

Topic: The Little Girl

REFERENCE TO CONTEXT QUESTIONS

Question 1:

To the little girl he was a figure to be feared and avoided. Every morning before going to work he came into her room and gave her a casual kiss, to which she responded with 'Good Bye Father'. And oh, there was a glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter and fainter down the long road!

1. What was the daily routine of the father?
2. When did the daughter feel relief?
3. Trace a word from the passage which means "answered".

Answer:

1. The daily routine of Kezia's father was to visit her daughter's room, meet her and give her a kiss before leaving for work.
2. The daughter felt relief when the carriage went away from the house.
3. Responded.

Question 2:

But the same old nightmare came the butcher with a knife and a rope who came nearer and nearer, with that dreadful smile, while she could not move, only stand still, crying out "Grandma!". She woke shivering to see father beside her bed, a candle in his hand. "What is the matter?" he said.

1. Why did she get the nightmare?
2. Where was the butcher?
3. Find a word from the passage that means "shake in fear and cold".

Answer:

1. She got the nightmare as she was alone with her father at home and her mother and granny were in the hospital.
2. The butcher was in her dream.
3. Shivering.

Question 3:

"But it was for your b-b- birth day." Down came the ruler on her little, pink palms. Hours

later, when grandmother had wrapped her in a shawl and rocked her in the rocking-chair, the child clung to her soft body. "What did God make fathers for?" she sobbed.

1. Who is responding in the first line and before whom?
2. How did the father react?
3. Find a word from the passage that means "wept".

Answer:

1. Kezia is responding before her father.
2. The father became angry and beat her pink palms with a ruler.
3. Sobbed.

Question 4:

On Sunday afternoon, Grandmother sent her down to the drawing room to have a "Nice talk with Father and Mother". But the little girl always found mother reading and father stretched out on the sofa, his handkerchief on his knee, his feet on one of the best cushions, sleeping soundly and snoring.

1. Who was 'she' and why did the grandmother send her down?
2. What did she notice about her parents?
3. Trace a word that means "undisturbed".

Answer:

1. "She" is Kezia. Grandmother sent her down to have a nice talk with her parents.
2. She noticed that her father was sleeping and snoring and mother was reading.
3. Soundly.

Question 5:

She sat on a stool, gravely watched him until he woke and stretched, and asked the time – then looked at her. "Don't stare so, Kezia. You look like a little brown owl".

1. Who is Kezia watching gravely?
2. Why was she sitting there waiting for him to wake up?
3. Trace the word in the extract which means "seriously".

Answer:

1. Kezia was watching her father gravely.
2. On a Sunday afternoon, her grandmother sent her to have a nice talk with father and mother. But Kezia always found her father sleeping on the sofa.
3. Gravely.

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Question 1: What orders were passed to Kezia in the evening when father returned home from office?

Answer: When Kezia's father returned home from office she was supposed to come down, take off father's shoes and put them outside. She was also to put her father's teacup on the tea table.

Question 2: Why did Kezia avoid her father?

Answer: Kezia avoided her father because according to her, her father was an emotionless person. He never spoke to Kezia lovingly and calmly. He scolded Kezia and reprimanded her for making mistakes. Kezia stammered in front of her father since he was a very huge and giant like figure far away from the warmth of a father.

Question 3: Why did Kezia stammer in front of her father? **Or** Why did Kezia stutter only with her father?

Answer: Kezia father always scolded her never spoke to her in a loving manner. So, Kezia stammered in front of her father because she was afraid of him and found it difficult to speak in front of him.

Question 4: Why was Kezia afraid of her father?

Answer:

Kezia was a little sensitive girl. Her father was aggressive and always spoke loudly. He always scolded her. He used to beat her. Even when she accepted her mistakes. He never played with her. This made her afraid of her father.

Question 5: What made Kezia's father punish her?

Answer:

She tore important papers of her father to stuff in the pin cushion because she was making a gift to present to her father. Since the papers had her father's speech written on it, she was punished for tearing it.

Question 6: "Father's great speech for the Port Authority had been lost." What had happened to father's speech?

Answer:

Father's speech had been torn to pieces by Kezia, the little girl. She was making a pin cushion as a gift to her father, for his birthday. As she was not able to find anything to stuff it with, she tore the speech and stuffed it in her cushion.

Question 7: Why did Kezia's grandmother send her to the drawing room every Sunday afternoon?

Answer:

Kezia's grandmother knew that she was afraid of her father and she felt that if she spoke to him more often, she would get rid of that fear. So, every Sunday afternoon she used to send her to the drawing room to have a nice talk with her father.

Question 8: What kind of a person was Kezia's father?

Answer:

Kezia's father was a hardworking man but short tempered. He was a strict disciplinarian too. When Kezia's mother was hospitalized, Kezia realized that her father loved her but didn't have the art of expressing his love.

Question 9: What did Kezia find whenever on Sunday afternoons her grandmother sent her down to have a talk with her parents?

Answer:

Whenever Kezia was sent by her grandmother to talk to her parents on Sunday afternoons, she always found her mother reading and her father stretched out on the sofa, sleeping soundly and snoring.

Question 10: How was Kezia's father different from Mr. McDonalds?

Answer:

Mr. McDonalds played with his children. The girls would hang on to his coat, they would laugh together. Kezia's father had no time for such things. He really worked very hard for the family.

Question 11: How did the father comfort the little girl, Kezia, when she got scared in her sleep?

Answer:

The father came to Kezia's room with a candle, lifted her up in his strong arms, lay beside her and made her stay close to him. She held his shirt and snuggled herself close to her father. This comforted Kezia when she got scared in her sleep.

LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS (ABOUT 80-100 WORDS EACH)

Question 1: How did Kezia's negative attitude towards her father change? **Or** What were the circumstances that forced Kezia to change her opinion about her father?

Answer:

When her mother was hospitalized, her grandmother went to stay with her. Kezia used to sleep alone at night. She was so scared that she started shouting at night. She had nightmares and trembled a lot with fear. Then her father came to her room and took her into his arms to comfort her. She felt secured with her father near her. Then she realized that her father was busy with work and had no time to play. She even realized that her father loved her but didn't have the art of expressing it. Thus, her attitude towards her father changed towards positive.

Question 2: How did Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much? Elaborate.

Answer:

Kezia was very scared of her father and stuttered while talking to him. This annoyed him a lot. When she waited and stared at him to have a nice long chat, he did not like it. She unknowingly destroyed some of his important papers while stuffing a cushion which he wanted to present to him on his birthday. This made him very angry and he beat her up badly. Therefore, Kezia's efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much.

Question 3: Kezia decides that there are "different kinds of fathers". What kind of father was Mr. McDonald, and how was he different from Kezia's father? **Or** How is Kezia's father different from Mr. McDonald?

Answer:

Mr. McDonald was their next door neighbour. Once Kezia saw her neighbours playing "tag" together in the evening. Mr. McDonald with the baby Mao, on his shoulders and the two little girls hanging on to his coat pockets. They ran round and round shaking with laughter. On the other hand, her own father was very disciplined and strict. He never played with her and neither interacted much. He even beat her up for her little mistakes.

Question 4: Why was Kezia scared of her father and how did she get over her fear?

Answer:

Kezia's father was big like a giant and was very strict. He punished Kezia when she tore his important speech. One day, when Kezia's mother fell ill, her mother and grandmother were in the hospital. Kezia was left alone with her father at home. She had a nightmare and screamed with fright. Her father then carried Kezia in his lap to comfort and soothe her. That closeness with her father during those days made her forget all fears.

Question 5: How did Kezia feel in presence of her father?

Answer:

Kezia was scared of her father as he looked like a giant. Every morning he used to give her a good-bye kiss. She used to feel uncomfortable till her father was at home. She even stammered while answering him. He scolded her one day and even beat her for tearing some of his important papers. But when Kezia used to cry during the night, he would carry her to his room. She then realized that her father was actually tender and affectionate and this changed her perception towards him.

VALUE BASED QUESTIONS (ABOUT 80-100 WORDS EACH)

Question 1: Kezia in the story "The Little Girl" was afraid of her father because he never communicated with her. Imagine you are parenting counselor, based on your reading of the story write a paragraph advising the parents to make communication with their children priority.

Answer:

In the story, Kezia is always scared of her father. Her father was a strict disciplinarian who was always strict towards her. He never spoke to her softly and in a loving manner.

He always scolded her and even beat her up for small mistakes. Parents should not let their stress and workload interfere in their family life. Parents should always spend quality time with their children. Bonding and understanding should always be there so that the children can open up their feelings and problems with their parents. There should be no communication gap between the parents and their children.

Question 2: 'The relation between a parent and child should be distant and formal or should it be close and warm.

Answer:

In today's modern context parents and children should be more like friends. The relationship between them should be warm and close. This would be very helpful in developing the overall personality of the child. It also helps in boosting the confidence of the child and making him stronger in his relation. Therefore, it is necessary that children share a close relation with their parents and there should be no fear but only respect and love.