

The Address

Case Study Based Questions

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

And one day I noticed I was curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address. I wanted to see them, touch, remember. After my first visit in vain to Mrs. Dorling's house, I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked her if her mother was at home.

(A) In the above stanza, which possessions are being discussed by the narrator?

- (a) Things that are owned by the narrator.
- (b) Things taken away by Mrs. Dorling.
- (c) Things that were important to her mother.
- (d) Things which were stolen by someone

(B) Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author felt curious about her possessions because.....

(C) Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "I wanted to see them, touch, remember".

(D) Why does the author recount the first meeting with Mrs. Dorling in vain?

Ans. (A) (b) Things taken away by Mrs. Dorling.

Explanation: Every time Mrs. S's old acquaintance visited them, she took their precious possessions in a heavy suitcase. She made them believe that she was taking their belongings so that they could be safe with her.

(B) The author was curious about her possessions because they were associated with her mother who was no longer alive. Post Liberation, when things became normal in the narrator's life, she became curious about all the possessions that were still at the address. She wanted to see them, touch and remember.

(C) One can infer that the author suddenly became curious to see the possessions lying at Mrs. Dorling's house. In order to relive the memories of her mother, she needed to see and touch them as her mother had passed away.

(D) When the narrator visited Mrs. Dorling's house for the first time, she did not give any sign of recognition. She kept staring at her in silence, which led the narrator think that she might have come to the wrong house. The narrator had only seen Mrs. Dorling once



before this meeting, fleetingly and years ago. Mrs. Dorling was wearing the narrator's mother's green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. When she saw the narrator noticing the cardigan, she hid behind the door. The first visit went in vain as Mrs. Dorling even refused to talk to her and asked her to come later.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I looked up. The girl put cups ready on the tea-table. She had a broad back. Just like her mother. She poured tea from a white pot. All it had was a gold border on the lid, I remembered. She opened a box and took some spoons out. 'That's a nice box.' I heard my own voice. It was a strange voice. As though each sound was different in this room. 'Oh, you know about them?' She had turned around and brought me my tea. She laughed. 'My mother says it is antique. We've got lots more.' She pointed round the room. 'See for yourself.'

(A) What similarity did the author notice about the daughter of Mrs. Dorling?

- (a) She had a voice like her mother
- (b) She had an attitude like her mother
- (c) She had a broad back like her mother.
- (d) She styled her clothes like her mother.

(B) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.

'I heard my own voice' means to speak about important facts.

(C) The narrator says, "That's a nice box". What does this indicate?

(D) What did the narrator realise after seeing her mother's possessions?

Ans. (A) (c) She had a broad back like her mother.

Explanation: When the girl was pouring tea from the teapot for the narrator, she looked up and noticed that she had a broad back like Mrs. Dorling, her mother. Hence, (c) is correct.

(B) The above statement is False. After Mrs. Dorling's daughter had poured tea from the teapot, she opened a box and took some spoons out of it. The narrator complimented her about the box. She found herself in a familiar room with familiar objects. She heard her own voice because complimenting the girl about the box was pointless in that situation. Her own voice seemed strange to her.

(C) After pouring the tea from the teapot, the girl opened a box to take out the cutlery. The narrator said, "That's a nice box", because she had recognized that it belonged to



her mother.

(D) After seeing her mother's belongings arranged in a tasteless way in Mrs. Dorling's house, the narrator realises the value of things in one's life. She says that one only notices when something is missing, needs to be repaired, or has been lent.

