

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (BEEHIVE)

### CHAPTER -3-The Little Girl

*By – Katherine Mansfield*

#### Word Meanings— (Learn with spellings)

- 1- Slip down- come down quietly and unwillingly
- 2- A figure to be feared- a person to be feared
- 3- Given it up- stopped down it
- 4- Wretched- unhappy
- 5- On the brink of suicide- about to commit suicide
- 6- Laboriously- with a lot of effort or difficulty
- 7- Wandered into- went into, by chance
- 8- Scraps-small pieces of cloth or paper etc. that are not needed
- 9- Hue and cry- angry protest
- 10- Tag- a children's game of catching one another
- 11- Nightmare- a bad dream
- 12- Tucked up – covered up nicely in bed
- 13- Snuggled- moved into a warm, comfortable position, close to another person

#### CHARACTER'S NAMES

- 1- The little girl----- KEZIA'S
- 2- Grand mother
- 3- Mother
- 4- Father
- 5- Neighbor- Macdonalds's
- 6- Five children – Mao with two little girls and boys
- 7- Alice- Kezia's cook

#### Summary of the chapter

As in the story the little girl Kezia's father appears strict, the little girl was afraid of her father because he was aggressive and always spoke loudly. She felt a sense of relief when her father went to his work. Before going to his office, Kezia's father used to give her a casual kiss. She responded with "Goodbye, father". Since she was afraid of him, she always felt relieved after his departure.

Kezia was a normal girl but whenever she was in front of her father, she felt nervous. She would try hard to speak something but would end up in stuttering. One day, when Kezia was kept indoors due to cold, her grandmother suggested her to make a pin- cushion for her father's upcoming birthday, she was obedient. She stitched three sides of the pin- cushion and went to her mother's room to look for scraps with which she could fill the cushion. On the bed table, she discovered many sheets of fine paper, gathered them up, tore them into tiny pieces and stuffed her case and then sewed up the fourth side. That night there was a huge hue and cry in the house because those papers were very important. It was the great speech for the Port Authority. So her parents were in search of those sheets. Result was that her father got agitated and punished her with a ruler.

Kezia was a very sensitive child. She got dejected because of her father's indifference towards her. She needed attention and affection. The Macdonalds lived next door to her house. They had five children. Looking through a gap in the fence the little girl saw them playing 'tag' in the evening. The father with the baby, Mao, on his shoulders, two little girls hanging on to his coat pockets ran round and round the flower beds, brimming with laughter.

Once she saw the boys turn the hose on him – and he tried to catch them laughing all the time. The incident made Kezia think that there were different sorts of fathers. She compared her life to the lives of those children and found them fortunate because they could spend time with their father. One day when her mother became ill and grandmother went to hospital the little girl was left alone in the house with Alice the cook. At night she grew suddenly afraid by the same nightmare she often has and grandmother took her into her bed because she could not stay in dark. Kezia's father came and showed his love and affection towards Kezia. He made her feel comfortable and lied beside her so that she may enjoy sound sleep and she could not feel frightened due to a nightmare.

That day Kezia realized that father is the most caring person in a child's life. She realized the love of her father and understood that the work and circumstances had made her father different from others.

**Que - Why was kezia afraid of her father**

Ans - 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.

**Que - What made kezia's father punish her?**

Ans – 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.

**Que - What kind of person was kezia's father**

Ans - 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 expressing his love.

**Que- What did Kezia regret?**

Ans- Kezia wept bitterly. She wondered why God had made fathers. Now she trembled even at the sight of her father. One day, kezia saw her neighbor Macdonald.

**Que - Does the little girl understand what her father means? Why do you say so?**

Ans- In the story, this word symbolizes the words eaten by the devil. In the story father said "The devil ate his words" which his daughter did not understand he does not remember what they wanted to say.

**LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTION**

**Que-Kezia decides that there are different kinds of father what kind of father was Mr. Macdonald and how was he different from kezia's father?**

Ans- Kezia was a very sensitive child. She got dejected because of her father's indifference towards her. She needed attention and affection. The Macdonalds lived next door to her house. They had five children. Looking through a gap in the fence, the little girl saw them playing 'tag' in the evening. The father with the baby Mao, on his shoulders, two little girls hanging on two of his coat pocket ran round and round the flower beds, brimming with laughter. Once she saw the boys turn the hose on him and he tried to catch them laughing all the time. This incident made kezia think that there were different sorts of fathers. She compared her life to the lives of those children and found them fortunate because they could spend time with their father Macdonald.

## Chapter 3 – The Road not taken

By Robert Frost

### Difficult word meanings

Diverged	:	Separated and took a different direction
Undergrowth	:	Dense growth of plants and bushes
Wanted wear	:	had not been used
Hence	:	here, in the future
Trodden	:	crushed
Grass	:	Full of grass
Insightfully	:	Having or showing a very clear understanding of something

### Summary

Once the poet was walking down a road and then there was a diversion, there were two different paths and he had to choose one out them. The poet says that as he was one person, he could travel on one road only. He had to choose one out of these two roads Yellow wood means a forest with leaves which are wearing out and they have turned yellow in colour – the season of autumn. It represents a world which is full of people, where people have been living for many years. They represent people who are older than the poet. The poet kept standing there and looked at the path very carefully as far as he could see it. Before taking the path, he wanted to know how it was. Was it suitable for him or not. He was able to see the path till from where it curved after which it was covered with trees and was hidden. It happens in our life also when we have choices, we have alternatives, but we have to choose only one out of them, we take time to think about the pros and cons, whether it is suitable for us or not and only then, we take a decision on what path we should choose.

The poet kept on looking at one path for a long time to check if it is the right path for him or not and then he decided and started walking on another path because he felt that the both paths were equally good. He says just as fair, so, he felt that both paths were equally good and started walking on one of them. He adds that maybe he felt that the path was better for him so he chooses it as it had grass on it which means that it was unused. Not many people had walked on this path earlier that is why this path was grassy. 'And wanted wear' means that it was not walked over by many people. After he walked on the path for some distance, he realized that both the paths had been worn out the same way. Both the paths were similar and worn out. Even in our life, we take any path or option but all of them have the same benefits, disadvantages, problems, challenges and we must face them. We think that we are choosing a better option, but it is not that way.

The poet says that both the paths were similar that morning. Both had leaves on them and no one had stepped on them as they were still green in colour. He decided that day he would take one path and keep the other path for another day, although he knew that one way leads on to another way. He knew that he could not go back on the choice that he had made. Similarly, even in our life once we choose an option, we must keep on moving ahead with that option and we never get a chance to come back and take the other option that we had left earlier.

He says that in the future, he will take a deep breath and say that once upon a time, he had reached such a point in life that there were two options for him and he travelled on that road which had been travelled upon by lesser number of people. That decision decided his future. Similarly, in future, when you grow up, then you will say that once upon a time, when you were young, you had two options. The choice that you made, made you what you became of it. This is a very strong message for all the students - that you should be wise and be careful while making choices out of the options that you have in your life because your future depends on the choice that you make today

## Question and Answers

1. Where does the traveller find himself? What problem does he face?

Ans. The traveller finds himself standing on a fork in the path. He is in a problem as he must choose one path and is unable to decide which one to choose.

2. Discuss what these phrases mean to you.

(i) a yellow wood

Ans. 'Yellow wood' refers to the forest which has withering leaves as in the season of autumn. It represents a world full of aging people.

(ii) it was grassy and wanted wear

Ans. It means that the path had a lot of grass on it. This means that it had not been walked over by many people. It had to be worn out by the steps of the people who walked on it.

(iii) the passing there

Ans. It means that when he walked over the path that he had chosen.

(iv) leaves no step had trodden black

Ans. It means that no one had walked over the leaves as they were still green. If they had been walked over, they would have turned black.

(v) how way leads on to way

Ans. It means that as we walk on a path, we come across more options and make choices further. We keep on walking ahead on that way.

3. Is there any difference between the two roads as the poet describes them

(i) in stanzas two and three?

Ans. The two paths were similar. In the beginning, the poet felt that one of them was grassy and had not been walked over by many people, but when he walked on it for some distance, he realized that it was like the other road.

(ii) in the last two lines of the poem?

Ans. Here, again the poet talks of his initial decision when he thought that the roads were different and chose the one that had been walked over by a lesser number of people.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE (MOMENTS)

## Chapter 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ishwaran - The storyteller

By- R.K Laxman

### Difficult word meanings

Firm	:	The name or title under which a company transact business
Bachelor	:	A man who is not yet married
Anecdotes	:	A short amusing or interesting story about a real incident or person
In-thrall	:	The state of being in someone's power
Mahout	:	A person who works and rides on elephant
Ambulation	:	Doing likewise
Sprawled	:	spread out over a large area in an untidy or unmannerly way
Depredations	:	An act of attacking or plundering
Whacked	:	Completely exhausted
Epilogue	:	a section or speech at the end of the book that appears as the conclusion to what had happened in the story.
Prologue	:	A separate introductory section of a literary, drama or musical piece.
Monologue	:	A long speech by an actor in a film or drama, as a part of a theatrical Programme.

### Summary

This is a story about Mahendra, a junior supervisor and his cook, Ishwaran. Former had to keep moving from place to place as ordered by head office. But he had fortunately an expert caretaker, Ishwaran who cooked his meals, washed his clothes and chatted with him at night Ishwaran was very fond of reading Tamil thrillers during his spare time. As a result, he innovated his own thrillers and would tell about it to Mahendra. The latter used to hear patiently without finding any loopholes in the story Ishwaran often in his stories narrated about elephants. For example, he told a story about how he paralyzed a mad elephant that had gone berserk. He told that there were timber logs loaded on trucks. But if an elephant went mad no mahout could control it. The elephant now entered a school ground where children were playing, breaking through the brick wall Children and teachers ran helter-skelter to save their lives. The elephant was stunned when Ishwaran (then only a little boy) took a rod and hit at the elephant's third toe nail. The secret was if the elephant is hit there, his nervous system gets paralyzed Finally, one day talking about spirits of the ancestors, Ishwaran began to talk of ghosts. He said that the place where they had their shed was once a burial ground. He also had come across ghosts but he was not scared of them. He told Mahendra about a woman ghost seen only on a full moon night. She moaned and carried a foetus in her arms. This terrified Mahendra so much that he finally thought of that woman ghost

on a full moon night. He could hear a low moan outside his window. He peeped from his wind stood the ghost of the woman. He flung himself down and found that he was often dreaming woman ghost. Ishwaran used to ask grinning at Mahendra, "Sir, you were angry with me the other day when I told you about the ghost but didn't you see her yourself last night?" Mahendra never used to Ishwaran's questions and finally decided to resign from his job and leave that haunted place.

### Questions and answers

1. In what way is Ishwaran an asset to Mahendra?

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A. Ishwaran is an asset to Mahendra as he accompanies him everywhere. He cooks food for him, washes his clothes, cleans the living place and entertains him with his unique stories.

2. How does Ishwaran describe the uprooted tree on the highway? What effect does he want to create in his listeners?

A. Ishwaran would raise his eyebrows in a curve and raise his arms in a dramatic gesture. He would say that once he was walking down the empty highway all alone. He saw a huge beast lying on the road. He thought of going back but as he got closer, he saw that it was a tree that had broken and had fallen on the road. Its branches appeared to be the beast's limbs that had spread out on to the road.

He wanted to create a scene in the listener's mind so that he would get captivated in the story. Ishwaran wanted to create curiosity in the mind of the listener as to what happened next in the story.

3. How does he narrate the story of the tusker? Does it appear to be plausible?

A. Firstly, he gave an introduction that his village was surrounded by a dense forest. The wood was processed at the timber yards and the logs of timber were transported onto the lorries by elephants. He added that the beasts were huge and in case one of them went mad, it could not be controlled even by an experienced mahout. He would get so caught up in the excitement of his own story that he would get up from the floor and jump about, stamping his feet in emulation of the mad elephant. Ishwaran's talent of narrating a story was praise - worthy. He put in a lot of effort to make it engrossing for the listener.

4. Why does the author say that Ishwaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahindra's living quarters?

A. Ishwaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahindra's living quarters because his stories were so entertaining that every night they made up for the absence of a TV in Mahindra's living place. He would enjoy the unique way in which Ishwaran narrated a story which was full of adventure, suspense and horror.

5. Mahendra calls ghosts or spirits a figment of the imagination. What happens to him on a full moon night?

A. Mahendra scolds Ishwaran and says that ghosts do not exist. On a full moon night, he woke up from his sleep as he heard someone crying. At first, he thought that it was a cat which was hunting mice but as the sound grew louder and harsher, he was tempted to peep out of the window. In the white moonlight, he saw a dark, shady figure holding a bundle in its arms. Initially, he got scared but overcame it as he felt that his subconscious mind had played a trick on him. The next day, the presence of the ghost was confirmed by Ishwaran and Mahendra realized that he actually saw a ghost the previous night. He did not want to live at a haunted place and so, resigned from the job.

6. Can you think of some other ending for the story?

A. I think the story has ended in a good way. I cannot think of another ending for the story.

### Long answer type questions

Que-Ishwaran was a master storyteller. Describe his amazing capacity of narrating stories and anecdotes.

Ans. Ishwaran was a master storyteller. He was fond of reading popular Tamil thrillers. The stories that he narrated were greatly influenced by these novels. He narrated even the smallest of incidents by creating a loss of suspense. For example, if he had to describe a fallen tree, he would not simply

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say that he saw an up-rooted tree on the highway. He would say, "The road was deserted and I was all alone. Suddenly I spotted something that looked like an enormous beast. But as I came closer I saw that it was only a fallen tree." In order to make stories interesting, Ishwaran added dramatic gestures to it. He would give the stories a surprise ending. Sometimes he would not end the story in order to heighten his master's curiosity. Often he was excited while telling a story. Then he would jump and stamp his feet in excitement

## Chapter 2 – Wind

By Subramania Bharti

### Difficult meanings

<b>Poking fun</b>	:	making fun of
<b>Rafters</b>	:	sloping beams supporting a roof
<b>Winnow</b>	:	blow grain free of chaff; separate grain from husk by blowing it
<b>Shutters</b>	:	Apparatus used to shut the window for stopping the dust
<b>Crumbling</b>	:	breaking, turning into small pieces
<b>Steadfast</b>	:	resolutely or dutifully firm
<b>Flourish</b>	:	to develop in a healthy or vigorous way

### Extracts

Question 1:

*The wind blows out weak fires*

*He makes strong fire roar and flourish*

*His friendship is good.*

*We praise him everyday*

1. How does the wind affect the weak fires?
2. What is the effect of the wind on strong fire?
3. Trace a word from the extract that means prosper".
4. Find the word in the poem which means the same as frail.

Answers

1. The wind blows out the weak fires
2. The wind makes the strong fire even more strong and increase
3. Flourish
4. Weak

Question 2:

*Wind, come softly*

*Don't break the shutters of the windows*

*Don't scatter the papers*

*Don't throw down the books on the shelf.*

1. Whom does the poet request in the above lines?
2. Write any one action of the wind
3. Trace a word from the extract which means thrown in different directions.
4. What did the wind tear?

Answers

1. The poet makes a request to the wind in the above lines
2. Scattering of paper/throwing books from the shelf/breaking the shutters of the window
3. Scatter
4. The wind tore the pages of the books



## Questions and answers

Question 1 - Who are disturbed by the wind?

Answer - The wind disturbs only those people who are not determined. The self-confident people overcome the obstacles put before them by the wind. The wind does not have the knack to disturb the peace of mind of such people. The wind blows out weak fires and makes strong fires roar and flourish.

Question 2 - What does the wind do with the books?

Answer - The wind tears the pages off and throws them down from the book shelf. The potent (powerful) wind scatters the books and sheets of paper on the floor. It disturbs everything.

Question 3 - Why does the author ask the wind to come softly?

Answer - The author asks the wind to come softly so that the earthly peace and order can be retained. The wind damages the shutters of the windows, scatters the papers and tears the pages of books. It disturbs everything and everyone. So, the poet pleads for the welfare of the society.

Question 4 - How does the wind become the cause of the rain?

Answer - The wind sometimes becomes violent and appears to be a storm. It brings the clouds with it from distant lands. There is no need to say that clouds bring rain. It is a universal truth and scientific fact that clouds bring rain from the blue sky.

Question 5 - Why should earthly people build strong houses?

Answers - They should build strong houses so that their houses are not damaged by the wind. They should be strong enough to endure violent wind and become a challenge to the potent wind.

Question 6 - Does the wind god do what we tell him?

Answer - The wind god is all powerful. He is not affected by external factors. He doesn't want to do what we tell him to do. Neither our requests nor our commands will influence him. He is mighty and sweeps away all the weaklings with him. He loves strength and befriends with strong and steadfast hearts.

Question 7 - What does the wind symbolise?

Answer - The wind symbolises the raw and brutal power of nature. The wind god is the symbol of might and strength. He hates weaklings. He rather pokes fun at them. He tears frail houses, crumbling doors or crumbling hearts/bodies. He spares none. He befriends only the strong.

Question 8 - What does the poet ask us to do?

Answer - The poet wants us to realize the true power of the nature and the wind. He advises us to build strong homes. The doors must be closed firmly. Weak hearts will never succeed. Let us make our hearts steadfast and strong. The wind god loves strength and steadfastness.

## Long answer type questions.

Question 1. Why does the poet suggest the people that they have to be strong? Write your answer in the context of the poem 'Wind'.

Answer: According to the poet the wind is very powerful. It has power to break the shutters of the windows, scatter the papers and throw the books down the shelf. When it blows violently, it brings

the clouds. It mocks at the weak and destroys their homes The weak persons are really helpless before the wind.

But the poet is quite hopeful He thinks that when the people build strong houses, they can challenge the wind. Actually the poet suggests the people that they should be strong at heart because the weak persons cannot face the challenges of life. Only the people with strong hearts have the courage to face the challenges of life.

Question 2 - How can you say that the poet of the poem 'Wind' is a great lover of mankind?

Answer - The poet wants to make people strong at heart. His desire is that they should be bold enough to face the challenges of life When we have strong houses, we can protect ourselves from the angry wind. In the same manner when we are strong at heart we can face the challenges of life. Only the weak persons are defeated by the problems of life Similarly the poet wants that people should face the challenges of life and make their life happy. His thought shows that he is really a great humanist. His heart is filled with compassion for mankind.

Question 3 - The wind is a symbol of power and strength. How can we befriend it and survive in our struggle for existence?

Answer - The wind symbolises the uncontrollable and raw power of nature. The wind god symbolises strength and steadfastness. Weaklings who are weak in the mind and body are swept away by the mighty power of the wind Only those who are blessed with steadfast minds and hearts survive in the bitter struggle of life. The poet gives a broader message Whatever we do or think must stand on the foundations of strength and power Only strong minds and bodies can face the anger of the wind and challenges of life. We can befriend the god of wind by building strong homes and doors We can also win his favour by firming the body and making the heart steadfast