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Academic Education CBSE › Class 11 Arts › English

The Portrait of a Lady

Exploring relationships through 'The Portrait of a Lady'.

DEFINITION

'The Portrait of a Lady' is a short story by Khushwant Singh that depicts the bond between a grandson and his grandmother, highlighting themes of love, loss, and cultural values.

KEY CONCEPTS

Characterization

The story uses detailed descriptions to portray the grandmother's personality and her relationship with her grandson.

Themes of Love

Central to the narrative is the deep affection between the protagonist and his grandmother, illustrating familial bonds.

Cultural Context

The story reflects Indian traditions and values, showcasing the importance of family and respect for elders.

Symbolism

The grandmother's portrait symbolizes memory and the enduring impact of loved ones even after they are gone.

Narrative Style

The first-person narrative allows readers to connect intimately with the protagonist's feelings and experiences.

EXAMPLES

→ The grandmother's daily routine reflects her deep connection to family.

→ The grandson's memories of his grandmother shape his understanding of love.

→ The portrait serves as a reminder of the grandmother's influence.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Associate 'portrait' with 'memory' to remember the grandmother's lasting impact.

★ Visualize the grandmother's daily life to recall key events in the story.

★ Link the themes of love and loss to personal experiences for better retention.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing the characters' relationships and roles.

✗ Neglecting the cultural significance of the grandmother's actions.

✗ Overlooking the symbolic meaning of the portrait.

QUICK RECAP

'The Portrait of a Lady' explores the profound bond between a grandson and his grandmother, emphasizing themes of love and cultural values. The story highlights how memories shape our understanding of relationships and the impact of loss.