

English Notes for Class:-XI

Literature

Topic:-The Portrait of a Lady

- **Short Answer Questions:-**

1. What are the three phases of the author's relationship with his grandmother before he left the country to study abroad ?

Ans:- The three phases of the author's relationship with his grandmother before he left the country to study abroad are given below:-

First phase, This was time of author's early childhood. He used to live with his grandmother during this phase. The grandmother used to take care of him from waking him up and getting him ready to accompanying him to the school. Both shared a good friendship with each other.

Second phase, It was the time when the author and the grandmother moved to the city to live with author's parents. This was a turning point in their relationship because she could no longer help or accompanying him.

Third phase, It was the time the author joined university. He was given a room of his own and the common link of their friendship was snapped.

2. Why was the grandmother dissatisfied with the city school?

Ans:- The author's grandmother was unhappy with the city school because of the things, which were related to western science and learning, were being taught to author at the school. She hated western science and learning. She did not believe in the things that were taught at the city school. She was upset of the lack of teaching of God and the scriptures at the city school. She was allergic at his learning music at school and it was not meant for decent people and gentlefolk from her point of view.

3. How do you identify to the grandmother as a religious person?

Ans:-The author's grandmother was a deeply religious person. The following instances showed her behaviour as a religious person-(I) She used to visit the temple every morning and read scriptures. (II) She always mumbled inaudible

prayer and kept telling the beads of rosary. (III) She would repeat prayers in a Sing-song manner while getting the writer ready for school.

4. What was the happiest moment of the day for the grandmother? Why?

Ans:- The happiest moment of the day for the grandmother was when grandmother fed the sparrows in the afternoon. She would sit in the verandah breaking the bread into little bits and used to feed the birds. The sparrows would collect around her. They chirped noisily. They become so free with her that some perched on her legs and shoulders. She never shooed them away. She remained secluded from the family after coming to the city but she enjoyed the chirping and hopping of the sparrows.

5. How did the grandmother receive the narrator when he returned from abroad?

Ans:- The grandmother was over excited for arrival of her grandson from abroad after five years. She received him at the station. She organised a musical soiree at home. She collected all the woman of the neighborhood. She was taking the lead as the drummer and continued singing of the home coming of warriors.

Long Answer Questions:-

1. Describe the changing relationship between the author and his grandmother. Did their feelings for each other change?

Ans:-The story "The Portrait of a Lady" written by Khuswant Singh described about the entire phase of relationship shared by the author and his grandmother. The author shared a strong bond with his grandmother during his early childhood. He was completely dependent on his grandmother. She was a part of his life. However, that tie of friendship loosened a little when they both shifted to his parents city house. She no longer accompanied him to the school as he went there by bus and could not help him with his lessons. She did not believe in the things that were taught at school. She was distressed that there was no teaching about God and scriptures. She expressed her disapproval silently. There was a further crack in the relationship when the author joined university as he was given a private room and the common link between them was snapped. They

were further distanced from each other when the author went abroad for five years.

However, their feelings of each other did not change. They still love each other deeply. Though she did not show her emotions but she kissed his forehead silently when the author was leaving for abroad. When the author returned after five years, She received him at the station. In the evening she celebrated his home coming by singing songs and beating drum with the neighborhood women. To conclude, it can say that the writer and his grandmother had a beautiful bond between them and loved each other a lot. They showed how beautiful a relationship can become between grandson and his grandmother.