



**The chapter titled
"Appa-mam" explained
With Questions and
answers by
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Class: 11th

Subject: English

Topic : Appa-mam

By : sahil sharifdin English

Components of the lecture :

- 1) Life of the writer**
- 2) Definition of short story**
- 3) Meaning of the title**
- 4) Paraphrase of the chapter**
- 5) Themes**
- 6) Glossary**
- 7) Questions**

1) Life of the writer

* Padma Hejmadi/padma Perera

* Born in Madras in 1949

* Graduated from university of Michigan, USA.

* Poetess, non-fiction writer, fiction writer.

* international photographer and artist.

* Classic Indian dancer

* Authored a dozen of books :

_ Birthday, deathday and other stories (1985)

_ Dr salaam and other stories of India (1978)

* she keeps on travelling from the USA to India and other places

2) Definition of short story

* A novel in a miniature form Or a short novel. It has characters and plot like novel. It generally focuses on a single subject or theme. Anecdotes, fables, fairytales and parables are all examples of the oral storytelling tradition that helped to shape the short story. It has a series of incidents related to a central situation. It should have a maximum of 20,000 words.

3) Meaning of the title

APPA-MAM

_Appa in Tamil means "dad" but here in the title, it refers to the name of the main character of the story.

_Mam in Tamil means "uncle".

Therefore, the title is not that much confusing. It is just a name of a character.

4) Main ideas of the chapter

A) Introduction of different characters.

Appa-mam, Grandfather, a romantic guy, Great-grandmother, kuppu, aunts, Grandmother, Mother of the narrator, two nephews and disciples.

B) Evil side of Appa-mam:

- * Use borrowed things

- * Lies a lot

- * Discusses politics, reads newspapers and fake teaching

- * Bitter cooking

- * Happy to be insulted

- * No rules in life

- * Having Nightmares

- * thief

C) Sweet side of Appa-mam

- * Large hearted
- * Hardly gets angry
- * Religious appearance
- * visits temples
- * Brings back money
- * Always cheerful
- * Has disciples and takes care of them like a great holy person
- *

D) Grandmother :

- _Gentle to servants
- _Loves kids and grandkids
- _Takes care of his husband, a principal
- _ A divine cook
- _knows Religion

E) Grandfather :

_Principal, kind to kids, unkind to

Appa-mam

F) Nephews : Educated but unkind to

Appa-mam

G) A bunch of disciples

5) Themes

- * Definition of a religious person : Grandma v/s Appa-mam
- * Nobody is perfect. So, focus on merits.
- * condition of religious people in india
- * Get self-dependent before getting holy
- * No use of judging people. Not easy to understand anyone

6) Glossary

- A) Sannyasi _ Holy man /sadhu
- B) epithet _ A descriptive term
- C) Byronic limp _Lame
- D) mothered_cared
- E) Spank _hit
- F) Benignly _gently
- G) Sniff_ nose noise
- H) Ruffled_ anxious
- I) awry _ wrong
- J) bedraggled _ dirty
- K) footsore _ injured feet
- L) Nightmare _ bad dream
- M) gibberish _ nonsense words
- N) agog _ restless
- O) disciples _ followers
- P) charlatans _ fake person

7) Textual Questions of the chapter titled APPA-MAM

Q. No. 1 who was Appa-mam? How was he related to the writer ?

Ans: Appa-mam was a Sannyasi. He was the maternal uncle of the narrator's (writer's) mother. He had no wife, no kids, no home and no property of his own.

Q. No. 2 why did the uncles make fun of Appa-mam ? How did he react to the teasing ?

Ans: The uncles made fun of Appa-mam because they considered him to be a charlatan and fraud. However, Appa-mam was not hurt by that teasing. He took it always lightly and was at times highly delighted by it.

Q. No. 3 why was the writer confused whether Appa-mam was a Sannyasi or not ?

Ans: Appa-mam was a peculiar person. His behaviour was unpredictable. He claimed to be religious but, at the same time, stole things, lied to people and smoked borrowed bidis. All this confused the writer and she couldn't decide whether he was a Sannyasi or not.

Q. No. 4 what did Appa-mam do when he had the nightmare ? How did the nightmare become a game for the youngest generation ?

Ans: when Appa-mam had the nightmare, he yelled some gibberish and danced around his sleeping bed like a Dervish. Grandfather woke up from sleep, lost his temper, gave Appa-mam a resounding thrash and sent him back to bed. The same nightmare became an amusing game for the children who reenacted it again and again to enjoy themselves.

Q. No 5 who were Appa-mam's disciples ?

Ans: Appa-mam's disciples were a motely collection of people. They were a mother with her baby, an old farmer, a cripple, a young couple and a handful of children. They were villagers and had brought many sweet gifts for Appa-mam.

Q. No. 6 what was the reaction of the family on learning that Appa-mam had disciples ?

Ans : The uncles made many bitter comments on learning that Appa-mam had disciples. The Grandmother was almost shocked and the aunts were dumbfounded. Finally, they all laughed loud at Appa-mam and his disciples.

Q. No. 7 why did Appa-mam tell the family members not to laugh at him in front of his disciples ?

Ans : Appa-mam told the family members not to laugh at him in front of his disciples because he wanted them to respect the faith of those disciples who had come a long way to see their Sannyasi. He told them to behave themselves and not to make fun of someone's faith.

Q. No 8. What made the writer decide Appa-mam was a real Sannyasi ? Do you think she subsequently changed her opinion of him ? GIVE reasons for your answer ?

Ans: The writer observed Appa-mam giving blessings to his disciples in a beautiful manner. she was deeply impressed and decided that he was a real Sannyasi. No, I don't think she subsequently changed her opinion of him because she knew well that Appa-mam was not interested in possessions. Whatever he took away from people without their permission, he would bring it back or give away as charity.

Character sketch of Appa-mam

Appa-mam is a peculiar Sannyasi. Although he visits temples and has a religious appearance, yet he displays unholy behaviour at times. He is ridiculed by his relatives but loved and respected by his disciples. He sits in the sun and sleeps in the shade but discusses political issues with his nephews and reads newspapers also. He tries to help the women cook dishes and tries to teach Algebra to kids. He has no home, no wife, no kids and no possessions. But, he is always cheerful and delighted. He doesn't feel hurt so easily and doesn't mind using borrowed things. He smokes, lies and commits thefts but he shares his food or whatever he has even with strangers. He is not easy to be understood. He is a free man and cannot be controlled by rigid social norms. To cut it short, he is a source of joy for everyone around him and is least harmful. He is a man of simplicity and pure heart. He is not ostentatious in the least bit. His life would be much better if he were self-dependent.

**END
OF
THE
CHAPTER**

Respect Your Teacher...

