

CLASS: 9 **THE LITTLE GIRL**  SUBJECT: ENGLISH

**ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION:**

**1. Kezia’s efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much. How did this happen?** Kezia used to be afraid of her father because her father talked to her harshly. One day her grandmother told her to make a pin-cushion to gift him on his birthday which was approaching. Kezia took it as an opportunity to please him. So, she stitched cotton cloth on three sides and looked for the things that could be stuffed into the stitched cloth. Soon she found many sheets of paper. Actually, they contained her father’s speech for the Port Authority. She tore them into pieces and stuffed her case. One day when her father looked for the papers, he did not find them. After some time, he came to know that Kezia had tom them into pieces to make a pin-cushion. He got infuriated and beat her with a ruler. Thus, her efforts to please her father resulted in displeasing him very much.

**2. Kezia decides that there are “different kinds of fathers”. What kind of father was Mr Macdonald, and how was he different from Kezia’s father?** In Kezia’s opinion, her father was very harsh. He did not talk to her affectionately but rather he used to speak to her stringently. So she avoided him. She did not want to be in front of him because she was afraid of him. Moreover, her father never spent time with her. Macdonald’s family lived next door to her house. One evening she saw him playing tag with his children. A baby was on his shoulders and two little girls were hanging on to his coat pockets. They were laughing. Also, she saw some boys turn the hose on Macdonald and he tried to catch them laughing all the time. She found them to feel friendly with their father. So, she wished her father were like them.

**3. How does Kezia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy?**  
 One night Kezia had a nightmare that made her too terrified. She was crying out of fear. When she woke up, she found her father beside her bed with a candle in his hand. He asked her what the matter was. When he came to know about her nightmare, he blew out the candle, bent down, and caught up the child in his arms. He carried her to the big bedroom. He laid her on the bed and pulled the covers up around her. Apart from this, he lay down beside her. After some time, still half asleep, she crept close to him, snuggled her head under his arm, and held tightly to his shirt. Now she felt comfortable. Her father told her to rub her feet against his legs and get them warm. Now, Kezia realized that her father was not as harsh as she thought. She realized that her father had to work all day long and got so tired that he could not play with her. She realized that her father wanted her to understand his compulsion. At the bottom, he was a very good person.

**4. What were the circumstances that forced Kezia to change her opinion about her father?** When her mother was hospitalized, her grandmother went to stay with her. Kezia used to sleep alone at night. She was so scared that she started shouting at night. She had nightmares and trembled a lot with fear. Then her father came to her room and took her into his arms to comfort her. She felt secure with her father near her. Then she realized that her father was busy with work and had no time to play. She even realized that her father loved her but didn’t have the art of expressing it. Thus, her attitude towards her father changed positively.

**5. How did the father comfort the little girl, Kezia, when she got scared in her sleep?** The father came to Kezia’s room with a candle, lifted her up in his strong arms, lay beside her, and made her stay close to him. She held his shirt and snuggled herself close to her father. This comforted Kezia when she got scared in her sleep.

**6. What kind of a person was Kezia’s father?** Kezia’s father was a hard-working man but short-tempered. He was a strict disciplinarian too. When Kezia’s mother was hospitalized, Kezia realized that her father loved her but didn’t have the art of expressing his love.

**7. Why did Kezia stutter only with her father?** Kezia’s father always scolded her and never spoke to her in a loving manner. So, Kezia stammered in front of her father because she was afraid of him and found it difficult to speak in front of him.

**8. Why was Kezia afraid of her father?**

Kezia was a little sensitive girl. Her father was aggressive and always spoke loudly. He always scolded her. He used to beat her. Even when she accepted her mistakes. He never played with her. This made her afraid of her father.