



MODEL QUESTION 14

Unit: 7, lesson: 3

I was ten years old. My grandmother sat on the string bed, under the mango tree. It was late summer and there were sunflowers in the garden and a warm wind in the trees. My grandmother was knitting a woollen scarf for the winter months. She was very old, dressed in a plain white sari; her eyes were not very strong now, but her fingers moved quickly with the needles, and the needles kept clicking all afternoon. Grandmother had white hair, but there were very few wrinkles on her skin.

I had come home after playing cricket on the maidan. I had taken my meal, and now I was rummaging in a box of old books and family heirlooms that had just that day been brought out of the attic by my mother. Nothing in the box interested me very much, except for a book with colourful pictures of birds and butterflies. I was going through the book, looking at the pictures, when I found a small photograph between the pages. It was a faded picture, a little yellow and foggy; it was a picture of a girl standing against a wall and behind the wall there was nothing but sky; but from the other side a pair of hands reached up, as though someone was going to climb the wall. There were flowers growing near the girl, but couldn't tell what they were; there was a creeper too, but it was just a creeper.

I ran out into the garden. "Granny! I shouted. "Look at the picture! I found it in the box of old things. Whose picture is it?" I jumped on the bed beside my grandmother and she walloped me on the bottom and said, "Now I've lost count of my stitches, and the next time you do that I'll make you finish the scarf yourself." She took the photograph from my hand, and we both stared at it for quite a long time. The girl had long, loose hair, and she wore a long dress that nearly covered her ankles, and sleeves that reached her wrists, and there were a lot of bangles on her hands; but, despite all this drapery, the girl appeared to be full of freedom and movement; she stood with her legs apart and her hands on her hips, and she had a wide, almost devilish smile on her face.

"Whose picture is it?" I asked. "A little girl's of course," said Grandmother. "Can't you tell?" "Yes, but did you know the girl?" "Yes, I knew her," said Granny, "but she was a very wicked girl and I shouldn't tell you about her. But I'll tell you about the photograph. It was taken in your grandfather's

house, about sixty years ago and that's the garden wall, and over the wall there was a road going to town. "Whose hands are they," I asked, "coming up from the other side?" Grandmother squinted and looked closely at the picture, and shook her head. "It's the first time I've noticed," she said. "That must have been the sweeper boy's. Or maybe they were your grandfather's."

"They don't look like grandfather's hand," I said. "His hands are all bony." "Yes, but this was sixty years ago." "Didn't he climb up the wall, after the photo?" "No, nobody climbed up. At least, I don't remember." "And you remember well, Granny."

"Yes, I remember ... I remember what is not in the photograph. It was a spring day, and there was a cool breeze blowing, nothing like this. Those flowers at the girl's feet, they were marigolds, and the bougainvillea creeper, it was a mass of purple. You cannot see these colours in the photo, and even if you

could, as nowadays, you wouldn't be able to smell the flowers or feel the breeze. "And what about the girl?" I said. "Tell me about the girl." "Well, she was a wicked girl," said Granny. "You don't know the trouble they had getting her into those fine clothes she's wearing."

"Who was the girl?" I said. "You must tell me who she was." "No, that wouldn't do," said grandmother, but I pretended I didn't know. I knew, because Grandmother still smiled in the same way, even though she didn't have as many teeth.

Come on, Granny," I said, "tell me, tell me."

But Grandmother shook her head and carried on with the knitting; and I held the photograph in my hand looking from it to my grandmother and back again, trying to find points in common between the old lady and the little pig-tailed girl. A lemon-coloured butterfly settled on the end of Grandmother's knitting needle, and stayed there while the needles clicked away. I made a grab at the butterfly, and it flew off in a dipping flight and settled on a sunflower. "I wonder whose hands they were," whispered Grandmother to herself, with her head bowed, and her needles clicking away in the soft warm silence of that summer afternoon.

1. Choose the right word which is the closest meaning in the context that has been used in the text.

- a. The word **rummage** refers to text _____
 - i) Search
 - ii) rampant
 - iii) stitch
 - iv) see
- b. The word **wallop** refers to text _____
 - i) Love
 - ii) hate
 - iii) thrash
 - iv) look into
- c. The word **wrinkles** refers to text _____
 - i) Shivel
 - ii) tight
 - iii) smartens
 - iv) enhance
- d. The word **stare** refers to text _____
 - i) Panic
 - ii) panic
 - iii) startle
 - iv) goggle
- e. The word **squinted** refers to text _____
 - i) Eye winked
 - ii) seek
 - iii) sought
 - iv) refereed
- f. The word **creeper** refers to text _____
 - i) trailer
 - ii) climber
 - iii) climbing tree
 - iv) Rambler
- g. The word **drapery** refers to text _____
 - i) Clothes and ornaments
 - ii) dangling
 - iii) veil
 - iv) adoration
- h. The word **devilish** refers to text _____
 - i) Wicked
 - ii) satanic
 - iii) sinister
 - iv) naughty
 - v) refereed
- i) Which of the following statement is correct?
 - i) Grandmother's skin was almost wrinkled
 - ii) the girl seemed to be full of restriction
 - iii) Grandmother was weaving a woolen scarf
 - iv) the girl of the picture was behind the wall
- j) What was interesting to the boy?
 - i) Family heirlooms
 - ii) the book with colourful pictures
 - iii) long hair of the girl
 - iv) all of the books

2. Write the answer of the following question.

- a. Why do you think the grandmother does not tell the boy that she was the little girl in the picture?
- b. Whose hands do you think are those that are seen in the photograph? Why does the grandmother whisper the question to herself?
- c. Describe the grandmother and the boy in your own words. Do you think she likes the boy because she wallops him for making her lose count of her stitches?



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- d. Have you ever seen your grandmother or mother knitting a woolen scarf or sweater? Can you describe how she did it?
- e. What is the significance of a butterfly perching on the grandmother's knitting needle? Why does the boy try to grab it?

As a child you must have been told to greet your elders and visitors to your home according to your culture and tradition. You must also have been taught to be polite in company and keep quiet while others, especially your elders, spoke. Possibly, you at times grudging such schooling. Possibly, at times you even protested such disciplining. Now, certainly you know that you can't always behave the way you want specially in the presence of others. There are rules of behavior you have to follow in a company. We are social beings and have to consider the effect of our behaviour on others, even if we are at home and dealing with our family members.

We have two terms to describe our social behaviour-*etiquette* and *manners*. *Etiquette* is a French word and it means the rules of correct behaviour in society. The word *manners* means the behaviour that is considered to be polite in a particular society or culture. Manners can be good or bad. For example, it is a bad manner to speak with food in one's mouth. No one likes a bad-mannered person. Remember that etiquette and manners vary from culture to culture and from society to society.

We learn etiquette and manners from our parents, families and various institutions, such as schools, colleges or professional bodies. There are rules of behaviour for all kinds of social occasions and it is important to learn them and practise them in everyday life. The manners that are correct in a wedding reception will not do in a debating club. Therefore, we have to be careful about etiquette and manners. We know how important it is to say *please* and *thank you* in everyday life. A few more polite expressions such as *pardon me*, *excuse me*, *may I*, are bound to make your day smooth and pleasant.

3. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes of the flow chart showing the etiquette and good manner one must follow (No. 1 has been done for you)



Children must pass through several stages in their lives to become adults. For most people, there are four or five such stages of growth where they learn certain things: infancy (birth to age 2), early childhood (3 to 8 years), later childhood (9 to 12 years) and adolescence (13 to 18 years). Persons 18 and over are considered adults in our society. Of course, there are some who will try to act older than their years. But, for the most part, most individuals have to go through these stages irrespective of their economic or social status.

World Health Organisation (WHO) identifies adolescence as the period in human growth and development that occurs after childhood and before adulthood. This phase represents one of the critical transitions in one's life span and is characterised by fast paced growth and change which are second only to those at infancy. Biological processes drive many aspects of this growth and development with the onset of puberty marking the passage from childhood to adolescence. The biological determinants of adolescence are fairly universal; however, the duration and defining characteristics of this period may vary across time, cultures, and socio-economic situations. This period has seen many changes over the past century-puberty for example, comes earlier than before, people marry late, and their sexual attitudes and behaviours are different from their grandparents, or even parents. Among the factors responsible for the change are education, urbanization and spread of global communication

4. Make a summary of the text (not more than 100 words)