

THE LITTLE GIRL

by KATHERINE MANSFIELD

The title of the story refers to the main character that we will come across- the little girl named Kezia. The theme of the story is the relationship between children and their parents and the writer Katherine Mansfield wants to tell us that children share a very important bond of love with their parents.



ABOUT THE STORY

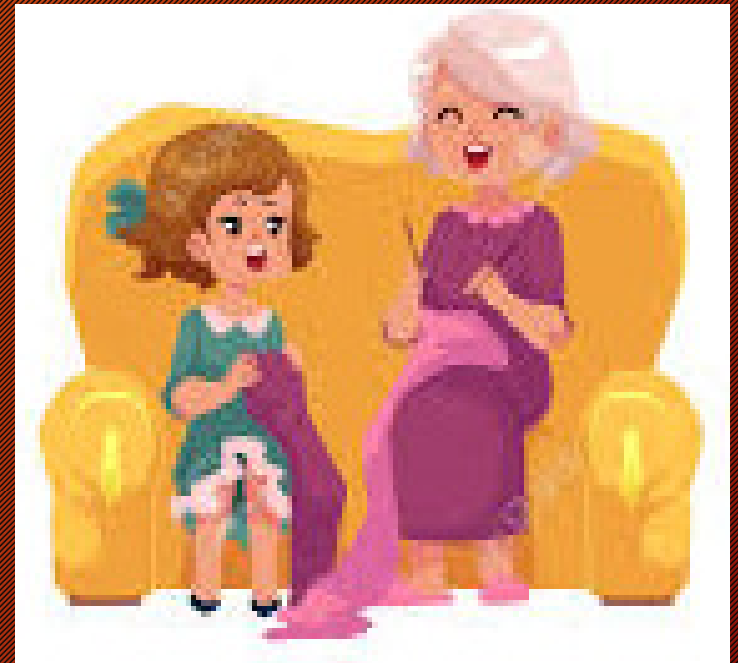
- The little girl, Kezia always considered her father a figure to be scared of. She used to be greatly relieved when her father left for work after kissing her goodbye. The noise of the carriage getting fainter and fainter pleased her. She stood near the staircase when her father returned home in the evening. Mother used to ask her to come down and take off her father's boots. By the time she would slowly slip down the stairs, and walk even more slowly across the hall and push open the drawing-room door, her father had his spectacles on and looked at her in a way that terrified her.

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- ‘The Little Girl’ is the story of a little girl who misunderstood her father’s strictness and usually remained scared of him. She kept a distance from him, whenever he would be at home. She considered him to be a big giant. She would often get nervous and stutter while talking to him. She longed for his love and affection like her neighbor Me Macdonald.



- Once she was kept indoors as she was affected by cold. Her grandmother suggested that she make a gift for her father's birthday next week. They decided Kezia would make a pincushion for him. Kezia made a beautiful pincushion; but she accidentally made a mistake. She filled it with bits of paper that she got by tearing her father's important speech. She was punished for that. This incident further estranged Kezia from her father.





- She would often look at her neighbours., the Macdonalds playing joyously in their lawn. Mr Macdonald was such a good father and played so lovingly with his children. She wondered he might be a different sort of father.





- Once her mother fell ill and was hospitalized. She was left alone at home under the care of the cook. At night she had a nightmare and woke up screaming. She found her father standing by her bedside. He picked her up and took her to the room. He tucked her up in his bed and soon fell asleep. Kezia felt secure lying near her father. She realized that her father was not as big as a giant. She felt the beating of her father's loving large heart. Finally, she realized her father was very loving and had a generous heart.

