

MOTHER'S DAY- J.B PRIESTLEY

Short Answer Type Questions

Question 1:

How are Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Fitzgerald contrasted?

Answer:

The two ladies are sharply contrasted. Mrs. Pearson is a pleasant but worried looking woman in her forties. She speaks in a light, **flurried** sort of tone with a touch of **suburban cockney**. Mrs. Fitzgerald is older, heavier and has a strong and **sinister** personality. She smokes. She has a deep voice, rather Irish tone.

Question 2:

What problem does Mrs. Pearson face? Who do you think is responsible for this state of affairs?

Answer:

Mrs. Pearson devotes all her time and energy to serve her husband, son and daughter. These **thoughtless** and selfish persons go out every night to enjoy themselves leaving Mrs. Pearson alone at home. She is no better than a servant in her own home. Mrs. Pearson herself is responsible for the **ill-treatment**, neglect and lack of concern shown to her.

Question 3:

What course of action does Mrs. Fitzgerald suggest to Mrs. Pearson to tackle the situation?

Answer:

Mrs. Fitzgerald tells Mrs. Pearson to decide firmly and stick to her decision. She must **assert** her position and become the real **mistress** of the house. Her own **initiative** can help her. She must let them wait or look after themselves for once.

Question 4:

"Then let me do it", suggests Mrs. Fitzgerald. How does Mrs. Pearson react to it?

Answer: Mrs. Fitzgerald offers to deal with the family of Mrs. Pearson and teach them to treat her properly Mrs. Pearson feels flustered. She thanks her saying that it wouldn't do at all. They would resent being ill-treated by somebody else and wouldn't listen.

Question 5:

How does Mrs. Fitzgerald plan to deal with the family of Mrs. Pearson?

Answer:

She tells Mrs. Pearson that she will deal with her family not as herself but as Mrs. Pearson. They will change places or really bodies. Mrs. Pearson would then look like Mrs. Fitzgerald and the **latter** would look like the **former**.

Question 6:**What are the two reasons that annoy Doris Pearson?**

Answer:

Firstly, Doris is **annoyed** that her mother has not ironed her yellow silk dress which she has to wear that night. Secondly, she has returned home after working hard all day and mother hasn't even **bothered** to get her tea ready.

Question 7:**How does Mrs. Pearson criticize Doris on going out with Charlie Spence?**

Answer:

Mrs. Pearson asks Doris if she could not find anyone better than Charlie Spence. He has **buck-teeth** and **half-witted**. She wouldn't be seen dead with Charlie Spence. At her age she would either have found somebody better than **Charlie Spence** or stopped dating boys on seeing no hope of success.

Question 8:**Why is Cyril Pearson annoyed with his mother? Give two reasons.**

Answer:

Cyril feels **annoyed** when his mother tells him that tea is not ready as she couldn't bother about it. He **enquires** if she is not feeling well and then asks her to be quick as he has not too much time. His mother has not taken his things out. She has neither **mended** them nor is she willing to do so.

Question 9:**"That's a nice way to talk What would happen if we all talked like that?" says Cyril. In what context does he say so? What argument does he get in return?**

Answer:

When Mrs. Pearson tells her son, Cyril that she has decided now that she doesn't like mending, Cyril **objects** to her words. Mrs. Pearson **gives him a taste of his own medicine** by saying that all of them do talk like that. If there's something at home they don't want to do, they don't do it. If it is something at their work, they get the union to bar it. She has now joined the movement.

Question 11:**"Annoyed because I don't get a tea for him that he doesn't even want", says Mrs. Pearson. What forces her to make this remark?**

Answer:

At first, George Pearson tells his wife that he wouldn't want any tea as there is **supper** at the club that night. He feels hurt to know that she hasn't prepared any tea. When he asks "suppose I'd wanted some," Mrs. Pearson makes this biting remark.

Question 11:

How, do you think, is George Pearson treated at the club?

Answer:

The members of the club laugh at George Pearson. He is, in fact, one of their standing jokes. They call him **Pompy-Ompy** Pearson because they think he is quite slow and **pompous**. Although this joke is quite famous, George is unaware of it.

Question 12:

What forces the real Mrs. Pearson to come to the conclusion: "That's enough quite enough"?

Answer:

Mrs. Fitzgerald who has the body of Mrs. Pearson, has been quite harsh to George Pearson, Doris and Cyril. The real Mrs. Pearson objects to her comments about Charlie Spence. Later when she is a bit rude to George, the real Mrs. Pearson feels **offended**.

Question 13:

How does the stern treatment reform the spoilt children?

Answer:

The children look **apprehensively** at Mrs. Pearson. However, they smile back at her, as she smiles. Since they are not going out, she suggests having a nice family game of rummy. She tells the children to get the supper ready while she has a talk with their father. The **spoilt** children **meekly** obey her.

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