

Character sketch

NOMITA'S MOTHER (Not an empowered woman)

A silent but powerful character of the story and the center of all the unfortunate incidents that take place in the ^{life of Nomita in the} story - "The Matchbox". Fate has ^{made her} ^{mother} a widow and her

poverty is the cause of her worry. Pride and greed are her inherent characters. Her only daughter Nomita and her good looks prompt the mother to get her married off to a high class bachelor Ajith. With this marriage she gets a chance to rise up the social ladder. She is proud to state that her daughter lives like a 'queen'.

This nameless character, Nomita's mother is not empowered. She is illiterate and does not have self-respect. If she was empowered, she would not have caused shame and insult to her daughter, by begging for money from her son-in-law. She would not have written letters to her son-in-law asking for money unnecessarily. She wouldn't let her daughter's head

go down in shame. She would have lived with whatever income she had with self-respect. She would not have been greedy for money and social status. All these negative qualities exhibited by her were the result of not being empowered. And in a positive thought, we can assume that this negative character of her mother must have prompted Nomita to live with great self-respect and dignity.

12. "We are all the slaves of our customs"
— Analyse the statement with reference to the poem "The Mending Wall".

Man is a social animal, but becomes selfish when he is concerned with his private property and belongings and riches and family. When he thinks of wealth, he thinks of living safe. For luck and good living conditions he starts thinking a bit orthodox and he becomes a slave of tradition and customs.

(3)

He remembers his father's wise words and decides to live by those principles. He asks for God's blessings because he obeys his father's words. Thus we all become slaves of one custom or the other.

Here in "Mending Wall" the old neighbour is purely traditional. He will not move an inch from wise sayings. He wants to play safe. But this ~~behaviour~~ behaviour prevents his mind from thinking reasonably. He becomes narrow minded. He forgets that pines and apples will not go into each other's property and destroy themselves. In the snow filled areas, and without people living in these two properties, a wall is actually not necessary. He is a man walking in darkness. Education has not made him enlightened. He is not ready to accept his brother. His riches are leading him to darkness. Truly he is a savage, compared to be a rustic ancient man, who believed in survival of the fittest. The stone age man of ancient human civilisations.

④

13. SEMINAR : WOMEN EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES IN
KERALA

(Speech by moderator introducing the topic
and the paper presentors)

Good Morning Everybody.

Let me take the fortunate opportunity
to introduce the theme and the speakers
for today's seminar on the topic
'Women Empowerment Initiatives in Kerala?'

Kerala is known to be God's own country.
Kerala is the state with highest literacy
in India. The governments from time
to time give prime importance to
educating and empowering the GIRL
child. The Child Helpline is on
the vigil to rescue any child who
is a victim of abuse and misuse.
Even the Civil Supplies dept has made
a move to empower ladies of the
household by giving ration cards in
the name of the mother.

Anganvadi's and schools monitor the
health and growth of teenage girls
especially in the villages. Everyone
must be aware that the infant
mortality rate in India has been
reduced on the whole. ~~The~~.

However the most important
point to be noted is that in Kerala,

(5)

almost all political parties and voluntary organisations take many initiatives to monitor the wellness of the women in Kerala. The introduction of the Panchayathi Raj ensured the entry of women in the field of local bodies, and management too. And most of all the formation of the 'Ayalkootam' in the village level has been the turning point in women empowerment in Kerala. This group initiated the village women into self employment and even the starting of small scale industries. The Ayalkootam has brought out women from the 'Kitchen' to the 'Forefront' or the Home Maker to the Nation Builder.

14. "Take me not till my children grow" Write a critical comment on the depth of maternal love; based on the poem 'Any Woman'.
- 'Men' are what their mothers made them. Some of our mothers are kissing mothers and some are scolding mothers but it is 'Love' just the same, and most mothers do them both together. The love of a mother is unconditional, it waxes up her children and wanes herself. It means giving up her own sweat and blood too, to build up the future of her loved ones. It means a whole lot of sacrifices - of time, of favours, of labour, and

much more.

(6)

In the poem 'Any Woman' Katharine Tynan pictures 'A mother' — her life her duties and responsibilities. We are 'bought face to face with a mother's life aim'. She is the pillar of the house, the keystone of the whole structure of both concrete and blood. The family is her matter of concern. If the keystone is removed the family will be ruined. She is the heart of love and warmth of emotions. She lights up love. She is the ring of the holy marriage and the knot of love. She is the multitasker. She spends her whole life for the welfare of her family. So she prays to God daily to take care of her children. No evil happening must make their life endangered. If God is to take anyone away from their family, he must not. Mother prays for all of them. And moreover, she prays that God mustn't take her away from the family until the children become strong enough to look after themselves.