



Class 11 Mother's Day Question Answer

Reading with Insight

Directions:- Answer the following Mother's Day Question Answer in about 50-60 words each.

Q.1. This play, written in the 1950s, is a humorous and satirical depiction of the status of the mother in the family.

(i) What are the issues it raises?

Ans. It raises many serious issues. The first and foremost being the role of a mother or a housewife, the responsibilities she undertakes without expecting anything in return. Usually, men of the household and even children take her for granted and mistreat her. They do not care about their mother's feelings and emotions. The children and the husband do not show any respect or love for the woman who does everything for them. In the play, the excessive love and care shown by the mother spoil her children.

(ii) Do you think it caricatures these issues or do you think that the problems it raises are genuine? How does the play resolve the issues? Do you agree with the resolution?

Ans. The problems are genuine, but the treatment given to them is comic. The playwright adopts a different method to resolve the issue. He takes the help of magic to solve the problem faced by Mrs Pearson. It seems quite far-fetched but conveys a strong message that women are also human beings.

Q.2. If you were to write about these issues today what are some of the incidents, examples and problems that you would think of as relevant?

Ans. Even today, women are taken for granted by their families. Women, both working and housewives, are expected to manage everything single-handedly. They look after the comforts of the husband, raise their children with love and care and sacrifice their own interests for the sake of the family. They get no recognition or gratitude for their continuous efforts. They are still taken for granted and are not given any due respect or status. Gender bias still exists and women are still expected to fulfil all their duties as a housewife, even if they are working.

Q.3. Is drama a good medium for conveying a social message? (Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Yes, it is. An audio-visual presentation is always more powerful than reading. Actors enact the emotions, and the feelings of a character have an immediate effect. The audience is moved and influenced by what they see. As a spectator, one can empathise with Mrs Pearson, understand her feelings and resent the behaviour of her family. The viewer shares the pain she undergoes.

Q.4. Read the play out in parts. Enact the play on a suitable occasion.

Ans. For self-attempt.

Q.5. Discuss in groups plays or films with a strong message of social reform that you have watched.

Ans. For self-attempt.

Mother's Day Extra Questions Answers- *SHORT TYPE*

Directions:- Answer the following Mother's Day Question Answer in about 30-40 words each.

Q.1. Who is Mrs Fitzgerald? Why do you think Mrs Pearson called on her? (Important- Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald is a neighbour and friend of Mrs Pearson. Mrs Fitzgerald can read cards and tell people's fortune. Mrs Pearson has come to ask about her future.

Q.2. Where did Mrs Fitzgerald learn the art of fortune telling? (important- Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. She learnt fortune telling in the East. She spent twelve years in the East where her husband rose to the rank of Lieutenant Quartermaster.

Q.3. What is Mrs Fitzgerald's advice to Mrs Pearson? (Important- Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald advises Mrs Pearson to be more assertive and act as the boss of her family. She tells Mrs Pearson to take control of her life, be the mistress of her own house and not take orders from her husband and children.

Q.4. How does Mrs Pearson react to Mrs Fitzgerald's advice to 'put your foot down'?

Ans. Mrs Pearson shyly admits that she is very fond of her family and cannot be bossy with them. She makes excuses for them, even though she admits that they are thoughtless and selfish.

Q.5. Mrs Fitzgerald seems to know Mrs Pearson better than herself. How do you know this?

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald bluntly tells Mrs Pearson that by running after her grown-up son, daughter and husband she is not doing any good to any of them. She has spoilt them by obeying their orders. They left her alone every night. According to her, Mrs Pearson's family treated her like dirt.

Q.6. Mrs Fitzgerald says, 'Start now.' What does she want Mrs Pearson to start?

Ans. She wants Mrs Pearson to stop running up and down for her family. They should work and look after themselves. She has to make up her mind and start being firm.

Q.7. Which trick does Mrs Fitzgerald want to try now and why? (Important- Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald had learnt in the East the trick to change places and bodies. She wants to try this trick with Mrs Pearson by swapping their personalities. Mrs Pearson would look like her and vice versa. She knows Mrs Pearson is too weak to be firm with her family. Her trick works and Mrs Pearson enters the body of Mrs Fitzgerald and the latter deals with her family as Mrs Pearson.

Q.8. Who is the first to receive the shock from the change? How?

Ans. Mrs Pearson's daughter comes in and is astounded to see her mother smoking and playing a card game.

Mrs Pearson also gives her strange replies in a cool and incisive voice which shocks her.

Q.9. Mention two other shocks Doris receives from her mother.

Ans. Mrs Pearson refuses to make tea for Doris and iron her yellow silk dress. She then goes on to criticise her date, Charlie Spence, by calling him buck-teeth and half-witted.

Q.10. What kind of reception does Cyril, Mrs Pearson's son, get from his mother?

Ans. He is stunned to hear that neither has his mother got his tea ready nor has she gone through his clothes to see if they needed mending. Mrs Pearson tells him that she will not do anything she does not like doing. just like Cyril doesn't.

Q.11. Doris and Cyril think that something has happened to their mother? What do they think?

Ans. They think she's different, and according to Doris, her mother has some kind of concussion. Doris and Cyril are shocked to see the change in their mother's behaviour and attribute it to head injury.

Q.12. How does Mrs Pearson react to her children's laughter?

Ans. She asks them to try to act their age, and when they said that she didn't understand their jokes, she replied nastily, "I was yawning at your jokes before you were born, Doris."

Q.13. What ultimatum does Mrs Pearson give to her children?

Ans. Mrs Pearson declares that she will work for forty hours a week like all of them and take two-days off at the weekend and go away for a change. She adds that she does not require anybody's permission. She is an adult and can take care of herself. Therefore, it was they who needed to ask, not she.

Q.14. How does the new Mrs Pearson behave with her husband, George?

Ans. George is shocked to see his wife drinking stout. She declares she hasn't made any tea for him. Next, she stuns him by saying that he is considered a bore at his club and is called Pompy-ompy Pearson, a pompous bore.

Q.15. Why does George get annoyed with Mrs Fitzgerald when she comes in?

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald, the real Mrs Pearson, gets upset at what has happened in her house. This annoys George and he tells her that it had nothing to do with her because it was a family matter and she, as an outsider, shouldn't interfere.

Q.16. How does Mrs Pearson stop Mrs Fitzgerald from giving away the truth?

Ans. The fake Mrs Pearson cuts short the fake Mrs Fitzgerald by shouting at her husband and asking him to be polite to her friend and neighbour and not behave badly.

Q.17. Mrs Fitzgerald bewilders everyone by suddenly stating decisively 'That's enough- quite enough.' What does she do now?

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald, who is Mrs Pearson, cannot bear to see her husband and children suffer from the treatment given to them by the fake Mrs Pearson. She wants to change places now and be her real self. Therefore, she demands a private talk with her neighbor. The family cannot understand her interference in their family affair as they do not know about the change.

Q.18. What warning does Mrs Fitzgerald give to Mrs Pearson after they regain their proper personalities?

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald tells Mrs Pearson not to explain or apologise for anything, otherwise she will undo all that has been done for her. She must make them realise that she can be tough with them if she wants to.

Q.19. On what note does the play end? (Important- Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Children and husband decide to stay at home and play a game of rummy with Mrs Pearson. They even accept the suggestion that Cyril and Doris prepare supper while she will have a private talk with her husband.

Q.20. Describe Mrs Pearson.

Ans. Mrs Pearson is timid, mild, obedient and loving mother and wife. She does not assert her rights and sacrifices her pleasures to keep her family happy. Her excessive love and self-effacing attitude have spoiled her family. They take her for granted.

Q.21. Why do the two women, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fitzgerald, exchange personalities?

Ans. Mrs Pearson is very timid and mild whereas Mrs Fitzgerald is very aggressive and dominating. Mrs Fitzgerald correctly judges that Mrs Pearson's family does not bother about her comforts. She realises that Mrs Pearson would boss over her family until she takes some drastic steps. So they decide to change places for a day to teach her family a lesson.

Q.22. Do you think Mrs Pearson was herself responsible for spoiling her family? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. Yet, it is true. Mrs Pearson succumbed to the undue demands of her family members. She waited on hand and foot on them, and they enjoyed their own interests, never bothering about her. She never asserted her rights. Moreover, she sacrificed her own pleasures to keep her family happy.

Q.23. What do you think of George Pearson's attitude towards his wife?

Ans. George Pearson is a dominating husband who always took his wife for granted and never bothered about her comforts. He always wanted her to keep his things ready before going to club and left her alone at night. He never cared about his wife's interests and placed his hobbies ahead of everything.

Q.24. Was the plan of Mrs Fitzgerald successful in the end? How? (Important- Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Yes, Mrs Fitzgerald's plan of changing places with Mrs Pearson was quite successful. In the end, Mrs Pearson's family realised her worth. They forgwent their own pleasures and stayed at home to please her. The children played a game of cards with her and decided to prepare supper while she talked with her husband.

Mother's Day Extra Questions Answers- LONG TYPE

Directions:- Answer the following Mother's Day Question Answer in about 120-150 words each.

Q.1. Compare and contrast the personalities of Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fitzgerald.

Ans. They are two contrasting characters. Mrs Pearson is timid, mild, caring and loving wife and mother. Her excessive love and her self-effacing attitude have spoilt her husband and children. She does not demand her rights. She sacrifices her own pleasures to keep her family happy. The result is that they take her for granted, do not bother about her comfort or interest and act selfishly. They are never grateful to her for everything she does for them.

On the other hand, Mrs Fitzgerald is aggressive, authoritative and a dominating woman. She is more practical. She judges correctly that Mrs Pearson could never boss her family unless she takes some drastic steps. She exchanges places with Mrs Pearson to teach a lesson to her family.

Q.2. Justify the aptness of the title of the play, 'Mother's Day'.

Ans. The title is the aptest because it deals with the issue of the importance of a mother in a family. The play conveys a very important message to all of us the importance of a mother's role and also a wife's in a family. They cannot be taken for granted and treated with neglect and indifference. A mother should never be treated with lack of consideration just because she stays at home and looks after the family's comfort.

Mrs Pearson was shown scant respect. She waited on hand and foot on them, and her husband and children followed and enjoyed their own interests, never bothering about hers, leaving her alone every night. When she acquires a dominating personality and asserts her rights, they

suddenly realise her importance and their own selfish attitude towards her. Mrs Fitzgerald as Mrs Pearson teaches them a lesson which they will never forget. For once George, Cyril and Doris forego their own pleasures and stay at home to please their mother. Hence, the title 'Mother's Day' is apt.

Q.3. Mrs Pearson made her life miserable by her own follies. Discuss. (Important- Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Mrs Pearson was an anxious person who did not assert her rights and sacrificed her own pleasures to keep her family happy. She herself had made her life miserable by succumbing to the family pressure and waiting on hand and foot on her husband and children. As a result, they took her for granted and do not give due recognition and consideration.

She thought it to be her duty, as a housewife, to do all the household chores single-handedly without any help from family members. Her timid and mild nature made her family members enjoy their own interests without bothering about her. She stayed at home, obeyed their orders and they left her alone at home every night. It is only due to her follies that Mrs Pearson's family treated her like dirt.

Q.4. Discuss how Mrs Fitzgerald tamed Mrs Pearson's family. (Mother's Day Question Answer)

Ans. Mrs Fitzgerald was a fortune teller and was Mrs Pearson's neighbor. She did not like the way Mrs Pearson, a timid, mild, caring and loving woman, was being treated by her husband and children. Mrs Fitzgerald was an aggressive and dominating woman. She realized that Mrs Pearson could never boss over her family unless she took some drastic steps. She exchanged places with Mrs Pearson to teach her family a lesson.

After that Mrs Pearson who was actually Mrs Fitzgerald acquired a dominating personality and asserted her rights. She refused to do household chores without any help from her husband and family and declared that from now onwards she would not do any work on Saturdays and Sundays. The family suddenly realized her importance and their own selfish acts towards her.

They all decided to forgo their own pleasures and stay at home to please Mrs Pearson. They all played cards with her, and the children decided to make supper while Mrs Pearson talked to her husband. Thus Mrs Fitzgerald helped Mrs Pearson to tame her family.

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