

12th Standard- English

Vistas Chapter-5

Should Wizard hit Mommy

The chapter captures a very sensitive reaction of a small girl to an important aspect of the story that her father narrates to her. The story reveals the worldview of a little child to a difficult moral question that shows her mental or psychological richness. Jo is a little girl of four years. She is engaged in a story session with her father. Jack, the father used to tell her a story every evening and especially for Saturday naps. Jo feels herself involved with the characters and the happenings. The story always had an animal with a problem.

Roger Skunk is a very obedient child but he feels very sad and upset because he smells so awful that nobody wants to befriend him and play with him. The old owl advises him to visit the wizard who would solve the problem. He visited the wizard who changed it to the smell of roses. He feels excited about the change for everyone likes his new smell and readily agrees to play with him. However Roger's mother does not like the change. For her, Roger was better off with his original smell. So, she makes the wizard restore Skunk's original smell. Roger meekly accepts his mother's decision and other children get used to Roger's awful smell and don't complain about it any more.

On hearing the story of Roger Skunk, Jo was not happy with the ending. She feels that mother is wrong in getting her son's original smell back and wants her to be spanked by the wizard for her mistake. She wants her father to change the ending. She wants the wizard to hit the mother back and let Roger be which her father was not ready to do to establish his authority. This raises a difficult moral question whether parents possess the right to impose their will on their children. Her father finds it difficult to answer her question. Her father, who has modelled Skunk's story on his own story, strongly defends the mother Skunk's decision.

- The chapter captures a very sensitive reaction of a small girl to an important aspect of the story that her father narrates to her.
- The story reveals the worldview of a little child to a difficult moral question that

shows her mental or psychological richness.

- Jo is a little girl of four years. She is engaged in a story session with her father.
- Jack, the father used to tell her a story every evening and especially for Saturday naps.
- Jo feels herself involved with the characters and the happenings.
- The story always had an animal with a problem. The old owl advises him to visit the wizard who would solve the problem.
- Skunk's problem- he smelt bad, visited the wizard who changed it to the smell of roses.
- Skunk's mother was unhappy with it and took him back to the wizard. She hit the wizard and asked him to restore the original smell. She wanted her son to keep his identity of a skunk and wanted his friends to accept him for himself. So the wizard changes him back to smell like a skunk.
- After hearing the story of Roger Skunk Jo was not happy with the ending.
- She wants her father to change the ending. She wants the wizard to hit the mother back and let Roger be which her father was not ready to do to establish his authority. This raises a difficult moral question whether parents possess the right to impose their will on their children.
- Her father finds it difficult to answer her question.