

NCERT Book Notes
Class 10th English (First Flight)

Chapter – 6 The Hundred Dresses - II

Oral Comprehension Check

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

Ans: Mr. Pertronski was Wanda's father. He sent a letter stating about his daughter's withdrawal and the mental abuse she went through in the classroom.

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

Ans: After reading the letter by Mr. Pertronski, Miss Mason was upset with her students. She was disturbed by how Wanda was treated in the class and didn't approve of such behavior in the class. She felt it was very shallow to tease a child in the class because of their social status, clothing, and name.

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

Ans: Maddie felt extremely sick and guilty about her actions after listening to the note sent over by Wanda's father. During the lessons, she couldn't concentrate on them and would think about Wanda. She didn't enjoy Peggy asking Wanda about her dresses but she didn't raise her voice either on the subject and that made her heart heavy with guilt.

4. What does Maddie want to do?

Ans: Maddie wanted to rush to Wanda and assure her that she didn't want to hurt her feelings and she was sorry about whatever she did.

Oral Comprehension Check

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

Ans: Peggy didn't show bleak guilt when she heard the letter. She felt that Wanda deserved it being a foreigner. She also felt that Wanda never realized she was made fun of as she was dumb and couldn't comprehend the insult being inflicted on her.

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

Ans: Maddie felt guilty when they went to Boggins Heights. She was sad about not being able to say sorry to Wanda and mend things between them.

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

Ans: Wanda's house was small but it was tidy, similar to her dress, which was faded but still used to be neat and clean. Hence her home reminded Maddie of Wanda's blue dress.

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

Ans: Maddie was guilty about what she did with Wanda. She didn't take her side and stopped her friend when she was insulting her. After Wanda left, she made a promise to raise her voice if she saw someone doing the same. She wouldn't even mind losing her friend because this behavior was unacceptable.

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What did the girls write to Wanda?

Ans: After they got to know the reason behind Wanda leaving the school, they felt guilty. The girls wrote a friendly letter to Wanda stating about her win in the drawing contest. They mentioned their apology and asked about her school and teachers in the new city. They also apologized for their behaviour towards her and signed it off with lots of X's for love.

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

Ans: No, the girls didn't receive a reply. Maddie was more anxious because the thought disturbed her a lot and she would seldom put herself to sleep thinking about Wanda and defending herself. Maddie would cry out and ask everyone to stop shaming her. Peggy didn't feel guilty about teasing her because she felt that Wanda was a foreigner and deserved it. She also felt that Wanda couldn't comprehend the insult she was inflicted upon as she wasn't a bright student.

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

Ans: When she sent over the dresses for the competition, Wanda asked Miss Mason to give the sketch with a green dress and red trims to Peggy and a blue one to Maddie. The sketch had the face and shape similar to the girls and they realized that Wanda liked them, even after their behaviour towards her was unacceptable and rude.

Thinking about the Text

1. Why do you think Wanda's family moved to a different city? Do you think life there was going to be different for their family?

Ans: Wanda was emotionally and mentally disturbed after being bullied in class continuously. Her parents felt bad for her and shifted to a new city to provide her with a better life.

2. Maddie thought her silence was as bad as Peggy’s teasing. Was she right?

Ans: Being a mute witness to teasing and injustice is as bad as being one of them. Maddie saw her friend tease Wanda but didn't raise her voice or asked Peggy to stop when she teased her. She valued her friendship with Peggy and didn't want to lose it and became a silent spectator of the insults being thrown at Wanda. She was poor herself and felt she would be dragged into the teasing too if she tried to protect Wanda. Keeping her personal gains in mind she didn't help Wanda who had to leave the school in the end.

3. Peggy says, “I never thought she had the sense to know we were making fun of her anyway. I thought she was too dumb. And gee, look how she can draw!” What led Peggy to believe that Wanda was dumb? Did she change her opinion later?

Ans: Peggy believed that Wanda was dumb as she could not comprehend why Wanda said she had a hundred dresses. She knew everybody was laughing at her. Even then, she kept giving the same answer. She even described the dresses she said she had. That is why Peggy thought Wanda was dumb. She changed her opinion later when she saw the hundred dresses Wanda had talked about. She saw the drawings and was extremely impressed by their beauty. She realized that Wanda was an exceptionally good artist.

4. What important decision did Maddie make? Why did she have to think hard to do so?

Ans: After Wanda left the school, Maddie made a crucial decision to raise her voice if she saw or heard someone picking up on anyone. She decided not to call someone by name just because they were funny-looking. She didn't mind even losing her friend Peggy because of this step. Since Wanda was gone, she couldn't ask for her forgiveness or be friends with her but she could avoid such incidents further. She couldn't find Wanda at her home when she went to visit her. This made her upset. She thought about her blue dress when she observed the home she lived in and felt guilty about everything she did.

5. Why do you think Wanda gave Maddie and Peggy the drawings of the dresses? Why are they surprised?

Ans: Whenever Maddie and Peggy would enquire about Wanda’s dress, she would reply saying that she has a hundred dresses. They made fun of that and tagged her as a liar. Wanda gave Maddie and Peggy drawings of her dresses because she wanted

this to be an act of forgiveness. She wanted to forgive them for teasing her in the class and gifted them the designs when they asked for them.

6. Do you think Wanda really thought the girls were teasing her? Why or why not?

Ans: Yes, I believe Wanda knew that the girls were teasing her. She still tried to put forward her genuine point but the girls would make fun of her poverty and laugh at whatever explanation she gave. This hurt her emotionally and mentally and she decided to leave the school in the end.

Thinking about the Language

I. Here are thirty adjectives describing human qualities. Discuss them with your partner and put them in the two-word webs (given below) according to whether you think they show positive or negative qualities. You can consult a dictionary if you are not sure of the meanings of some of the words. You may also add to the list the positive or negative ‘pair’ of a given word.

kind, sarcastic, courteous, arrogant, insipid, timid, placid, cruel, haughty, proud, zealous, intrepid, sensitive, compassionate, introverted, stolid, cheerful, contented, thoughtless, vain, friendly, unforgiving, fashionable, generous, talented, lonely, determined, creative, miserable, complacent.

Ans: Positive:

Kind

Courteous

placid

proud

zealous

intrepid

sensitive

cheerful

contented

friendly

generous

talented

determined

creative

fashionable

Negative:

Sarcastic

Arrogant
Insidious
Timid
Cruel
Haughty
Compassionate
Introverted
Stolid
Thoughtless
Vain
Unforgiving
Lonely
Miserable
Complacent

II. What adjectives can we use to describe Peggy, Wanda and Maddie? You can choose adjectives from the list above. You can also add some of your own.

1. Peggy

Ans: Peggy: sarcastic, cheerful, contented

2. Wanda

Ans: Wanda: kind, timid, introverted, generous, talented, lonely, creative

3. Maddie

Ans: Maddie: kind, timid, sensitive, miserable

III.

1. Find the sentences in the story with the following phrasal verbs.

lined up thought up took off stood by

(i) lined up

Ans: And she thought of the glowing picture those hundred dresses made – all lined up in the classroom.

(ii) thought up

Ans: Peggy, who had thought up this game, and Maddie, her inseparable friend, were always the last to leave.

(iii) took off

Ans: Miss Mason took off her glasses, blew on them, and wiped them on her soft white handkerchief.

(iv) stood by

Ans: She had stood by silently, and that was just as bad as what Peggy had done.

2. Look up these phrasal verbs in a dictionary to find out if they can be used in some other way. (Look at the entries for line, think, take and stand in the dictionary.) Find out what other prepositions can go with these verbs. What does each of these phrasal verbs mean?

Ans: Verbs with other Prepositions

1. Lined up: A group of spectators were lined up in the stadium to watch the cricket match.

2. Take about: I will think about your suggestions.

3. Takeoff: The flight took off for America.

4. Stand up: After seeing their principal, the students stood up.

3. Use at least five such phrasal verbs in sentences of your own.

Ans: 1. Act upon (Follow): Aarti did not act upon my advice. So, she failed.

2. Bear down (To move closer to somebody in a frightening way): We could see the hurricane bearing down the town.

3. Call on (To ask for help): The Principal called on the Manager before the function.

4. Call off (To cancel): The match was called off due to heavy rain.

5. Getaway (Escape): The thief got away with my car last Saturday.

IV. Colours are used to describe feelings, moods, and emotions. Match the following 'colour expressions' with a suggested paraphrase.

(i) the Monday morning – feel embarrassed/angry/ashamed blues

Ans: the Monday morning blues -sadness or depression after a weekend of fun

(ii) go red in the face – feel very sick, as if about to vomit

Ans: go red in the face – feel embarrassed/angry/ashamed blues

(iii) look green – sadness or depression after a weekend of fun

Ans: look green – feel very sick, as if about to vomit

(iv) the red carpet – the sign or permission to begin an action

Ans: the red carpet – a special welcome

(v) blue-blooded – a sign of surrender or acceptance of defeat; a wish to stop fighting

Ans: blue-blooded – of noble birth or from a royal family

(vi) a green belt – in an unlawful act; while doing something wrong

Ans: a green belt – the land around a town or city where construction is prohibited by law

(vii) a blackguard – a photographic print of building plans; a detailed plan or scheme

Ans: a blackguard – a dishonest person with no sense of right or wrong

(viii) a grey area – land around a town or city where construction is prohibited by law

Ans: a grey area – an area of a subject or a situation where matters are not very clear

(ix) a white flag – an area of a subject or a situation where matters are not very clear

Ans: a white flag – a sign of surrender or acceptance of defeat; a wish to stop fighting

(x) a blueprint – a dishonest person with no sense of right or wrong

Ans: a blueprint – a photographic print of building plans; a detailed plan or scheme

(xi) red-handed – a special welcome

Ans: red-handed – in an unlawful act; while doing something wrong

(xii) the green light – of noble birth or from a royal family

Ans: the green light – the sign or permission to begin an action

Writing

1. Look again at the letter which Wanda's father writes to Miss Mason, Wanda's teacher. Mr. Petronski is not quite aware how to write a formal letter in English. Can you rewrite it more appropriately? Discuss the following with your partner before you do so. The format of a formal letter: How to begin the letter and how to end it; the language of the letter needs to be formal. (Avoid informal words

like “holler” and fragments like “No more ask why funny name.”) Write complete sentences.

Ans: The letter should be written as under:

Dear Teacher

With due regards, I would like to inform you that my daughter, Miss Wanda Petronski won't be attending the school further. She informed us about being teased in the class continuously and it disappointed and worried us about her mental health. I would request you to please pay close attention to such behavior in the class so that children grow and thrive in the class. We are shifting to a new city soon and she will continue her education further there.

Thank you for your time.

Yours truly

Jan Petronski

2. Are you interested in drawing and painting? Ritu Kumar, one of India's best-known dress designers, has no formal training in designing. She started by sketching ideas for her own dresses, and getting them stitched by a tailor. Ritu's friends liked her dresses so much that they asked her to design clothes for them, and even paid her for them! Imagine you are going to make a career out of your hobby. What sort of things will you need to learn? Write a paragraph or two on this topic after consulting an expert or doing reference work on your chosen area.

Ans: Yes, I am inclined towards drawing and painting. To make a career out of my hobby, I would try to build up the required skills for the profession. I would join some online courses to build up the skill and practice my craft as much as possible. I know it will require patience and regular efforts but one must be ready to put in those when pursuing the career of their dreams. I would also try to contact and work with some industry experts who would guide me and provide me with proper insight into the intricate details of the field, I am unaware of.

3. Rewrite a part of the story as if Wanda is telling us her own story.

Ans: Living in America and adjusting with the students was difficult for me. I went with a positive mindset to the school every day, thinking it would be better than the previous one. But it turned out otherwise. I was teased a lot for my dress and name. No matter how much I tried to explain them, they refrained from comprehending. Peggy and Maddie were real trouble for me. They nagged me a lot and caused me a lot of emotional stress. I eventually had to ask my parents to transfer me into another school, since it was too much to bear on a daily basis. But I wanted to leave a positive impression on everyone before leaving. So, I planned to submit the one hundred dresses that I have designed for the drawing competition. My father also wrote a letter to Miss Mason informing her about the same, before leaving.