

The Address Question Answers

Short Answer Questions

Q1. 'Have you come back?' said the woman. 'I thought that no one had come back.' Does this statement give some clue about the story? If yes, what is it?

Answer. Yes, the statement in question gives us a hint about the story. It clearly demonstrates that the lady to whom the young girl had paid a visit already knew her and did not want to meet her.

Q2. Why did the narrator of the story want to forget the address?

Answer. The narrator of the story is a young girl, a victim of war. The war had left her a desolate soul. But the narrator appears to be a very optimistic sort of girl. After paying a tributary visit to see her long-serving household articles, she decided to forget everything about her past, even the address, as she wanted to start anew. Everything associated with her past was no longer valuable to her.

Q3. Why did the narrator go to Number 46, in Marconi Street?

Answer. Number 46, in Marconi Street was the address, where the valuable possessions of her household were supposedly lying safe. So the narrator went there to see, touch, and remember them once more.

Q4. Comment on the title of Marga's story The Address.

Answer. The story has aptly been given the title, 'The Address'. The entire plot revolves around Mrs Dorling's address, 46 Marconi Street. She had taken all of the narrator's mother's valuables. After the war, the narrator returned to that address twice. However, she had a bad experience. She eventually resolved to forget about that address.

Q5. How did the narrator and Mrs Dorling recognise each other?

Answer. Mrs Dorling's door was knocked on by the narrator. Mrs Dorling recognised her and even inquired as to how she had survived the war. But she did not let the narrator enter her house. Mrs Dorling was recognised by the narrator because of the cardigan she was wearing. It belonged to her mother.

Q6. Why did the old possessions of the narrator lose their value?

Answer. When life returned to normalcy after the war, the narrator decided to visit her old possessions at Number 46, Marconi Street. But once she arrived, the items lost their value, first because they were arranged in an unappealing manner. Second, and more importantly, the items were linked to relationships that no longer existed. So the narrator felt justified in leaving them behind.

Q7. What was the narrator's reaction as she found herself in front of her old household things?

Answer. As she stood in front of her old household items, the narrator felt horrified and oppressed. She also felt estranged from those things because they were arranged in a tasteless and strange environment.

Q8. What is the present state of life for the narrator?

Answer. The narrator is now cut off from all of her important relationships and possessions. She now only lives in a small rented room. War has taken a heavy toll on her personal life.

Q9. What is the narrator's final resolution?

Answer. After visiting Number 46 in Marconi Street, the narrator resolved to forget the address. She didn't want to remember the things that reminded her. Of her past. She was bereaved. It denotes the narrator's positive attitude. She decided to start over.

Q10. How did the narrator discover for certain that the woollen tablecloth was hers?

Answer. She noticed the woollen tablecloth on her second visit to Mrs Darling's house. It was all hers. She remembered a burn mark on the edge that had never been repaired. She found it by running her fingers over it.

Long Answer Questions

Q1. 'The Address' is a story of human predicament that follows war.' Comment.

Answer. Yes, it's quite aptly said that 'The Address' is a poignant story of human predicament that follows war. The story appears to be about the loss of a young girl after the war in Holland. Mrs S's daughter led a very happy and peaceful life with her family during the pre-war period.

She had large vases, silver cutlery, antique plates, crockery, Hanukkah candle-holder, pewter plates, and a white pot with a gold border on the lid in her home. To put it another way, the girl had nothing to complain.

Then the fatal war broke out, and a mysterious old acquaintance named Mrs Dorling, who lived at Marconi Street No. 46, appeared out of nowhere. She 'assisted' the protagonist's mother in keeping their household belongings safe. She took all of their belongings to her own house and never looked back. Losses for the poor girl were also unafraid to fall on her. War wreaked havoc on her not only material but also emotional life. She had lost all of her relationships, her home, and everything else associated with her happy past life. She felt like a lost soul when she went to look at her old possessions. She was so depressed that she left the place, never to return. War made her so severed that she resolved to erase the address from her memory.

Q2. Give a pen portrait of the narrator.

Answer. The narrator lives in Holland. Her life has changed dramatically since the liberation war. She enjoyed a happy life with her family. She had all the belongings in her house to make life comfortable and cozy. The liberation war in Holland brought a sea-change in her life. She used to have everything to cling to; relatives and possessions; now she doesn't. She even had to leave her house. She now lives in a rented small room, attempting to tie up the loose ends of her life.

Following the war, life had resumed its normal course. She became curious to see and touch her old belongings that were safe in house No. 46 on Marconi Street. She took a train and went there. Mrs. Dorling, on the other hand, refused to acknowledge her. The girl had no choice but to return. But again she tried. Mrs Dorling's fifteen-year-old daughter opened the door this time. The narrator discovered her old familiar things lying in an unsightly manner in a strange environment. She was shocked and oppressed. She made the decision to forget her past and begin her life anew with a rented room and less cutlery.

The narrator's final resolve talks about her optimistic view about life. Life has to go on. Better forget the sour past to make your future a bit easier.

Q3. Who was Mrs Dorling? What did the narrator learn about her from her mother?

Answer. Mrs Dorling was an old friend of the narrator's mother, Mrs S. While the narrator

was away at college, Mrs. Dorling unexpectedly called upon the old friend. She gained her friend's trust. She was interested in her friend's belongings. She must have mentioned that she might lose all of her silver and antiques during the war. She proposed taking the risk herself. She transported all of those items to her home in bags and suitcases. During one of her visits home, the narrator learned about Mrs Dorling and her address. She remembered the address her mother had given her. She wanted to see, touch, and remember her mother's belongings at the end of the war.

So, she visited Mrs Dorling's house but got a very cold welcome. The dishonest Mrs Dorling kept all precious things to herself.

Q4. Describe the narrator's first visit to Marconi Street, No. 46.

Answer. After the liberation, the narrator returned home. Even though she had lost interest in her old possessions, she still desired to see, touch, and remember them. She took the train to Marconi Street and knocked on House No. 46's door. Mrs Dorling pushed open the door. She was taken aback to see the visitor come to life after the war. Mrs S's green knitted cardigan was on her. She was filled with remorse. She refused to speak to the narrator for even a second. Inside, her own daughter was present. But the narrator's door was shut, and she walked back to the station with a heavy heart.

Q5. What were the narrator's experience and reaction when she went to Mrs Dorling's house a second time?

Answer. During her first visit to Marconi Street, the narrator had a bad experience. Mrs Dorling gave her a cold shoulder. But the narrator's desire to see and touch her belongings did not fade. She decided to try a second time. Mrs Dorling's daughter opened the door this time. The mother had left. Her daughter led the narrator inside a room. The narrator found herself in the midst of familiar things which were scattered in a tasteless way all around. The sight oppressed her. The candle holder and the woolen tablecloth caught her eye. In that small, musty room, she noticed her mother's beautiful tea set and silver cutlery being used by that family.

Mrs Dorling had no idea how to use those priceless items. All those things oppressed her now. She decided to leave the house at the earliest. Her belongings brought back memories of her previous life, and she was now living in a small rented room. So she resolved to forget her belongings as well as Mrs Dorling's address.

Q6. Give a brief character-sketch of Mrs S's daughter.

Answer. The narrator was a young Jewish girl living with her mother in Holland. When World War II broke out, the Nazi army began evacuating all Jews from Europe. The narrator and her mother became very insecure. During this time, an old friend of Mrs S befriended her and offered to keep all of her valuable possessions in her safe custody. Mrs S was a noble and trusting lady. She allowed Mrs Dorling to take away her precious antiques and cutlery etc. The narrator had some doubts about Mrs Dorling but her mother silenced her.

The narrator survived the war and returned to her hometown. Now her mother was dead, her house belonged to someone else and she had no worldly possessions. Still, she was content to be alive and attempting to build a life for herself. One day she felt an urge to go to Mrs Dorling's house and see all her mother's precious belongings. But when she discovered that Mrs Dorling had kept all of her mother's beautiful possessions in a deplorable manner and was even using them, the narrator lost all interest in them. She returned to her own rented room, feeling detached, and decided to restart her life. She was a strong and self-assured young lady.

She did not want to live in her past glory. She wanted to live in the present.

Q7. Write a brief note on Mrs Dorling.

Answer. Mrs Dorling was once a friend of Mrs S. However, the two were not in contact. They both had a daughter. Mrs Dorling was a cruel, greedy, and dishonest woman. She gained Mrs S's trust and carted away all the table silver and valuable antiques to her own home. She had assumed that the narrator and her family would not return alive from the war. The sight of the narrator at her doorstep gave her a shocking surprise. She refused to let the narrator into her home. She dejectedly sent her away.

When she saw the narrator arrive at her door, she became concerned that the narrator would see all of her mother's valuables and demand that they be returned. Mrs Dorling was a thief and a jerk. In fact, when she offered to take away all of Mrs S's antiques and valuables to keep in her safe custody, her intention was not at all honorable. She had every intention of grabbing everything. She was certain that Mrs S and her family would not survive the war.

Q8. Describe the narrator's first post-War meeting with Mrs Dorling.

Answer. Mrs Dorling did not recognise the narrator when she knocked on her door and introduced herself as Mrs S's daughter. She held the door open, indicating that the narrator was not welcome. She stared quietly at the narrator for a while, realizing that it was not the person she had been looking for. The narrator noticed her wearing her mother's green knitted cardigan when Mrs Dorling let her in.

When the lady noticed her staring at the cardigan, she hid herself partially behind the door. When the narrator mentioned her mother, she stated that she had assumed that no one who had left would return.

The lady expressed regret at her inability to do anything for the narrator but the narrator insisted on talking to her, having come all the way for it. However, the lady refused to talk to her, claiming it was not a convenient time, the narrator had no option but to leave.

Q9. Contrast the character of the narrator's mother and Mrs Dorling.

Answer. The narrator's mother was a woman who could be trusted. Mrs Dorling, an old acquaintance who had unexpectedly appeared and renewed their contact, had become a regular visitor, she told her daughter. The mother did not doubt her kindness and was obliged that she insisted on taking all her nice things with her to save them. The mother was concerned that Mrs Dorling would get a crick in her back from carrying the crockery and heavy vases. She was irritated when the narrator expressed her scepticism. Mrs Dorling, on the other hand, was an opportunist. She re-established contact primarily to take the narrator's mother's antiques.

When the narrator returned after a long absence, she made her feel unwelcome because she did not want to part with the items that had belonged to the narrator's mother. She was rude and brusque to the narrator and refused to let her into the house.