**Lesson Name-THE LITTLE GIRL**

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**INTRODUCTION**

This is a story about a little girl. She feared her father greatly. She thought that he was hard-hearted and strict. She always avoided him. He often rebuked her. Once he beat her severely for tearing his important papers. But one night, her mother was in the hospital. The little girl was afraid of the dark. But her father consoled her. She slept beside her father. Then she realised that her father was very good.

**Theme (1)**

The story is based on the theme of a young child’s point of view about her father. Children take time to understand the actions of their elders. Till then, they tend to develop a negative opinion and sometimes even distrust. However, as kids grow older, their attitude towards their elders undergoes change. The theme of this story is based on this process of change that makes little children notice the soft and caring heart of their overtly strict elders.

**Theme (2)**

Parents need to punish their children when it is necessary to do so and children who have been punished exceedingly too much or too less undergo poor development. Kezia’s father belongs to the wrong kind of parents. His act of upbringing his little child was unfit and the instance of his hitting Kezia for ruining his very important speech-sheets was unjustifiably wrong. On one side the sheets were important for him but the fact that Kezia ruined them for making him a birthday gift stands strongly against the father.

The title of the story “The Little Girl” is apt as it is about a little girl Kezia. All the episodes in the story describe the experiences, opinions and observations made by Kezia. This story is in fact narrated from the point of view of Kezia alone. Her views about her father, her mother, her grandmother, their cook Alice, and their neighbours – Macdonalds, let the reader know what a little girl thinks and how she feels regarding the people around her. Thus, the title is appropriate.

**Justification of the Title (2)**

Kezia’s father was a busy man and she was afraid of him. Her father would always give her instructions but never made any effort to know what she expected from him. She wanted his love and company. He only wanted her to be obedient, disciplined, organised and a perfect person. As a little girl, she couldn’t build up self-confidence to feel free to talk. The entire story moves around her expectations. So, the title is apt and appropriate.

**MESSAGE**

 The story conveys a beautiful message that there is a very strong bond between parents and children. This bond has the strength to survive every type of challenge. However, in order to prepare their little children for the hardships of adult life, parents resort to strict punishment and it is difficult for children to understand the true motive behind the stern actions of their parents. As a result, they develop negativity. Therefore, the story gives message to both the children and parents. Children should trust their parents and the parents should understand that physical punishment can leave emotional scars that hamper the growth of a balanced personality of their child. So, the responsibility to strengthen the parent-child bond rests equally on both.

**Message (2)**

In a family, interpersonal relationships between parents and their children, siblings and elders and a congenial atmosphere in the family are very important for a smooth and successful life.

For a better relationship, the first and foremost factor is mutual interaction and regular communication among the members of a family because through communication only we can understand each other’s aspirations, expectations, desires, strength and weaknesses in a better way.

**Value Points**

* Kezia is a little girl, growing in her loving grandma’s care.
* Kezia has formal relations with mother and father. She is afraid of her strict father so she stammered while talking to him. She thought him to be giant sized.
* On Sundays, Grandma sent her to spend time with parents but Kezia found her father lay down on the sofa to relax and mother busy in reading.
* One day grandma, suggested her to prepare a gift for father’s birthday.
* Kezia prepared a pin cushion with a beautiful yellow silk cloth. For that, she needed scrap to fill it.
* She took some papers from father’s room and store them up to stuff them in the pincushion. It was the father’s important speech for the Port Authority.
* When Kezia was questioned, she admitted her act. Father beat Kezia with a ruler and she cried bitterly. She clung to grandma who consoled her.
* Next door neighbour Mr Macdonald plays with his children in the evening. After watching him, Kezia concludes that all fathers are not like hers.
* One day, her mother got admitted to the hospital, she was alone at home under the care of the cook. Old nightmare haunted her – a butcher with a knife in his hand. She was too much afraid of it.
* Father came to her room hugged her, carried her to his room to comfort her.
* She realised that he was not so bad, but he was too busy to express his love. That night, she felt her father had a big heart.