

# **The Portrait of A Lady**

by

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The Author  
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Khushwant Singh explores the interpersonal realities of contemporary Indian life.

His priority is the person and the truth.

His main concern is the man and the reality

The excerpt is a presentation of his keen observation about his grandmother  
This is a description of his old aged grandmother's movements,  
her religious beliefs,  
her kind heartedness to the stray dogs  
her association with sparrows.

1. Khushwant Singh is one of the most celebrated authors of the subcontinent.
2. His sensitive, courageous and frank writing has touched so many hearts.
3. He himself was an amazing personality and his contribution to literature was immense.
4. He entertained his readers with his satirical mode of writing
5. People will remember this legendary and most loved writer forever

1.He cherished the fond memories of his association with his grandmother.

2.He has beautifully described the details about many episodes from his past life, related to his grandmother.

3.This reflects his ability to describe the common things with sensitive delicacy.

1. Khushwant Singh was so close and attached to his grandmother since his childhood.
2. In his early childhood, he went to the village school escorted by his grandmother.
3. But when they moved to the city, they were not as much close as they were in the village.
4. But the narrator always revered and respected his grandmother.
5. He displayed a gentle sensitivity towards his grandmother whom he thought was old and outdated.

In his early childhood,  
Grandmother nurtured and  
nourished him in the absence of  
his parents

His earliest remembrances are  
those of his grandmother reciting  
passages from the Granth Sahib  
and the Sukhmani in a sing song  
style



1. Khushwanint Singh was quite sensitive and observant.
2. In this excerpt, he begins with his grandfather's depiction
3. Candid and frank in his portrayal he reveals the true picture
4. His perspective is completely honest and open.

1.He has explored the interpersonal realities of contemporary Indian life.

2.He has not tried to harm the sentiments of anyone.

3.He has avoided didacticism or moralization in his writing

4.He has exhibited an artist's detachment with a humanistic basis

5.He was a great author, grandson, and an adorable human being

# CHARACTER SKETCH OF GRANDMOTHER

1. Grandmother was an extremely religious woman with a strong character.
2. She spent a good chunk of her time predominantly in chanting prayers.
3. She was a saintly woman , quite gracious and kind , warm, loving, attentive, available and caring.

1. She demonstrated a tremendous amount of love and selflessness.
2. She devoted herself in looking after the narrator while he was young.
3. She became a silent spectator as he pursued his own interests.
4. She remained a distant well-wisher even when he grew up and became self-reliant

1. Physically she was an old wrinkly woman with a puckered face
2. She was short, plump and slightly bent, who couldn't have grown older.
3. One hand supporting her back another counting the rosary

1. She always wore a white sari
2. Her silver locks covering her face,
3. She exuded "peace and contentment."
4. The narrator described her as a "winter landscape in the mountains"
5. Grandmother was beautiful - an inner beauty rather than a physical one.
6. She had a calm, composed, serene, gentle and a reassuring face.

1. She was very kind-hearted to animals and birds
2. She fed stale chapatis to dogs and bread crumbs to the sparrows.
3. She found solace in the company of animals and birds when isolated.
4. She had a unique relationship with dogs and sparrows which she befriended.
5. She spent most of her time reading and reciting the holy scriptures at home or in the temple.

1.Circumstances made all the difference.

2.When the two moved to the city there occurred a crack in their bond.

3.But her concern and affection for her grandson never got affected.

4.The subjects he learnt were beyond her expertise and experience.

5.She decided to spend her time in spinning yarn and reciting her prayers.



1. She was quite old fashioned accustomed to old traditions.
2. She wasn't really interested in science and modern education.
3. She did not like his leaning towards learning English and western Science and Scientific Principles in school.
4. She disapproved of him taking music lessons as she believed music was the monopoly of harlots and beggars.
5. Her old antiquated thinking style, not accepting change mindset and generation gap all made her revolt the idea of learning music.

1. She clearly loved her grandson dearly.
2. She never showed her emotions
3. Even when the author went abroad she pretended as if she didn't care,
4. Deep inside, she had a lot of affection and blessings for her dear grandson.
5. All her actions demonstrated her fidelity and great love.

1. When he joined the University, the easy, intimate camaraderie of their earlier years, fell apart.

2. Their separate rooms widened the proximity and approachability.

3. She was always remembered, revered and regarded with gratitude.

4. She never stopped loving him despite getting alienated but loved him to the core.

1. She gave him a send off with a moist kiss on his forehead.
2. She gave him a grand welcome with dhol thumping and bhajan singing.
3. Despite her disagreements and conflicts, grandmother is purely a saintly woman with a heart of gold.

**THANK YOU**