

The Hundred Dresses – I

Wanda Petronski's Seat

It was Monday. Wanda Petronski was not in her seat. Nobody including Peggy and Madeline saw her absence. They started all the fun. Wanda' used to sit in the next to the last seat in the last row. It was in Room 13. She sat in the corner of the room. Rough boys usually sat there. There was the most noise of the feet when some fun occurred.

More about Wanda

Wanda was a very quiet girl. She rarely said something. No one had ever heard her laugh out loud. She used to sit there. No one knew why. It was because she came from Boggins Heights. Her feet had mud on them.

When they thought of Wanda

The students thought of Wanda only outside the school hours. They waited for her to have fun with her going to or coming from home. Wanda did not come to school on Tuesday also.

Of Peggy and Maddie

On Wednesday Peggy and Maddie thought of Wanda. They sat in the front. They got good marks. Peggy was the most popular in school. She was pretty and had curly hair. Maddie was her closest friend. They wanted to have fun with Wanda. So they got late. Due to this they saw that Wanda was absent.

Of other children

Most of the children in that room didn't have names like that of Wanda. They had American names like Thomas, Smith or Allen. There was a boy named, Willie Bounce. People thought that he was funny. But he was not funny like Wanda Petronski.

Wanda and the other children in School

Wanda didn't have any friends. She always wore a faded blue loose dress. It was clean. But it looked as if it had never been ironed. A lot of girls talked to Wanda. They surrounded her in the school yard. She stood looking at them playing hopscotch.

Girls make fun of Wanda

Peggy would make fun of Wanda. She would ask her how many dresses she had in her almira. Wanda would say 'A hundred'. Then all the girls would stop playing and listen. The girls would ask if they were of silk or velvet. Wanda would reply in positive. They would further ask Wanda how many pairs of shoes she had. She would say 'sixty pairs'. Then they would laugh and laugh.

More of Peggy

Peggy was not cruel. She protected small children from bullies. If somebody asked her if she didn't behave cruelly with Wanda she would reply differently. She would say why Wanda had spoken of her hundred dresses. She would say that Wanda was not an ordinary person. Her name suggested that. But the girls never made Wanda cry.

Of Maddie

Maddie felt it bad that they had been bothering Wanda like that. It was because like Wanda she herself was poor. But she neither lived in Boggins Heights nor had a funny name like that of Wanda.

Maddie's feelings about Wanda

When Peggy asked Wanda those questions, Maddie would feel bad. She would study the marbles in her hand. But she did not feel sorry for Wanda. She wished Peggy stop asking Wanda about dresses. She was Peggy's closest friend.

Maddie's desire for Peggy

That day both Peggy and Maddie were late to school. Maddie was glad that Wanda was not made fun of. She was working out her arithmetic problems. She lacked courage to ask Peggy stop making fun of Wanda. So she wanted to write Peggy a note about it.

Maddie pictures herself being made fun of

Maddie started writing that note to Peggy. Suddenly she shook. She pictured herself in the school yard as a new target for Peggy and the girls. Peggy might ask her about her dress. She would say that it was one of Peggy's old ones. Her mother had trimmed it so that no one would recognise it.

Maddie's thought

Maddie wished Peggy stopped making fun of Wanda. Maddie tore the note into pieces. She was Peggy's best friend. Peggy was the most liked girl in the whole room. She thought Peggy would not do anything that was really wrong.

Maddie thinks of Wanda

Maddie thought of Wanda then. She hardly said anything to anybody. She only spoke of the hundred dresses. Maddie remembered her telling about one of her dresses, pale blue with coloured trimmings.

Maddie's thought about the drawing contest

After that Maddie started thinking who would win the drawing and colour contest. She thought Peggy would win the girls' medal. She drew better than anyone else in the room. They would all know about that the next day.

In the school the next day

The next day it drizzled. Peggy and Maddie did not wait for Wanda. They did not want to be late to school. They entered the classroom. There were drawings and drawings all over the room. They were in bright colours.

Winners announced

The class had assembled. Miss Mason announced the winners. Jack Beggles had won for the boys. He had sketched an outboard motor. The drawing was displayed in room 12. As for the girls Wanda was the winner of the girls' medal. But Wanda was absent that day. Miss Mason asked the children to look at Wanda's beautiful drawing.

Reaction of Peggy and Maddie to Wanda's drawings

Seeing the drawing, the children clapped their hands in joy. The boys whistled with fingers in their mouths. They were not interested in dresses. Maddie whispered to Peggy to look at the blue dress. Wanda had told them about it earlier. Peggy referred to the green one also. She added that she had thought she could draw.

NCERT Solutions

Oral Comprehension Check

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Question 1.

Where in the classroom does Wanda sit and why?

Answer:

Wanda Petronski used to sit on the corner most benches, lost in her world, where rough boys usually sat. She was a very poor, shy and quiet girl and did not want to mess with others so she preferred to sit in isolation.

Question 2.

Where does Wanda live? What kind of a place do you think it is?

Answer:

Wanda lives upon Boggins Heights, where poor people live. It is not a developed area and is covered with mud. There are no proper roads or streets and it is a kind of slum.

Question 3.

When and Why do Peggy and Maddie notice Wanda's absence?

Answer:

Wanda didn't come to school on Monday and Tuesday but nobody noticed her absence as she did not have friends in the class. When Peggy and Maddie waited for Wanda to make fun of her after the school was off, they noticed that she was absent, otherwise nobody bothered about her there.

Question 4.

What do you think "to have fun with her" means?

Answer:

"To have fun with her" means to laugh at her as it is human tendency to make fun of others imperfections which are mostly about the appearance. Here in the story, Wanda is a source of amusement or pleasure because of her shy nature and her hundred dresses.

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Question 5.

In what way was Wanda different from the other children?

Answer:

Wanda Petronski was a Polish girl whose parents had settled down in America. She was a source of fun because of her last name which made her different from others, because Americans did not have such names and it was difficult to pronounce.

She came to school alone and her feet were covered with mud. She preferred to sit alone in the last

in the class. She had only one blue dress which was faded but claimed of having a hundred dresses. These qualities make her different from other children.

Question 6.

Did Wanda have a hundred dresses? Why do you think she said she did?

Answer:

Wanda was teased everyday by her classmates after school hours. They used to make fun of her dress and her name. One day tired of all the teasing and taunting, she claimed of having a hundred dresses and sixty pairs of shoes, but nobody believed her. She was a determined girl and had a great amount of self-confidence. For her number of dresses were not important but the inner talent which had the real value.

Question 7.

Why is Maddie embarrassed by the questions Peggy asks Wanda? Is she also like Wanda, or is she different?

Answer:

Maddie is embarrassed by the questions Peggy asks Wanda because she is also poor and understands the mental condition of Wanda. She also wears dresses handed down by rich family. Though, she is an American but she has the same mind-set as Wanda and doesn't want anyone to tease Wanda because of her dress or her name.

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Question 8.

Why didn't Maddie ask Peggy to stop teasing Wanda? What was she afraid of?

Answer:

Maddie didn't ask Peggy to stop teasing Wanda because Peggy was the most popular girl in the school. She was a nice girl but when it came to Wanda she behaved differently, otherwise she helped everyone in trouble. Though, she wants Peggy to stop teasing Wanda, she didn't ask her to do so as she was afraid of being the next target of such taunts and teasings.

Question 9.

Who did Maddie think would win the drawing contest? Why?

Answer:

Maddie always believed that Peggy would win the drawing contest as she was good in drawing and everybody in the school loved her. She had a good image and impression on her teachers and classmates. No other girl in the class could draw as well as her. So, Peggy definitely had very good chances of winning the drawing contest according to Maddie.

Question 10.

Who won the drawing contest? What had the winner drawn?

Answer:

Among the boys, Jack Beggles and among the girls, Wanda Petronski won the drawing contest. To show her determination she did not attend the school for two days and had drawn a • hundred sketches of dresses of different colours.. Each of them was capable to win the contest individually.

Wanda had drawn all the dresses which she had claimed to have had in the class. Everybody was very impressed with her drawing skill and clapped for her.

Thinking about the Text

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Question 11.

How is Wanda seen as different by the other girls? How do they treat her?

Answer:

Wanda is a Polish girl who has settled in America with her parents. She lived in Boggin's Height. She came to school in a faded blue dress everyday with her feet always covered with mud. Her last name is quite funny and difficult to pronounce for her classmates. Her appearance was not perfect to be in a higher class so all the students made fun of her and teased her after the school hours. After being teased over her tolerance she claimed to have had a hundred dresses in her closet.

Question 12.

How does Wanda feel about the dresses game? Why does she say that she has a hundred dresses?

Answer:

Wanda feels very embarrassed but remains silent in the class. She doesn't talk to anyone and sits on the back bench with rough boys so that nobody can give attention to her. She is deeply hurt but never complains about it. To avoid their taunts and humiliation, Wanda says that she has a hundred dresses and sixty pairs of matching shoes in her closet. Later on, she draws all of them on paper for the drawing competition.

Question 13.

Why does Maddie stand by and does not do anything? How is she different from Peggy? or (was Peggy's friendship important to Maddie? Why? Which lines in the text tell you this?)

Answer:

Peggy is the most popular girl in the class and Maddie is her closest friend. Though, Maddie is poor, Peggy never teases her as she does with Wanda so Maddie is afraid of losing her friendship. That's why, she does not risk to annoy Peggy and prefers to be silent. The line, "Peggy was the best-liked girl in the whole room. Peggy could not possibly do anything that was really wrong" illustrates this.

Question 14.

What does Miss Mason think of Wanda's drawings? What do the children think of them? How do you know?

Answer:

Miss Mason is very impressed with Wanda's drawings. She considers them really beautiful and worthy of winning individually. The children are also impressed by the drawing skills of Wanda that they all applaud and whistle when she wins among the girls.

Extra Questions

Very Short Answer Type

Question 1.

Who was Wanda Petronski?

Answer:

Wanda Petronski was a poor Polish girl.

Question 2.

Where did she usually sit?

Answer:

She usually sat in the corner next to the last seat in the last row.

Question 3.

What fun did Peggy start?

Answer:

Peggy used to ask Wanda mockingly how many dresses she had.

Question 4.

What type of the students used to sit near Wanda?

Answer:

Rough boys and girls who did not make good marks.

Question 5.

Why was Peggy popular in her school?

Answer:

She was pretty and had many pretty dresses.

Question 6.

What did Peggy and Maddie notice?

Answer:

Peggy and Maddie noticed that Wanda was not in the class.

Question 7.

Why did they use to wait for Wanda?

Answer:

They used to wait for her to have some fun.

Question 8.

Why did Wanda not have any friend?

Answer:

Wanda did not have any friend because she was a poor Polish girl.

Question 9.

What did Wanda wear?

Answer:

Wanda always wore a faded blue dress.

Question 10.

What did Wanda use to see in the playground?

Answer:

Wanda used to watch the little girls play hopscotch on the ground.

Question 11.

Who asked Wanda about her dresses?

Answer:

Peggy asked Wanda about her dresses.

Question 12.

What did Wanda reply to Peggy about her dresses?

Answer:

Wanda replied that she had hundred dresses.

Question 13.

How did Peggy treat Wanda?

Answer:

Peggy made fun of Wanda by asking her how many dresses she had.

Question 14.

What lie did Wanda tell Peggy?

Answer:

Wanda used to tell Peggy that she had a hundred dresses and sixty pairs of shoes.

Question 15.

Why did Maddie feel embarrassed?

Answer:

Maddie did not like Peggy to make fun of Wanda.

Question 16.

What did Maddie feel about herself?

Answer:

Maddie felt that she was not as poor as Wanda, perhaps, but she was poor.

Question 17.

What was Maddie afraid of?

Answer:

Maddie was afraid that she could be the next target of Peggy.

Question 18.

Who had made all the drawings?

Answer:

Wanda had made all the drawings.

Question 19.

How many designs were made by Wanda?

Answer:

There were a hundred designs made by Wanda.

Question 20.

Who won the drawing contest?

Answer:

Wanda won the drawing contest.

Short Answer Type

Question 1.

Where did Wanda Petronski use to sit?

Answer:

Wanda Petronski used to sit in the seat next to the last seat in the last row in the corner of the room thirteen where the rough boys who did not make good marks sat.

Question 2.

Why did Peggy and Maddie notice Wanda's absence?

Answer:

They noticed that Wanda was absent because she had made them late to school. They had waited for her to have some fun.

Question 3.

Why did Wanda always go back alone?

Answer:

She lived in Boggins Heights where no other student lived. She did not have any friend too. So she used to go and come home all alone.

Question 4.

Why did the little girls exclaim?

Answer:

The little girls exclaimed with surprise that Wanda, who wears only one dress every day, had a hundred dresses in her almirah. It was unbelievable.

Question 5.

In what way was Wanda different from the other children?

Answer:

Wanda was different from the other children. She was a poor girl. She did not have many friends, she did not have many dresses. She was very quiet and rarely said anything at all. And nobody had ever heard her laugh out loud.

Question 6.

What do you think 'to have fun with her' means?

Answer:

Peggy and Maddie were not bad girls. They had no bad intentions towards Wanda. They did not want to tease her but it was a way to enjoy and have a happy time.

Question 7.

Did Wanda have a hundred dresses? Why do you think she said she did?

Answer:

No, Wanda did not have a hundred dresses. She had only one dress. Wanda was a creative girl. She had hundred designs of different dresses in her mind. She said that she had a hundred dresses to arouse curiosity among the girls who asked her this question mockingly.

Question 8.

Why is Maddie embarrassed by the questions Peggy asks Wanda? Is she also like Wanda, or is she different?

Ans.

Peggy always makes fun of Wanda by asking her how many dresses and shoes she had. She was amused when Wanda told that she had hundred dresses and sixty pairs of shoes. Maddie was also a poor girl and used to wear old clothes given by others. Peggy's questions to Wanda used to embarrass Maddie. She was not like Wanda. She did not have a funny name. She did not live in a slum colony.

Question 9.

How did the children react when Wanda was declared winner of the contest?

Answer:

The children suddenly and spontaneously clapped hands. Even the boys were glad to have a chance to stamp on the floor. They put their fingers in their mouths and whistled, though they were not interested in dresses.

Question 10.

What was the opinion of the judges about Wanda?

Answer:

Wanda had drawn one hundred designs of dresses, which were all different and all beautiful. In the opinion of the judges any one of the drawings was worthy of winning the prize. So she was declared winner of the girls medal.

Question 11.

Where in the classroom does Wanda sit and why?

Answer:

Wanda sits in the seat next to the last seat in the last row in Room thirteen. She sits in the corner where there is mud and dirt on the floor. The atmosphere is noisy as well. It is because she has to come from muddy area.

Question 12.

Where does Wanda live? What kind of a place do you think it is?

Answer:

Wanda lives at Boggins Heights. It is a place full of mud and dirt. There is earth all round. There are no metallic roads. The atmosphere must be unhygienic.

Question 13.

When and why do Peggy and Maddie notice Wanda's absence?

Answer:

Peggy and Maddie notice Wanda's absence on Tuesday. But on Wednesday again, Peggy and Maddie noticed that Wanda was not present in the class. They waited for her in the way and they became late on her account. Thus both noticed her absence.

Question 14.

What do you think 'to have fun with her' means?

Answer:

Here it means that Peggy and Maddie desired to enjoy with her. They did not want to tease her but it was a way to pass a happy time.

Question 15.

In what way was Wanda different from the other children?

Answer:

Wanda was different from other children. She had a funny name. It was hard to speak. She used to say that she had hundred of different dresses. She possessed sixty pairs of shoes.

Question 16.

Did Wanda have a hundred dresses? Why do you think she said she did?

Answer:

Wanda Petronski did not have a hundred dresses. She used to say that they were all lined up in closet. Wanda was not an ordinary person. She said so to arouse curiosity and she did. She had creative tastes.

Question 17.

Why is Maddie embarrassed by the questions Peggy asks Wanda? Is she also like Wanda, or is she different?

Answer:

Maddie is embarrassed when Peggy asks Wanda questions about different items like dresses, hats and other things. These questions are in Peggy's funny voice. It is because Maddie is a poor girl. She wears the old clothes handed by others. Maddie is not like Wanda. She is quite different. She thanks herself that she does not live in Boggins Heights.

Question 18.

Why didn't Maddie ask Peggy to stop teasing Wanda? What was she afraid of?

Answer:

One day Maddie was doing her arithmetic sums absentmindedly. She was happy that she had not made any fun of Wanda. She decided to write a note to Peggy requesting her to stop asking Wanda about her dresses. But she had no courage. She thought she would become the next target.

Question 19.

Who did Maddie think would win the drawing contest? Why?

Answer:

Maddie thought that Peggy would win the drawing and colour contest. It was because Peggy drew better than anyone else in the room. She could even copy a picture from a magazine or some film star's head alike. Maddie was thus good at making pictures.

Question 20.

Who won the drawing contest? What had the winner drawn?

Answer:

The drawing contest was won by Wanda Petronski. There were drawings all over the room in dazzling colours. They were very brilliant and had lavish designs. For Wanda's work, she was given a medal and applause.

Question 21.

How is Wanda seen as different by the other girls? How do they treat her?

Answer:

Wanda is seen quite differently by the other girls. She lives in Boggins Heights. She remains quiet and rarely says anything at all. She never laughs loudly. Sometimes she would twist her mouth into a crooked sort of smile. The other girls made fun of her for hundred dresses.

Question 22.

How does Wanda feel about the dresses game? Why does she say that she has a hundred dresses?

Answer:

Wanda Petronski does not like the game of the dresses. The students bother her for the dresses. Wanda makes up the story about the dresses to show her taste. In the end she arranges hundreds of dress designs in the classroom and she is declared as the winner.

Question 23.

Why does Maddie stand by and not do anything? How is she different from Peggy? (Was Peggy's friendship important to Maddie? Why? Which lines in the text tell you this?)

Answer:

Maddie does not want that Peggy should make fun of Wanda for her dresses and she thought Peggy would decide of her own accord to stop having fun with Wanda. She is different from Peggy. She wears old clothes while Peggy has her own dress. Peggy's friendship was important to Maddie. She was her best friend. The following line says, "Peggy was the best liked girl in the whole room. Peggy could not possibly do anything that was really wrong."

Question 24.

What does Miss Mason think of Wanda's drawings? What do the children think of them? How do you know?

Answer:

Miss Mason thinks that the drawings of Wanda were the best in the entire Room Thirteen. These were put up everywhere in the room. They were in dazzling colours and lavish designs. They must have been a hundred of them all lined up. The children stopped to look at them. They whistled and admired this marvellous work of art.

Long Answer Type

Question 1.

Pen down the character sketch of Wanda Petronski.

Answer:

Wanda Petronski was a Polish girl who had shifted to America from Poland with her parents. She was very poor and lived in Boggins Heights. She was very shy and quiet. She did not talk to anyone. She had no friends and sat in the last row of the class with some naughty boys so that nobody noticed her. She wore the same faded blue dress everyday which was not ironed but clean.

Everybody teased her in her class. In the anger, she claimed of having a hundred dresses and sixty pair of shoes at home. She was very determined and showed her determination in the drawing competition by displaying the hundred sketches of dresses she claimed to own. Each of them was so beautiful, that she won the competition and surpassed Peggy.

Question 2.

How did the girls know that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her?

Answer:

The girls came to know that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her as she had asked Miss Mason to give the green dress with red trimming to Peggy and the blue one to Maddie. Later when Maddie looked at the drawing very carefully, she realized that the dress had a face and a head, which looked like her own self. The head and face in the drawing given to Peggy looked just like Peggy. That is why the girls knew that Wanda liked them even though they had teased her.

Question 3.

'The Hundred Dresses—I' is about teasing Wanda. It also focuses on ragging and racism indirectly. Explain, how it affects you and how you evaluate it.

Answer:

The story 'The Hundred Dresses I' is really all about teasing of Wanda being Polish and having a strange name. They made fun of Wanda and made her feel inferior by asking her about her dresses. Their behaviour towards Wanda was completely undesirable as it shows racism and ragging. These are totally condemnable issues in the society which can not be accepted. Peggy and Maddie never thought of Wanda's feelings and continued teasing her but her selection as a winner shows that colour, prejudice or racism are not parameters of talent as everybody clapped for her drawings.

Question 4.

It disturbs you that Peggy and Maddie make fun of Wanda Petrowski. You do not like it. You decide to speak about this as weak, ugly or students are usually mocked at. Express your thoughts,

Answer:

I would like to express my thoughts about the issues of making fun of the students who are weak, ugly or poor by those who are bit superior to them in these aspects. But I would like to fetch your attention that being ugly or poor is not a personal choice or fault. God creates us with different qualities and we should see those qualities in others too. One may be poor or physically unattractive but he may have far better qualities than us. As in the story, Wanda Petrowski is better than Peggy and Maddie in her creativity or drawings.

Question 5.

Peggy and Maddie were inseparable friend; but middle never spoke against Peggy. Explain the important of being true to each other friendship.

Answer:

All of us have that one special friend who is a confident, a good listener and an advisor. Most of us turn to our close friends whenever we need someone. But for a friendship to be true in all sense one must be truthful to the other. True friends are those who stop you from doing wrong. They never hesitate in criticizing the other, whenever required. A real friend is one who speaks his heart out and does not mind if the other feels bad about it. Hence, it does not matter if true friends are separated. What matters is that the distance never comes between the two.

Question 6.

Wanda Petrowski 'was poor and did not possess'; 'fancy dresses. But she was never upset about it. Describe how important it is for one to be satisfied with what one's got.

Answer:

It is very important in life to be satisfied with what we have. Although being content is a very hard thing to accomplish, yet it is not impossible. We always tend to feel upset when we don't get what we wish for; but there are some of us who know how to appreciate life. If we are happy with what we

have, we will make the best possible use of things. This would result in finding happiness in life. Thus, it is important to learn to accept and appreciate. If we don't find contentment in the simple things of life, we'll never find it anywhere.

Reference to Context

Read the following passages and answer the questions that follow:

Question 1.

Today, Monday, Wanda Petronski was not in her seat. But nobody, not even Peggy and Madeline, the girls who started all the fun, noticed her absence. Usually Wanda sat in the seat next to the last seat in the last row in Room Thirteen. She sat in the corner of the room where the rough Bzzyos who did not make good marks sat, the corner of the room where there was most scuffling of feet, most roars of laughter when anything funny was said, and most mud and dirt on the floor.

- (i) Who was Wanda Petronski?
- (ii) What had Peggy and Madeline started doing?
- (iii) What type of the students used to sit near Wanda?
- (iv) Pick out words from the passage that mean the same as 'noisy movement of the feet on the ground'.

Answer:

- (i) Wanda Petronski was a Polish girl.
- (ii) Peggy and Madeline had started all the fun about Wanda.
- (iii) Rough boys who did not secure good marks sat in the corner near Wanda.
- (iv) The words are 'Scuffling of feet'.

Question 2.

But on Wednesday, Peggy and Maddie, who sat down front with other children who go! good marks and who didn't track in a whole lot of mud, did notice that Wanda wasn't there. Peggy was the most popular girl in school. She was pretty, she had many pretty clothes and her hair was curly. Maddie was her closest friend. The reason Peggy and Maddie noticed Wanda's absence was because Wanda had made them late to school. They had waited and waited for Wanda, to have some fun with her, and she just hadn't come.

- (i) What did Peggy and Maddie notice on Wednesday?
- (ii) Why was Peggy popular in her school?
- (iii) Why did they use to wait for Wanda?
- (iv) Pick out a word from the passage which means the same as 'to bring in with footsteps'.

Answer:

- (i) Peggy and Maddie noticed the absence of Wanda in the class.
- (ii) Peggy was popular in her school because she was pretty, her hair was curly and she had many pretty clothes.
- (iii) They used to wait for her to have some fun.
- (iv) The word is – track.

Question 3.

Wanda didn't have any friends. She came to school alone and went home alone. She always wore a faded blue dress that didn't hang right. It was clean, but it looked as though it had never been ironed properly. She didn't have any friends, but a lot of girls talked to her. Sometimes, they surrounded her in the school yard as she stood watching the little girls play hopscotch on the worn hard ground.

- (i) What kind of dress Wanda used to wear?
- (ii) Why did Wanda not have any friends?
- (iii) What did Wanda use to see in the playground?
- (iv) Pick out phrase from the passage which means the same as 'did not fit properly'.

Answer:

- (i) Wanda always used to wear a faded blue dress.
- (ii) Wanda did not have any friend because she was a poor girl.
- (iii) Wanda used to watch the little girls play hopscotch on the ground.
- (iv) The phrase is – 'did not hang right'.

Question 4.

Peggy was not really cruel. She protected small children from bullies. And she cried for hours if she saw an animal mistreated. If anybody had said to her, "Don't you think that is a cruel way to treat Wanda?" She would have been very surprised. Cruel? Why did the girl say she had a hundred dresses? Anybody could tell that was a lie. Why did she want to lie? And she wasn't just an ordinary person, else why did she have a name like that? Anyway, they never made her cry.

- (i) What shows that Peggy was not really cruel?
- (ii) How would she justify that she was not cruel to Wanda?
- (iii) What lie did Wanda tell Peggy?
- (iv) Pick out a word from the passage which means the same as 'People who frightens weaker ones'.

Answer:

- (i) Peggy was not really cruel. She protected small children from bullies. She cried for hours if she saw an animal mistreated.
- (ii) She would justify that she had never made her cry by her treatment. Wanda should not tell a lie.
- (iii) Wanda used to tell Peggy that she has a hundred dresses and sixty pairs of shoes.
- (iv) 'bullies'

Question 5.

Sometimes, when Peggy was asking Wanda those questions in that mocking polite voice, Maddie felt embarrassed and studied the marbles in the palm of her hand, rolling them around and saying nothing herself. Not that she felt sorry for Wanda, exactly. She would never have paid any attention to Wanda if Peggy hadn't invented the dresses game. But suppose Peggy and all the others started in on her next? She wasn't as poor as Wanda, perhaps, but she was poor. Of course she would have more sense than to say she had a hundred dresses. (Page 67)

- (i) Why did Maddie feel embarrassed?
- (ii) What was the dresses game? Who invented it?
- (iii) What did Maddie feel about herself?
- (iv) What was Maddie afraid of?

Answer:

- (i) Maddie did not like Peggy to make fun of Wanda. When she asked Wanda about her dresses, Maddie felt embarrassed because she herself was very poor.
- (ii) Peggy used to ask Wanda mockingly how many dresses she had. She knew that Wanda was poor but still she made fun of her. Peggy had invented the dresses game.
- (iii) Maddie felt that she was not as poor as Wanda, perhaps, but she was poor.
- (iv) She was afraid that she could be the next target of Peggy and others because she was also poor like Wanda.

Question 6.

If only Peggy would decide of her own accord to stop having fun with Wanda. Oh, well! Maddie ran .

her hand through her short blonde hair as though to push the uncomfortable thoughts away. What difference did it make? Slowly Maddie tore into bits the note she had started. She was Peggy's best friend, and Peggy was the best-liked girl in the whole room. Peggy could not possibly do anything that was really wrong, she thought.

- (i) What did Maddie want Peggy to stop?
- (ii) What was the uncomfortable thought that Maddie wanted to push away?
- (iii) What did she want to write in the note?
- (iv) What did she think about Peggy?

Answer:

- (i) Maddie wanted Peggy to stop making fun about dresses while having fun with Wanda.
- (ii) Maddie thought that she was also poor like Wanda and Peggy could also start making fun of her.
- (iii) She wanted to write in the note that Peggy should stop teasing Wanda.
- (iv) She thought that Peggy was the best-liked girl in the whole room. She could not do anything that was really wrong.

Question 7.

Thinking about Wanda and her hundred dresses all lined up in the closet, Maddie began to wonder who was going to win the drawing and colouring contest. For girls, this contest consisted of designing dresses and for boys, of designing motorboats. Probably Peggy would win the girls' medal. Peggy drew better than anyone else in the room. At least, that's what everybody thought. She could copy a picture in a magazine or some film star's head so that you could almost tell who it was. Oh, Maddie was sure Peggy would win. Well, tomorrow the teacher was going to announce the winners. Then they'd know.

- (i) What was Maddie thinking about Wanda?
- (ii) What did the contest consist of?
- (iii) Who did Maddie think was going to win the contest?
- (iv) Pick out the word from the passage which means the same—'Competition'.

Answer:

- (i) Maddie was thinking about Wanda and her dresses all lined up in the closet.
- (ii) For girls, the contest consisted of designing dresses.
- (iii) Maddie thought that Peggy was sure to win the contest.
- (iv) The word is – 'contest'.

Question 8.

The minute they entered the classroom, they stopped short and gasped. There were drawings all over the room, on every ledge and windowsill, dazzling colours and brilliant, lavish designs, all drawn on great sheets of wrapping paper. There must have been a hundred of them, all lined up. These must be the drawings for the contest. They were! Everybody stopped and whistled or murmured admiringly.

- (i) Who are 'they'?
- (ii) Why did they react so?
- (iii) Who had made all the drawings?
- (iv) Pick out word from the passage which means the same as 'grand'.

Answer:

- (i) They are Peggy, Maddie and other students of the school.
- (ii) They saw drawings all over the room, on every ledge and windowsill, dazzling colours and brilliant, lavish designs all drawn on great sheets of wrapping paper.
- (iii) Wanda had made all the designs.
- (iv) 'Lavish'.

Question 9.

“As for the girls,” she said, “although just one or two sketches were submitted by most, one girl—and Room Thirteen should be proud of her—this one girl actually drew one hundred designs—all different and all beautiful. In the opinion of the judges, any one of the drawings is worthy of winning the prize. I am very happy to say that Wanda Petronski is the winner of the girls’ medal. Unfortunately, Wanda has been absent from school for some days and is not here to receive the applause that is due to her. Let us hope she will be back tomorrow. Now class, you may file around the room quietly and look at her exquisite drawings.”

- (i) How many sketches were submitted by most of the students?
- (ii) How many designs had Wanda drawn?
- (iii) What was the opinion of the judges?
- (iv) Pick out a word from the passage .which means the same as ‘extremely beautiful and well-made’,

Answer:

- (i) Most of the students had submitted one or two sketches.
- (ii) Wanda had drawn one hundred designs.
- (iii) The judges’ opinion was that each one of the hundred drawings, submitted by Wanda, was capable of winning the prize.
- (iv) ‘Exquisite’