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LET'S LEARN TOGETHER

CLASS – 9

ENGLISH

Beehive

CH-3 : The Little Girl

Part – 1

Protogonist of the story: Kezia

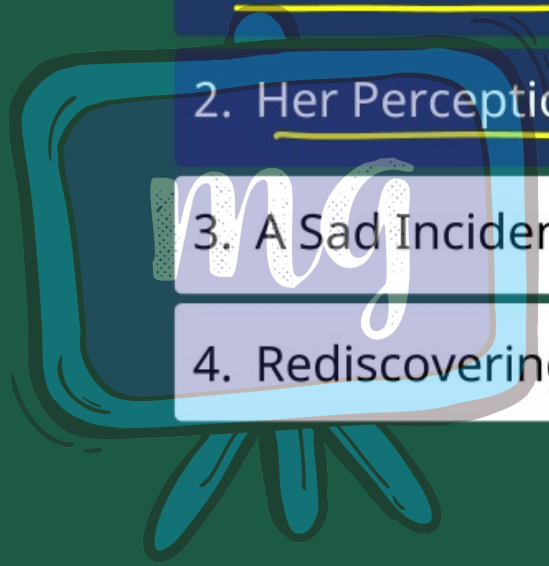
ARPITA SHARMA

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OVERVIEW

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1. Protagonist of the story : Kezia
2. Her Perception of Authority (Father)
3. A Sad Incident
4. Rediscovering Fatherhood



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Kathleen Mansfield (14 October 1888 – 9 January 1923) was a New Zealand writer and critic who was an important figure in the modernist movement (separation from traditional ways of writing).

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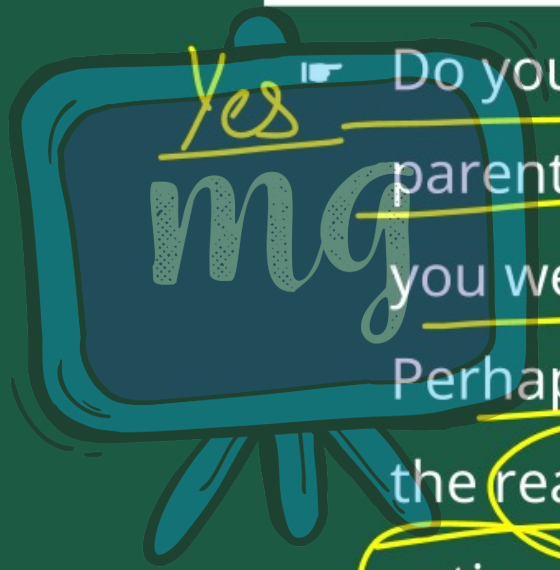
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'The Little Girl' tells story about Kezia who is so scared of her father that she hardly meets eyes with him. Eventually she realizes that her father is not as hard hearted as she thinks he is. The main theme of the story is the relationship between parents and their children.

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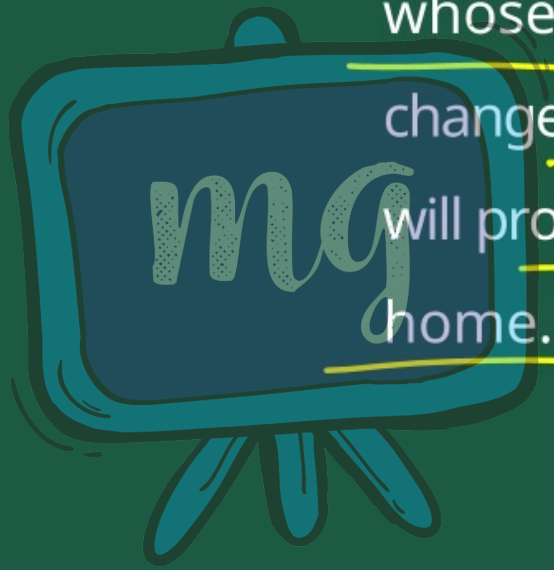
BEFORE YOU READ



Do you feel you know your parents better now, than when you were much younger? Perhaps you now understand the reasons for some of their actions that used to upset you earlier.

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☛ This story about a little girl whose feelings for her father change from fear to understanding will probably find an echo in every home.

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father

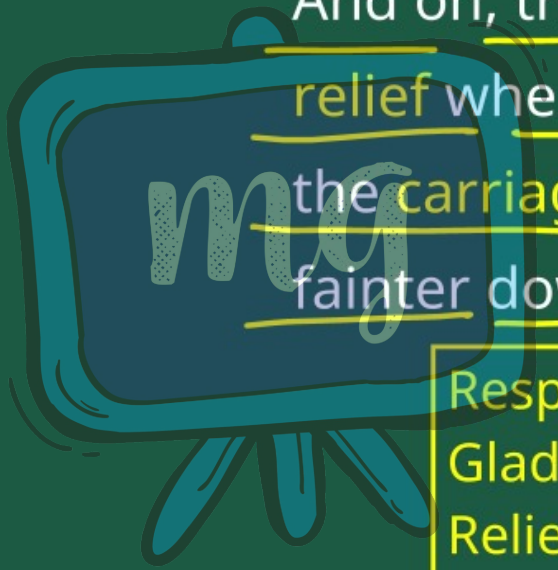
1. TO the little girl he was a figure to be feared and avoided. Every morning before going to work he came into her room and gave her a casual kiss, to which she

A figure to be feared	:	डराने योग्य व्यक्ति
Avoided	:	दूर रहना
Casual	:	आकस्मिक

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responded with "Goodbye, 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!



Responded	:	जवाब देना
Glad	:	प्रसन्न
Relief	:	राहत
Noise	:	शोर
Carriage	:	गाड़ी
Fainter	:	हल्की

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In the evening when he came home she stood near the staircase and heard his loud voice in the hall. "Bring my tea into the drawing-room... Hasn't the paper come yet? Mother, go and see if my paper's out there — and bring me my slippers."

Staircase : सीढ़ी

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2. “Kezia,” Mother would call to her, “if you’re a good girl you can come down and take off father’s boots.”

Slowly the girl would slip down the stairs, more slowly still across the hall, and push open the drawing-room door.

Slowly	:	धीरे-धीरे
Slip	:	सरकना/फिसलना

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By that time he had his spectacles on and looked at her over them in a way that was terrifying to the little girl.

"Well, Kezia, hurry up and pull off these boots and take them outside. Have you been a good girl today?"

Spectacles	:	चश्मा
Terrifying	:	भयभीत करने वाला
Hurry up	:	जल्दी करो

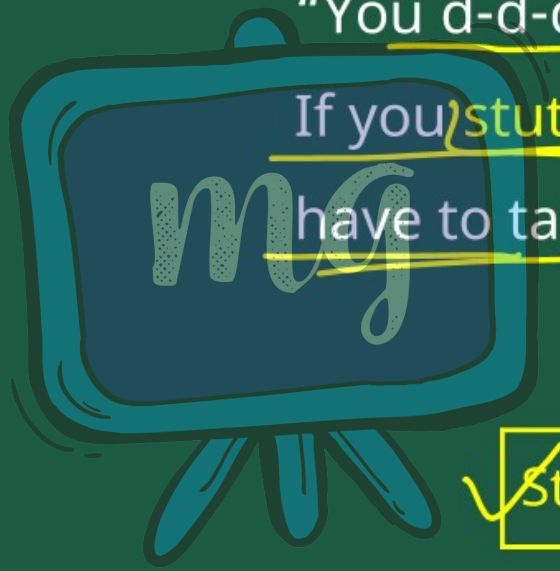
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"I d-d-don't know, Father."

"You d-d-don't know?

If you stutter like that Mother will have to take you to the doctor."

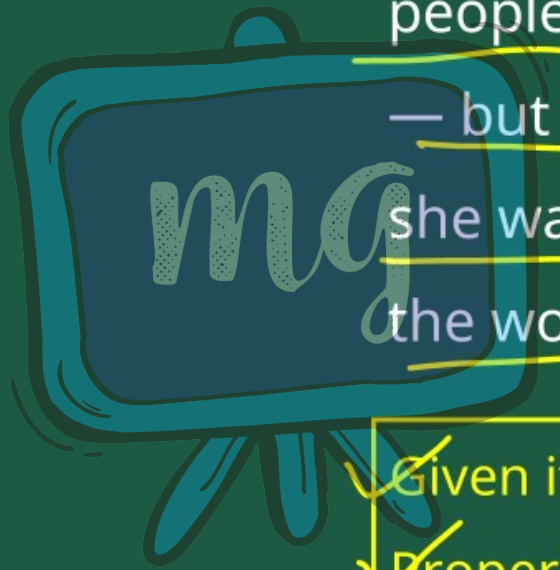


Stutter : हकलाना

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3. She never stuttered with other people — had quite given it up — but only with Father, because she was trying so hard to say the words properly.



Given it up	:	बंद कर देना
Properly	:	उचित रूप से/ ठीक प्रकार से

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"What's the matter? What are you looking so wretched about? Mother, I wish you taught this child not to appear on the brink of suicide...

Wretched	:	अति दु:खी
Taught	:	सिखाना
Brink	:	कगार
Suicide	:	आत्महत्या

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Here, Kezia, carry my teacup back to the table carefully."

He was so big — his hands and his neck, especially his mouth when he yawned. Thinking about him alone was like thinking about a giant.

Carefully	:	ध्यानपूर्वक
Especially	:	खासकर
Yawned	:	उबासी लेना
Giant	:	बहुत विशाल/दैत्य

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4. On Sunday afternoons 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 face,

Stretched	:	फैलना
Handkerchief	:	रुमाल

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his feet on one of the best cushions, sleeping soundly and snoring. She sat on a stool, gravely watched him until he woke and stretched, and asked the time — then looked at her.

Cushions	:	मसनद
Soundly	:	गहरी नींद में
Snoring	:	खर्राटे लेते हुए
Gravely	:	गंभीरता से

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"Don't stare so, Kezia. You look like a little brown owl."

One day, when she was kept indoors with a cold, her grandmother told her that father's birthday was next week, and suggested she should make him a pin-cushion for a gift out of a beautiful piece of yellow silk.

Stare	:	एकटक देखना
Suggested	:	सुझाव देना
Silk	:	रेशम



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5. Laboriously, with a double cotton, the little girl stitched three sides. But what to fill it with? That was the question. The grandmother was out in the garden, and she wandered into Mother's bedroom to look for scraps.

Laboriously	:	परिश्रम से/मुश्किल से
Stitched	:	सिलना
Wandered	:	इधर – उधर घूमना
Scraps	:	रद्दी चीजें

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On the bed-table she discovered a great many sheets of fine paper, gathered them up, tore them into tiny pieces, and stuffed her case, then sewed up the fourth side.

Discovered	:	खोजना
Gathered	:	इकट्ठा करना
Tore	:	फाड़ना
Stuffed	:	भर देना
Sewed	:	सिल देना

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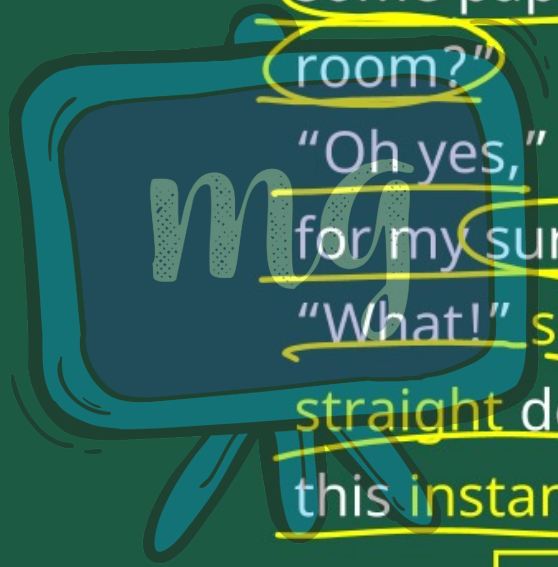
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That night there was a hue and cry in the house. Father's great speech for the Port Authority had been lost. Rooms were searched; servants questioned. Finally Mother came into Kezia's room.

Hue and cry	:	सार्वजनिक विरोध
Searched	:	ढूँढना
Servant(s)	:	नौकर

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"Kezia, I suppose you didn't see some papers on a table in our room?"

"Oh yes," she said, 'I tore them up for my surprise."

"What!" screamed Mother. "Come straight down to the dining-room this instant."

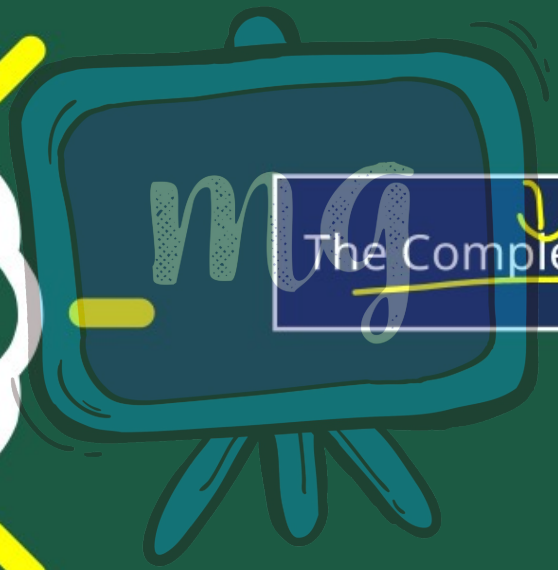
Screamed	:	चिल्लाना
Straight	:	सीधा
Instant	:	तुरंत

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LEARNING OUTCOME

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The Complexities of Human Relationships

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ASSESSMENT

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1 Why did Kezia tear the papers?

A To play.

B To clean her room.

C To fill the cushion.

D All

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2 What did Kezia think of her father?

A He was a very good father.

B He loved children.

C He was very harsh.

D All

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3 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 None