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ENGLISH

CHAPTER 6: THE HUNDRED DRESSES - II



THE HUNDRED DRESSES - II

~Summary~

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Letter to Miss Mason from Wanda's Father

When everybody was praising Wanda's art and drawings of a hundred dresses drawn by her, a notice from the principal came. Everybody was asked to assemble. Miss Mason announced that she had a letter from Wanda's father and she would read it loudly before the class.

Miss Mason Reads the Letter

Miss Mason read the letter in which Mr Petronski, Wanda's father, told about Wanda's absence and informed that she was leaving the school because she was fed up of all the bullying that was going on. He informed that his family was going to settle in a big city, where people are not going to laugh or tease them for their name which everyone considered funny.

Miss Mason's Reaction to the Letter

When Miss Mason finished the letter, she understood the matter and asked everyone not to hurt anyone's feelings due to his or her name. She asked them to think about this matter. As Mr Petronski hadn't blamed anyone, the students of the class felt ashamed.

Peggy and Maddie's Reaction

When Miss Mason left the class, everybody was silent and feeling ashamed of their behaviour towards Wanda. Though Wanda's father hadn't blamed them but Peggy and Maddie were guilty of their behaviour. Maddie was very upset though she never teased Wanda directly. She remained a silent spectator and never stopped Peggy. Peggy who teased Wanda everytime also felt ashamed and both of them decided to go to her home to seek forgiveness.

Repentance of Peggy and Maddie

After the school was over, both Peggy and Maddie went to Wanda's house at Boggins Heights. Peggy still believed that she hadn't done any harm but Wanda had taken it otherwise.

Wanda's house had a worn-down look but was neat and clean just like her faded blue dress. But the family had already left.

Maddie was very upset and felt that she would never be able to express her gratitude to Wanda.

A Friendly Letter to Wanda from Peggy and Maddie

Peggy tried to defend herself although she felt sorry for her behaviour. She said if she hadn't teased Wanda about her hundred dresses, she would not have got such an idea to draw the dresses and won the contest.

But Maddie decided that she would never be silent and oppose others against teasing anyone even if she had to lose her friend. They wrote a letter, telling Wanda about the result of drawing competition. They meant to ask forgiveness for their rude and mean behaviour by doing so.

Wanda's Reply

Maddie and Peggy waited long for Wanda's reply to their friendly letter. After few months, they got the reply addressed to Miss Mason. She asked Miss Mason to give the drawing of the green dress to Peggy and the blue one to Maddie. She told her that she had joined a new school but missed her old school and her teacher.

Maddie ran through thoughts about the events and pinned the dress on her wall. She could see her face in that dress. She ran over to Peggy's home and they both looked at the green dress with red trimming so that they could see Peggy's face in it. Maddie started to cry remembering all the insulting statements she passed for Wanda. Peggy consoled her.

Conclusion of the Hundred Dresses – II

This story is giving a message about the racial discrimination society. It is one of the ills of our society which has an adverse impact on the people.

NCERT SOLUTION

Questions (Page No. 74,76,77,79)

(ORAL COMPREHENSION CHECK)

Question. 1 What did Mr Petronski's letter say?

Answer: Mr. Pertronski's letter said that Wanda would not come to school anymore. They were moving away to a big city. He also said that there, nobody would ask them why they had funny names because there were plenty of funny names in the city.

Question. 2 Is Miss Mason angry with the class, or is she unhappy and upset?

Answer: Miss Mason was unhappy and upset. She said that she was sure that none of the boys and girls of Room Thirteen would purposely and deliberately hurt anyone's feelings. She preferred to think that what was said was said in thoughtlessness. She thought of it as a very unfortunate thing to have happened and wanted everybody in the class to think about it.

Question. 3 How does Maddie feel after listening to the note from Wanda's father?

Answer: After listening to the note from Wanda's father, Maddie had a very sick feeling in the bottom of her stomach. She could not concentrate when she tried to prepare her lessons. She had not enjoyed listening to Peggy ask Wanda how many dresses she had in her closet. However, she had always stood by silently and that was as bad as what Peggy had done. She had thought that they were being mean. She could put herself in Wanda's shoes. Later, she even called herself a coward.

Question. 4 What does Maddie want to do?

Answer: Maddie wanted to tell Wanda that she had not meant to hurt her feelings. She felt that she had to do something, whether Peggy felt badly or not. She had to find Wanda. She had the feeling that Wanda might not have moved away as yet. She thought that Peggy would climb the Boggins Heights with her, and together, they would tell Wanda that she had won the contest; that they thought she was smart; and that the hundred dresses were beautiful.

Question. 5 What excuses does Peggy think up for her behaviour? Why?

Answer: Peggy had told Maddie with pretended casualness that both of them should go and see if Wanda had left the town or not. The excuse that Peggy thought up for her behavior was that she never called Wanda a foreigner or made fun of her name. She also said that she never thought Wanda had even the sense to know that they were making fun of her. She thought Wanda was too dumb. However, she appreciated the fact that Wanda could draw so well. She was making

such excuses because she was feeling bad about what had happened, thinking that it probably was her teasing because of which Wanda left the school.

Question. 6 What are Maddie's thoughts as they go to Boggins Heights?

Answer: Maddie hoped that they would find Wanda. She wanted to tell her that they were sorry that they had picked on her; and that how wonderful the whole school thought she was. She also thought of requesting her not to leave the school. She even thought that she and Peggy would fight anybody who was not nice to her.

Question. 7 Why does Wanda's house remind Maddie of Wanda's blue dress?

Answer: Wanda's house looked shabby but clean. It reminded Maddie of Wanda's blue dress because it was also very shabby and faded, but clean.

Question. 8 What does Maddie think hard about? What important decision does she come to?

Answer: Maddie was not happy as she could not find Wanda at her home. She could not sleep that night. She thought about Wanda, her faded blue dress, and the little house she lived in. She also thought about the hundred glowing pictures, which were all lined up in the classroom. At last, Maddie thought really hard and after a long time, she reached an important decision. She decided that she would never stand by and say nothing again. If she ever heard anybody picking on someone because they were funny looking or because they had strange names, then she would speak up. She did not even mind losing Peggy's friendship over it. She knew she could not make things right with Wanda. However, she had decided that in the future, she would never make anybody else unhappy again.

Question. 9 What did the girls write to Wanda?

Answer: The girls wrote a friendly letter to Wanda telling her that she had won the contest. They also wrote how pretty her drawings were. They asked her if she liked the place where she was living and if she liked her new teacher. They wanted to say that they were sorry. However, they ended up with just writing a friendly letter. They signed it with lots of X's for love.

Question. 10 Did they get a reply? Who was more anxious for a reply, Peggy or Maddie? How do you know?

Answer: No, they did not get a reply. Maddie was more anxious for a reply as she thought a lot about it. She would put herself to sleep making speeches about Wanda and defending her from great crowds of girls who were trying to tease her. Before Wanda could press her lips together in a tight line, which she did before answering, Maddie would cry out and ask everybody to stop and then, everybody would feel ashamed the way she felt. Peggy, on the other hand, had begun to forget about the whole affair. This shows that Maddie was more anxious for a reply than Peggy.

Question. 11 How did the girls know that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her?