

St. Andrews Scots Sr. Sec. School

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

Session: 2026-2027 Notes

Class : XI

Subject : English

Chapter- The Address

Answer the following questions

Q1. Under what circumstances did the narrator's mother allow their valuable possessions to be carried away?

Ans: The narrator's family was Jewish. At the time of occupation by the Nazis during the war, her mother was afraid that either they may have to leave suddenly or be imprisoned. In either case, their valuable possessions would be lost. So her mother was happy when Mrs Dorling (obviously not a Jew) suggested that she would safely keep their possessions with her until after the war.

Naturally, the mother assumed that when she returned after the war, she could take back her possessions. Under these circumstances, she allowed Mrs Dorling to gradually take away the possessions.

Q2. Was the narrator oppressed?

Ans: The narrator was successful in entering Mrs Dorling's house when she visited the second time, but she felt horrified after entering. Her family's belongings were lying arranged in a tasteless way with the ugly furniture. An unpleasant smell prevailed in the room. She didn't dare to look around. The strange atmosphere oppressed her.

Q3. , "You only notice when something is missing....." What human trait has been brought out by the narrator through these lines?

Ans: The narrator was absolutely correct when she said that we tend to notice things only when they are missing. It is human nature to take things for granted. We seldom ponder over the 'things' lying around us because they are there. Their true worth is realised only when we don't find them in front of our eyes.

Q4. Why did the narrator of the story want to forget the address?

Ans: The narrator went to the house of the lady who had safely kept many valuable items of her mother during the war days. The address of the lady given by her dead mother in those days helped her in searching out the house of the lady. But, after finding the belongings of her mother being kept and used in an improper way, she lost all her emotional attachment to them. Everything was arranged in a tasteless way. The ugly furniture and the unpleasant smell evoked the memory of the war again and reminded her again of her dead mother. So she justified her

action of not wanting to take the belongings by saying to herself that she lived in a small rented room. She had no place to keep all these things. That's why she wanted to forget that address.

Q5. People like Mrs Dorling forget the ultimate end of man. For some earthly gain, people discard their values. Elucidate.

Ans In this chapter, Mrs Dorling has been shown as a person who is smart, greedy and unreliable. She offers to help Mrs S, which was not help actually. In reality, she wanted to take away all her valuables as she was greedy. She had renewed her contact with Mrs S not because she was close to her but because she saw it as an opportunity to get some material gain because of the outbreak of war.

Mrs Dorling herself suggested to keep Mrs S' valuable possessions in her safe custody and later on refused to even recognize Mrs S' daughter who wanted to have a look at those possessions. The need of the hour is that people should be taught values from their childhood. Children should be taught to help others without any personal benefits. Moral education should be part of education from the schooldays. The elders should lead by example by displaying the human values of trust, love and sympathy.