

## **Pappachi's Moth**

**Q1. Write the character Sketches of Pappachi and Mammachi.**

### **I. Character Sketch of Pappachi**

Pappachi is Mammachi's husband and the father of Ammu and Chacko. He has served in the Department of Entomology as an Imperial Entomologist. His biggest triumph in life becomes his biggest failure when he discovers a rare breed of moth, but he does not get credit or even naming rights for his discovery. Later, when he comes to know that his discovery has been recognized but named after the acting director of the department he is shocked. This event is held responsible for his black mood and temper.

Pappachi is a harsh, jealous man who beats Mammachi regularly. He does not like Mammachi's work of making pickles. He thinks that this menial job to be done by his wife is against the dignity of a high ranking ex-government official.

Pappachi is a rude and snobbish person. He wears beautiful dresses in order to hide his age and infirmity. He buys a car and does not allow anybody to sit inside it. He pretends to be a royal person. He dies before the action of the novel really kicks off, so he's referred mostly as a memory.

### **II. Character Sketch of Mammachi**

Mammachi is an important character in the story "**Pappach's Moth**" taken from Arundhati's famous novel "The God of Small Things". She is the wife of Pappachi and has two children namely Chacko and Ammu. Mammachi is young and looks beautiful and in full youth. She is seventeen years younger than her husband. She is a hard worker but a primitive type of Indian woman. She starts Paradise Pickles and Preserves and builds it into a successful business before turning it over to Chacko.

Some people believe "Mammachi is sort of your typical cranky lady seems very stubborn and set in her beliefs and habits. Her notion of how this world works is to a large set in stone. She is prejudiced against the lower classes, always wants to make herself look important, and hates Margaret Kochamma with a passion." But she is not an arrogant woman. She is humble. She belongs to male

dominating society. She is a victim of male dominance. She reflects Indian traditional woman. Her husband harshly beats her every night but she does not complain or disclose it to anyone. She is a loyal wife. At Pappachi's funeral, she cries and her contact lenses slide around at her eyes. In the end, she is nearly blind and plays a violin.

**Q2. "I never want this to happen again", he told his father, Ever". Who says it and why?**

**Ans:** Chacko, the son of Pappachi says it to his father because when he comes home for his summer vacation from Oxford University, he discovers that his father beats his mother, Mammachi. He rushes into the study and catches his father's vase-hand and then twists it round his back.

**Q3. 'Amma told the twins that Mammachi was crying more because she was used to him than because she loved him'. In the light of the statement of Mammachi's daughter, comment on the relationship between Mammachi and Pappachi.**

**Ans:** Mammachi and Pappachi do not have good relationship particularly after Pappachi retires. Pappachi is envied about his wife's work of making pickles in spite of the fact that her business flourishes. He strangely thinks that it is against the dignity of a high ranking ex-government official. Above all, he brutally beats her every night with a flower vase. But Mammachi becomes used to his beatings. She never complains about his ill-treatment with her. She remains a loyal and loving wife. That is why she cries on her husband's funeral forgets all that he has done with her.

**Q4. How does Mammachi stand out as an independent resilient woman in the text?**

**Ans:** Mammachi proves to be a praiseworthy character of the story. She prepares delicious pickles and jams and becomes successful in this work. Soon, she receives more orders and thus becomes employed and independent. She is also a resilient lady because she adapts herself to the irritating and jealous nature of her husband. She tolerates the tyranny of her husband like a silent tolerant and never complains.

**Q.5. Pick out the elements of irony in the lesson.**

**Ans:** Irony means something against the expectations. In other words, it means the humorous use of words to imply the opposite of what one normally means. The elements of irony in the lesson are:

a. After the discovery of a new species of moth, Pappachi was hopeful of gaining name and fame. But when he presented it before the Department of Entomology, it was not like so as he had thought. Unfortunately, the credit of his discovery was given to a person who was junior to Pappachi and whom he always disliked.

b. When Mammachi started the business of pickle-making, she was not expecting that her business would grow so quickly. But within a short period of time, her business flourished and it proved highly profitable.

c. Also she had never thought that her husband would be against her and would feel jealous of her growing business and name and fame.

#### **6. Identify instances of humour in the story.**

**Ans:** Humour is that figure of speech that amuses us and makes us laugh. Some of the humorous elements we find in the story are given as under:

1. Pappachi feels jealous of her husband because she is seventeen years younger than him and looks to be in full youth.
2. Pappachi keeps a photograph of his youth on the table to remember the days when he was young. This is really amusing.
3. Pappas's daily moving around the compound watching the mounds of red chillies, freshly powdered turmeric and Mammachi's doing her work makes us laugh badly.
4. Pappachi never allows Mammach and anyone in the family to use his car or even to sit inside it. The Plymouth was Pappachi's revenge.
5. Pappachi always likes to create the impression that Mammachi neglects him. He sits on the verandah and sews buttons to show the people that he is ignored.

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## GRAMMAR:

### A. Match:

- i. **Epitaph:** a short piece of writing or a poem about a dead person, especially written on their grave stone.
- ii. **Abstract:** a shortened form of a speech, article, book, etc. giving only the most important facts or arguments. End sections of the magazine includes abstracts of recent books.
- iii. **Citation:** a particular part of a book, poem, etc. that is chosen so that it can be used in discussion, article, etc.
- iv. **Obituary:** news of someone's death in a newspaper.
- v. **Postscript:** a short remark or message added to the bottom of a letter after you have signed your name, usually introduced by the abbreviation PS.
- vi. **Glossary:** meanings of difficult words and phrases in a text that are difficult to understand.
- vii. **Extract:** a word or piece of writing taken from a written book/work.
- viii. **Appendix:** a separate part at the end of a book or magazine which gives additional information.
- ix. **Epigraph:** a saying or a part of a poem, play or book at the beginning of a piece of writing to give reader some idea of what the piece is about.
- x. **Manuscript:** the original copy of a book or article before it is printed.

### B. What do the following scientists study

#### Match

**Solutions:**

- Dermatologist → Skin
- Endocrinologist → Hormones
- Ornithologist → Birds
- Gerontologist → Old Age
- Cytologist → Cell
- Ergonomist → Working environment/condition
- Paleontologist → Fossils
- Herpetologist → Reptiles
- Ichthyologist → Fish

## **Active Passive**

1. Lies are not told by good boys.
2. Parents should be obeyed.
3. The poor are being fed by him.
4. Always speak the truth.
5. The truth has not been spoken by you.
6. Let it be kept a secret.
7. Thank God.
8. He was punished by the teacher.
9. The woodcutter was cutting the tree.
10. Quinine is bitter when tasted.
11. A good lesson had been taught to him by
12. Let the door be opened.
13. The police will look into the matter.
14. You are ordered to stop writing.
15. This book will have been read by her.