

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

9th Avenue, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi – 110092

Session: 2026-2027 - Notes

Class -X

Subject - English.

Topic: Drama - The Dear Departed

Answer the following questions :

Q1. How does Mrs Slater plan to outshine the Jordans? What does it reveal about her character?

Ans. Mrs Slater had ordered for a new set of black dress for all of them. She was particular that it should look different from her sister Mrs Jordan's dress. She wanted to outshine her in this area. This shows that she was not sad at her father's demise but was more bothered about how she looked during the funeral. This brings out the degeneration in the society.

Q2. What does Mrs Jordan describe as 'a fatal mistake'? What is the irony in the comment she makes in Mrs Slater's defense?

Ans. Here Mrs Jordan refers to Mrs Slater not calling a doctor to confirm their father's death as a 'fatal mistake'. Mrs Jordan tells her that it is important because there have been cases of people being alive when the doctor checks them up. It turns out ironical as the father was not dead after all. If she had called a doctor and got it confirmed then this entire exercise of all of them gathering for his funeral could have been avoided.

Q3. The character of Victoria is a stark contrast to that of her parents Justify.

Ans. Victoria Slater was the ten-year-old daughter of the Slaters. She was the only one in the home who grieved and felt sad when she got to know that her grandfather had died, even though the adults around her were engrossed in their own petty and materialistic preoccupations. She was a bright little girl who had shown wisdom beyond her years in her thoughts and behaviour. She was the only one who felt any happiness after the rumour of her grandfather's death was shown to be false. She helps us comprehend the innocence of youth. She understands that her parents' pinching of her grandfather's belongings was not only inappropriate, but also wrong. She is pure, young, and truthful, while others like her parents are egotistical, competitive, heartless, etc.

Q4. Bring out the irony in the title of the play.

Ans. The title of the play 'The Dear Departed' literally means that somebody dear has departed/died, is no more with us. It makes everyone closely connected with the departed person sad and upset. Everyone is at loss and tries to cope with the situation. In this case, the title is ironical because nobody in the family loved grandfather, He was dear to no one. They all are relieved that he is no more. They talk of everything from mourning outfit to



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what all he has left behind but nobody is in a hurry to even go and see him. He is supposed to be dead and lying in his room. They all decide to have tea, discuss the obituary which should go in the newspapers but no one either has tears in his/her eyes or is missing the grandfather. They are very businesslike and their business seems to be what each one of them will get now that the old man is dead. In no way was he 'dear' to his daughters or their husbands. Mrs Jordan had not even visited her father in the last three years since the time he had moved to Mrs Slater's home. So much for a dear father! If she was there today, it was to show off in the society and to ensure that she gets her share of whatever he has left behind. Ironical isn't it.

Q5. How does the spat between his daughters lead to grandfather discovering the truth?

Ans. Both the sisters are discussing about their share and Mrs Slater spills the beans when she tells grandfather that it was her husband who was wearing his slippers and they had brought his bureau downstairs. She also tells him that she was the one who had declared that he was dead. Grandfather is shocked when he comes to know all this. He is upset that his daughters want him to die. He also sees his clock downstairs. He understands that his daughters do not love him. They only want his wealth and belongings. They have no interest whatsoever in his well being. For them, he is nothing more than a nuisance and they wish that he is out of their lives at the earliest. They are very happy that he is dead. Mrs Slater does not even call the doctor to confirm. She decides, informs her sister and even gives the tailor order for the mourning outfits.

Q6. How does their father end up surprising them at the end?

Ans. Mr. Abel Merryweather decided to make another will as in his previous will, he had written away all his money to his daughters but he had then realized that his daughters didn't need him and just needed his money. So, he decided to change his will in favour of someone who would take care of him till his death. Others were shocked by his decision and they all became very eager to keep the grandfather with them. He also told them that he would get married in to Mrs. Shorrocks in the church and would take all his belongings to Mrs.Shorrocks house only. Both the daughters were thinking that they would grab their father's belongings but all their plans turned futile.

Q7. Life in metropolitan cities has left no time with members of the family to spend with each other. As a concerned citizen, write a letter to the editor of a national daily voicing your concern over the increasing number of old age homes in metropolitan cities (The Dear Departed) highlighting the values required in the younger generation to care for the elderly.

Ans. X-20, Shanti Nagar

New Delhi



The Editor
The Indian Express
New Delhi

Subject: Old Age Homes in metropolitan cities.

Respected Sir

Through the esteemed columns of your daily, I would like to draw attention to the growing number of old-age homes in metropolitan cities. This is a matter of serious concern as it reflects the declining family values and increasing materialism in society.

The fast-paced life of cities, long working hours and demanding careers have left the younger generation with little time to care for their ageing parents. Sadly, many young people are more interested in property and inheritance than in maintaining family relationships. They often neglect their elderly parents, who are left feeling lonely, unwanted and helpless.

Old age is a stage of life when people need love, care, respect and companionship. Parents spend their entire lives making sacrifices for their children, and it is their children's moral responsibility to support them in their later years. Although some elderly people may choose old-age homes willingly, no parent should be forced to live there because of neglect by their family.

I, therefore, request you to publish my views in your esteemed newspaper so that the younger generation may realise its duty towards elderly parents and revive the values of love, respect and compassion in our society.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely

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