a) A clean hanky

4. In the end, Kezia felt that

(a) Her grandmother had a big heart
(b) Her father had a big heart
(c) Her mother had a beautiful smile
(d) Her mother had a big heart

Answer: (b) Her father had a big heart

5. Kezia was beaten up with a ruler by her father because

(a) She failed in her exam
(b) She disagreed to sleep alone
(c) She went to ice cream parlour
(d) She torn down the papers of her father's speech

Answer: (d) She torn down the papers of her father's speech

6. The butcher in Kezia's nightmare had a

(a) Wide smile
(b) Dreadful smile
(c) Long hands
(d) Big toes

Answer: (b) Dreadful smile

7. Kezia's father could not play because

(a) He was a giant
(b) He was old
(c) He was too tired after work
(d) He had no holidays

Answer: (c) He was too tired after work

8. Whenever Kezia's father came back from office, Kezia was

(a) Help up with fear

- (b) Filled up with happiness
- (c) Felt excited
- (d) Felt sleepy

Answer: (a) Help up with fear

9. Kezia snuggled her head under

- (a) The pillow
- (b) The blanket
- (c) Her father's arm
- (d) Her grandmother's arm

Answer: (c) Her father's arm

10. Kezia's father took his child in his

- (a) Arms
- (b) Lap
- (c) Car
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Arms

11. What nightmare did Kezia have?

- (a) A giant with a knife
- (b) A butcher with a knife and rope
- (c) An accident across the countryside
- (d) A dreadful smile of the Macdonalds

Answer: (b) A butcher with a knife and rope

12. Kezia was scared of

- (a) Going to school
- (b) Having nightmares
- (c) Visiting doctor
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Having nightmares

13. Why was Kezia left at home alone with her cook?

- (a) Her mother and grandmother went for fishing
- (b) Her mother and grandmother went to the hospital
- (c) They went to the countryside
- (d) There went to a family function

Answer: (b) Her mother and grandmother went to the hospital

14. The father who lived next door of Kezia's would

- (a) Water his plants
- (b) Speak angrily
- (c) Make barbeque
- (d) Play and laugh

Answer: (d) Play and laugh

15. Kezia saw these children playing

- (a) Tag
- (b) Hide and seek
- (c) Football
- (d) Badminton

Answer: (a) Tag

16. Why did Kezia tear the papers?

- (a) to play
- (b) to clean her room
- (c) to fill the cushion
- (d) all

Answer: (c) to fill the cushion

17. What would Kezia find her mother doing on Sunday afternoons in the drawing room?

- (a) talking to her father
- (b) busy in her work
- (c) reading
- (d) nothing

Answer: (c) reading

18. Why did grandmother send Kezia to her father in the drawing room Sunday?

- (a) to make her comfortable with her father
- (b) to make her understand her father better
- (c) to help her have a nice talk with him
- (d) all

Answer: (d) all

19. What did Kezia think of her father when he used to yawn?

- (a) she compared him to Mr. Macdonald
- (b) she compared him to god
- (c) She compared him to a giant

- (d) None

Answer: (c) She compared him to a giant

20. How did the little girl feel when her father looked at her from the spectacles?

- (a) happy
- (b) dancing
- (c) joyful
- (d) terrified

Answer: (d) terrified

21. Why did Kezia start feeling lonely?

- (a) because of her father
- (b) her father scolded her
- (c) because her mother fell sick
- (d) None

Answer: (c) because her mother fell sick

22. Where were the two girls hanging?

- (a) on Macdonald's shoulders
- (b) on Macdonald's arms
- (c) on Macdonald's coat pockets
- (d) None

Answer: (c) on Macdonald's coat pockets

23. What was McDonald playing with his children?

- (a) rugby
- (b) chess

(c) cricket

(d) Tag

Answer: (d) Tag

24. Who was McDonald?

(a) Kezia's uncle

(b) Kezia's teacher

(c) Kezia's grandfather

(d) Kezia's neighbor

Answer: (d) Kezia's neighbour

25. What did Kezia think of her father?

(a) he is a very good father

(b) he loves children

(c) he is very harsh

(d) all

Answer: (c) he is very harsh

26. What did Kezia's mother ask her to make?

(a) chapati

(b) snacks

(c) a gift of pin cushion

(d) none

Answer: (c) a gift of pin cushion

27. What did Kezia's father do on Sundays?

(a) he used to have sound sleep to take rest.

(b) he went for movies

(c) he used to visit his friends

(d) gossip

Answer: (a) he used to have sound sleep to take rest.

28. What did Kezia's father do before going to his office?

(a) went to the temple

(b) touched his mother's feet

(c) took a walk

(d) he used to kiss Kezia before going to the office.

Answer: (d) he used to kiss Kezia before going to the office.

29. Why does grandmother ask the little girl to make a present for her father?

(a) his birthday was approaching next week

(b) he was going on a tour

(c) his anniversary was coming

(d) he was going to retire

Answer: (a) his birthday was approaching next week

30. In the end, Kezia felt that:

(a) Her grandmother had a big heart

(b) Her father had a big heart

(c) Her mother had a beautiful smile

(d) Her mother had a big heart

Answer: (b) Her father had a big

heart

Short Answer Questions:

Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

Ans. Kezia was afraid of her father because he was strict. He stared at her and even gave her physical punishment. Instead of the love and affection that Kezia sought from her father, he gave her scoldings which instilled a fear in her mind. Her father's giant structure also terrified little Kezia.

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

Ans. In all there were four members in Kezia's family – her strict father, her stern mother, a loving grandmother and Kezia herself.

3. 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 the office, Kezia's father would visit Kezia in her

room, give her a kiss and then leave for work in his carriage.

- ii) After coming back from the office in the evening, Kezia's father would order tea to be brought for him in the drawing room. He would order for his slippers and the newspapers in a loud voice.

- iii) On Sunday afternoons, he would stretch out on the sofa, his handkerchief on his face, his feet on one of the best cushions, and would sleep soundly and snore.

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

Ans. Kezia's grandmother wanted Kezia to have a strong bond of love and affection with her parents. In order to develop that, she encouraged Kezia to go downstairs every Sunday afternoon to spend time with her parents and to get to know them better.

Long Answer questions:

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

1. Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing

him very much. How did this happen?

Ans. Kezia was at home as she was down with a fever. Her grandmother suggested that she make a surprise gift for her father as his birthday was approaching. Kezia and her grandmother planned that Kezia would make a pin cushion for him and her grandmother gave her a piece of yellow-coloured silk fabric for it. Kezia stitched the cushion from three sides and was looking for pieces of torn cloth or paper to stuff into the cushion.

As her grandmother was out in the garden, the innocent child reached her parents' room. She found a heap of paper lying on the bed table, tore the sheets of paper into tiny bits and stuffed it into the cushion. Kezia was glad that finally, the surprise gift was ready but, in fact she had committed a serious mistake of destroying her father's speech that he had prepared for the Port Authority.

Kezia's father was angry with her and wanted to teach her an important lesson, not to touch anything that did not belong to her. So, he hit Kezia's palms with a ruler to teach her a lesson.

2. 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. Mr Macdonald, Kezia's next door neighbour had five children. Kezia often saw them playing in the garden.

One day, she peeped through a gap in the fence and saw them having fun. Baby Mao was sitting on Mr Macdonald's shoulders, his two daughters stuck to his coat's pockets and they ran all around the flower beds, laughing and having fun. His sons opened the hose on him and he tried to catch them.

This fun scene made her conclude that there were different kinds of fathers. Mr Macdonald was different from her father. He was not strict, played with his children and they laughed all the while.

On the other hand, Kezia's father was always angry at her. He remained busy with work and later, was so tired that he slept most of the time. He stared at her, scolded her for stammering and being silly.

His strict nature made Kezia wonder what for had God made fathers.

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

Ans. One day, Kezia's mother was taken ill and went to the hospital. Grandmother too accompanied her. Kezia was left alone with the cook, Alice, to look after her. At night, Alice put Kezia to bed but Kezia was reluctant to sleep without her grandmother as she would go to her in case she got scared by a nightmare. Alice put Kezia to sleep all alone and ordered her not to scream and disturb her father who was asleep in the next room. But she was again bothered by the nightmare of a butcher with a knife, a rope and a dreadful smile.

Kezia screamed and called her grandmother. Upon hearing her screams, her father woke up. He was holding a candle and lifted Kezia in his arms. He took her to his room and comforted her. He lay Kezia in his bed and told her to rub her feet against his legs to make them warm. Kezia felt his affection and snuggled towards him. At that moment, Kezia realized that her father worked really hard and was a tired poor man who needed sympathy and concern. There was no one to look after him. Although he was big and not as soft as his grandmother, Kezia realized that he loved her, and she had affection for him.

Rain on the Roof by Coates Kinney

About The Poet:

Coates Kinney was an American lawyer, poet, politician and journalist. He was born in 1826 and has contributed several poems to the world of literature.

Summary:

In this poem, the poet says that when the humid shadows drift (here, 'humid shadows' means dark clouds full of

water). He says that when the sky is full of dark clouds which have moisture, and are full of water and are about to bring rain. Further, when these clouds float around the sky over the starry spheres (refers to the sky at night time that is full of stars).

Then, huge clouds that are full of moisture move around in the sky. And the raindrops that seem like a tear falling from the sky wipe the sad darkness of the night. Moreover, the

poet is comparing the raindrops to tears as to him the dark sky seems very sad. Also, it appears as if it is weeping and the raindrops are the tears shed by it. He further adds that it is like a blessing to lie on the bed in his room. And listen to the sound made by raindrops falling on the roof.

In the next part, the poet expresses his feelings when he hears the raindrops falling on the roof of his house. Poet says that every tinkle on the shingles has an echo in the heart. Whenever he hears raindrops falling on the rooftop its sound repeats in his heart and in his dreams. Further, he has many different and fantastic imaginations. Also, the falling drops of rain on the rooftops creates many new different dreams in his mind. For instance, he recollects many memories of the past which come back into his mind as dreams. Hence, he listens to the patter of the rain upon the roof, he has many new dreams in his mind. And his memories of the past come back in the form of dreams.

In the last stanza, the poet introduces his mother and says that he is dreaming of his mother. In the previous stanza, rain brings memories of the past. They were the memory of his mother who is no longer alive. Long ago, his mother used to love him a lot and consider him a darling. Also, she would let him sleep until daybreak and have sweet

dreams. As he listens to the song made by the raindrops falling on the rooftop of his room he feels that his mother is looking at him. Moreover, the sound of rain makes him correlate his past with his present. That's the reason he was so moved by the sound of the raindrops on the shingles of his room. Every time he hears this sound it brings back memories of the past as he reminds of his mother.

पाठ का सारांश

इस कविता में कवि कहते हैं कि जब नम छायाएँ बहती हैं (यहाँ 'आर्द्र छाया' का अर्थ है पानी से भरे काले बादल)। वह कहता है कि जब आकाश काले बादलों से भरा होता है जिसमें नमी होती है, और पानी से भरा होता है और बारिश लाने वाला होता है। इसके अलावा, जब ये बादल तारों वाले गोले के ऊपर आकाश के चारों ओर तैरते हैं (रात के समय में आकाश को संदर्भित करता है जो सितारों से भरा होता है)।

फिर, नमी से भरे विशाल बादल आकाश में घूमते हैं। और बारिश की बूँदें जो आसमान से गिरने वाले आंसू की तरह लगती हैं, रात के उदास अंधेरे को मिटा देती हैं। इसके अलावा, कवि बारिश की बूँदों की तुलना आँसुओं से कर रहा है क्योंकि उसे काला आकाश बहुत उदास लगता है। साथ ही ऐसा प्रतीत होता है मानो रो रहा है और बारिश की बूँदें उसके द्वारा बहाए गए आंसू हैं। वह आगे कहते हैं कि

उनके कमरे में बिस्तर पर लेटना आशीर्वाद जैसा है। और छत पर गिरने वाली बारिश की बूंदों द्वारा की गई आवाज को सुनें।

अगले भाग में कवि अपने घर की छत पर वर्षा की बूंदों के गिरने को सुन कर अपने भाव प्रकट करता है। कवि कहता है कि दाद पर हर झनझनाहट दिल में गूंजती है। जब भी वह छत पर बारिश की बूंदों को गिरता हुआ सुनता है तो उसकी आवाज उसके दिल में और उसके सपनों में दोहराई जाती है। इसके अलावा, उनकी कई अलग और शानदार कल्पनाएँ हैं। साथ ही छतों पर गिरती बारिश की बूंदें उसके मन में कई नए अलग-अलग सपने पैदा करती हैं। उदाहरण के लिए, वह अतीत की कई यादें याद करता है जो उसके दिमाग में सपने के रूप में वापस आती हैं। इसलिए वह छत पर बारिश की गूँज सुनता है, उसके मन में कई नए सपने आते हैं। और उसकी अतीत की यादें सपनों के रूप में वापस आ जाती हैं।

अंतिम पैराग्राफ में कवि अपनी माँ का परिचय देता है और कहता है कि वह अपनी माँ का सपना देख रहा है। जैसा कि पिछले श्लोक में है कि बारिश अतीत की यादें लाती है। वे उसकी माँ की याद थे जो अब जीवित नहीं हैं। बहुत समय पहले उसकी माँ उससे बहुत प्यार करती थी और वह उसे प्रिय मानती थी। इसके अलावा, वह उसे सुबह तक सोने देती और मीठे सपने देखती। जब वह अपने कमरे की छत पर गिरने वाली बारिश की बूंदों से बना गीत सुनता है तो उसे लगता है कि उसकी माँ उसे देख रही है। इसके अलावा, बारिश की

आवाज उसे अपने अतीत को अपने वर्तमान के साथ जोड़ देती है। यही कारण है कि वह अपने कमरे के दाद पर बारिश की बूंदों की आवाज से इतना हिल गया था। हर बार जब वह इस ध्वनि को सुनता है तो वह अपनी माँ की याद दिलाते हुए अतीत की यादें ताजा कर देता है।

Humid = damp = गीला ;

hover = float in the air = फड़फड़ाना ;

starry = full of stars = तारों से पूर्ण ;

sphere = the heavens = आकाश ;

melancholy = sadness = उदासीपूर्ण ;

patter = a tapping noise = टक – टक का शोर ।

Tinkle = soft ringing sound = मधुर हल्की –सी आवाज़ ;

shingles = wooden tiles used on roof = छत पर लगाई जाने वाली लकड़ी की फट्टियाँ (स्लेटें) ;

echo = reflection of sound = गूँज ;

fancies = imaginations = कल्पनाएँ ;

woof = cloth = बाना, वस्त्र ।

Key Words:

1. Humid: something which is full of moisture.
2. 'shadows' refers to the moisture laden clouds which cast a shadow on the earth.
3. hover: Move around something

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| 4. melancholy: sad | 1. humid shadows |
| 5. bliss: Happiness | 2. starry spheres |
| 6. patter: sound of raindrops falling on the roof. | 3. what a bliss |
| 7. Cottage chamber means the bedroom. | 4. a thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start |
| 8. tinkle: short, light ringing sound | 5. a thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof |
| 9. shingles: rectangular wooden tiles used on roofs | |
| 10. echo: repeated sound | |
| 11. woof: weft, i.e. the thread woven across the loom | |
| 12. patter: sound of raindrops falling on the roof | |
| 13. 'busy being' refers to human beings and here, the poet is referring to himself | |
| 14. ere: old poetic word for 'before' | |
| 15. dawn: day break | |
| 16. list: old poetic word for 'listen' | |
| 17. refrain: a repeated part of a song or a poem; here, the sound of the rain | |

Answer:

1. Humid shadows: These are the shadows of different things which become wet during the rainy season.
2. Starry spheres: The area where stars appear in a group in the sky.
3. What a bliss: The poet feels happy when he listens to the rain drops.
4. A thousand dreamy fancies into busy being start: The poet starts recollecting the past and finds himself lost in reveries and dreams in the rainy weather.
5. A thousand recollections weave their air-threads into woof: The poet recollects hundreds of memories in the rainy season. They weave a weft with the help of air-threads.

Short Answer Questions:

1. What do the following phrases mean to you? Discuss in class.
2. What does the poet like to do when it rains?

Answer: When it rains the poet wants to lie on bed in a cottage and listen to the pitter-patter sound of the rain.

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

Answer: The poet's mother is the single major memory that comes to his mind. 'Darling dreamers' are those 'kids' who remember their mothers like the poet.

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

Answer: No, the poet is not a child. His mother is no more. But her memories still haunt him.

Long Answer Questions:

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

Answer: Yes, my mother used to tuck me in when I was a child. Whenever I said that I could not do some work, she embraced me and took me in her lap to get that work done. She used to feel sad and dejected if I was involved in any mishap.

2. Do you like rain? What do you do when it rains steadily or heavily

as described in the poem?

Answer: Yes, I like rain and prefer to take a bath in the rain for some time. But when it rains heavily, I stay inside and enjoy the beauty of nature.

3. Does everybody have a cosy 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.

Answer: No, everybody is not so fortunate to have a cosy bed to lie in when it rains. There are some people who live at the railway platforms and bus terminal. They don't even have a bed sheet, what to talk of comfortable beds.