

CLASS 11 ENGLISH CORE

SALIENT FEATURES OF PORTRAIT OF A LADY- MODULE 2/2

CHARACTER SKETCH OF KUSHWANT SINGH

Kushwant Singh, one of the most celebrated authors of the Indian subcontinent, was quite sensitive and observant.

He has candidly and frankly portrayed the true picture and his perspective about his Grandmother.

He has described in detail many episodes from his past life related to his Grandmother.

He cherished every moment and memories of his association with his Grandmother.

He was convinced that she could have never been pretty, but she was always beautiful-she radiated a divine beauty.

He has described vividly of his grandmother's old age, her looks, her movements, her religious beliefs et al.

He realized how she nursed, nurtured and nourished him in the absence of his parents in his early childhood.

He was very much attached to his grandmother since his early childhood as she provided him with everything.

He was given every care and was escorted to the village school by his grandmother.

But when they were called by his parents to live in the city, their intimacy collapsed.

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

He always displayed a gentle love, showed respect and behaved with sensitivity towards his grandmother

He has explored the interpersonal realities of contemporary Indian life with a humanistic basis.

He has portrayed her kind heartedness to the stray dogs her association with sparrows and other common things with sensitive delicacy.

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

CHARACTER SKETCH OF GRANDMOTHER

Grandmother had a strong character, extremely religious predominantly spent her time chanting prayers.

She was a saintly woman, gracious and kind, warm, loving, attentive, available and caring.

She selflessly devoted herself towards young, Kushwant, until he grew up and became self-reliant.

She demonstrated a tremendous amount of love and remained a distant well-wisher as he pursued his own interests.

She was an old wrinkly woman, short, plump with a puckered face and slightly bent while she walked.

With her one hand, she supported her back while with the other she busily repeated chants using the beads of rosary.

Despite her messy silver locks covering her face, she radiated an inner beauty rather than a physical one.

She always wore a white sari and with her serenity and calm composure, she exuded peace and contentment.

In the city there occurred a crack in their bond. But her love and affection for her grandson never got affected.

She was very kind to animals and birds and when isolated found solace in the company of animals and birds.

She had a unique relationship with dogs and sparrows which she befriended.

She spent most of her time reading the Holy Books whether at home or in the temple.

She was quite old fashioned, and wasn't really interested in science and modern education

She had antiquated ideas, weird views and was accustomed to old traditions and hence despised learning Music in the school.

As a very pious and a religious woman, she disapproved of him taking music lessons as she believed music was the monopoly of harlots and beggars.

Her old antiquated thinking style, not accepting change mindset and generation gap all made her revolt the idea of learning English Science and Music

She decided to spend her time in spinning yarn using charka or spinning wheel and reciting her prayers.

By the time when Kushwant Singh joined the University, they no longer enjoyed the easy, intimate camaraderie of their earlier years.

As he was given a separate room, the proximity and approachability got snapped.

Despite getting alienated she never stopped loving him but loved him to the core.

She never showed her emotions, but clearly loved her grandson dearly.

She pretended as if she didn't care, when he went abroad but, deep inside, she had a lot of affection and blessings for her dear grandson.

She gave him a send off with a moist kiss on his forehead and gave him a grand welcome with dhol thumping and bhajan singing

Despite her disagreements and conflicts, Grandmother is purely a saintly woman with a heart of gold.

