



HEM SHEELA MODEL SCHOOL
DURGAPUR
STUDY MATERIAL (2020-2021)

ENGLISH
CLASS-XII

SHOULD WIZARD HIT MOMMY

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1. Issues Raised:
 - Validity of Parental authority and the intolerance adults exhibit when their authority is questioned
 - Being true to one's inherent self (individuality)
 - Finding acceptability in peer group (important for the child)
 - Literary justice for the protagonist
 - Better solutions versus Easy ones
 - Gender roles challenged
2. Child's Perspective:
 - Literary justice for the protagonist and happy endings
 - Easy solutions
 - Peer acceptance more important than individuality
3. Adult's perspective:
 - Better solutions, not easy ones
 - Mother knows best and her decision is final
4. Discuss the end of the story.

Jack goes down to find that his wife had already shifted the furniture, spread newspapers and started painting the railings. He feels caught in an ugly middle position. Neither could he satisfy his daughter with his story nor could he put her off to sleep. Moreover, on one hand, he feels affection for his wife who was six months pregnant with their third child and on the other, the chauvinist in him finds his ego challenged when he finds her at work which were originally meant to be for the masculine gender. He imagines himself in a cage along with his wife. The bars are half old tan and half new ivory. Literally, it refers to the old colour tan which was getting repainted with ivory colour. Metaphorically, tan is the colour of rust (undesirable) and ivory was expensive and desirable. In other words he cannot decide whether his marriage was desirable or not though both were trapped in the institution of marriage. His confusion prevented him from helping her.

5. Jack as a good story-teller

Though the plot and even the name of the protagonist remained same for two years, every time the problem was a new one. The Protagonist was also different: Skunk, Fish, etc. Jack added special effects to the story by rapping on the window when Roger Skunk knocks on the wizard's door, fixing Jo in a trance-like gaze as he chants the wizard's spell in an elderly voice, making the sound of the wizard by scrunching his face so that even his eyes became watery for a while, by tracing one of Roger Skunk's tears on Jo's cheek.

6. Jack as a bad storyteller:

For two years, the structure has remained the same and was predictable, which made the story less interesting. The value of individuality taught to a four year old girl does not make sense. His initial purpose of telling the story to put Jo to sleep for a Saturday afternoon nap was soon overtaken by his unnecessary lengthening of the story, either to teach her a lesson or to avoid helping his wife. Autobiographical elements used by Jack while describing Skunk's odour problem and exhibiting Oedipus complex while defending Skunk's mother does not add up to a mature storyteller.