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PROSE

The Address

—Marga Minco



This story portrays the suffering endured by a Jewish mother and daughter during World War II. Fleeing the Nazi invasion of Holland, they leave behind their valuables with an acquaintance. Years later, the daughter returns, but the acquaintance refuses to recognize her. Through this narrative, the author highlights the devastating impact of war, not just in terms of physical destruction, but also the erosion of fundamental human values.

Topic Notes

-  Characters in Brief
-  Chapter in Detail
-  Significant Morals
-  Dictionary





Characters in Brief

The Daughter– She is the narrator, who returns to Holland to go to the address where her mother's precious belongings were kept. As normalcy had returned after the Second World War in Holland, she wanted to see all the possessions that were a bond between her family and herself.

The Narrator's Mother (Mrs. S)– In the story, the narrator's mother is called Mrs. S. She was a simpleton who could not see the manipulating and fraudulent nature of Mrs. Dorling, her acquaintance. She trusted

Mrs. Dorling and allowed her to keep all her precious belongings for the time being.

Mrs. Dorling– She has been described as an old acquaintance of Mrs. S. After a long gap, she appeared again during the war. She possessed a cunning personality. She only knew how to exploit people and situations to her own advantage. She was most reluctant to recognise Mrs. S's daughter and did not allow her to enter the house.



Chapter in Detail

Mrs. Dorling's Indifferent Attitude Towards the Narrator

One day, the narrator knocked at the door of a house, but the door was opened only a little. She asked the owner if she still knew her. The owner responded negatively. The narrator told her that she was Mrs. S's daughter. But the owner of the house, Mrs. Dorling, denied knowing her. Her face gave absolutely no sign of recognition, and she kept staring at her without speaking a word.

The narrator thought that perhaps she was mistaken and had rung the wrong bell. Then the narrator got a glimpse of her mother's green knitted cardigan, which Mrs. Dorling was wearing. She noticed the narrator looking at the cardigan and hid behind the door. This gave the narrator a confirmation that she had reached the correct address. But Mrs. Dorling excused herself by saying that she could not talk to the girl that day and that she should come again later. At last, she shamelessly closed the door.

Example 1. '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? [NCERT]

Ans. This sentence clearly indicates that the two families knew each other. The narrator and her mother, being Jews, had left Holland during World War II after the invasion of the Nazis. Some people who stayed there assumed that those who had left their houses to take refuge in places far away would never come back. That is why the woman at the door felt surprised to see one of them back after so long.

Someone is Watching the Narrator from the Window

Even though the door was closed, the narrator stood for some time on the step. She saw the curtain in front

of the bay window moving. Someone was staring at her from inside the house. The girl presumed that someone other than Mrs. Dorling must be watching her and it was nothing as the woman would have asked what the narrator wanted.



Character's Mood

↪ Curious, suspicious

Example 2. Extract Based:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I was home for a few days, and it struck me immediately that something or other about the rooms had changed. I missed various things. My mother was surprised; I should have noticed so quickly. Then she told me about Mrs. Dorling. I had never heard of her, but apparently she was an old acquaintance of my mother, whom she hadn't seen for years. She had suddenly turned up and renewed their contact. Since then she had come regularly.

- (A) Which of the following aspects were noticed by the narrator?
 - (a) Her mother was surprised.
 - (b) Various things were missing.
 - (c) The room changed with different items.
 - (d) She did not notice anything different.
- (B) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.

Mrs. Dorling was a nice and humble lady.
- (C) How did the narrator ensure that she was talking to the right woman?
- (D) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Mrs. Dorling hid behind the door because
- (E) Why was the mother of the author surprised? State an evidence from the extract which proves that the narrator was not living with her mother earlier.

Ans. (A) (b) Various things were missing.

Explanation: When the narrator came to her house during the first half of the war, she noticed that her room looked different and various things were missing. It was that time when her mother told her about Mrs. Dorling, her old acquaintance whom she hadn't seen for years. She had suddenly renewed contact with Mrs. S. Hence, (b) is correct.

- (B) The given statement is False. It is inappropriate to say that Mrs. Dorling is a nice lady. She lacks moral values as she exploits Mrs. S's fear of war and walks away with all their valuables. She doesn't make any effort to return them later.
- (C) The narrator knew that she had rung the right bell as Mrs. Dorling, the owner of the house, was wearing the green knitted cardigan of her mother. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. When she noticed that the narrator was looking at the cardigan, she hid behind the door. This made the narrator believe that she had come to the right house.
- (D) Mrs. Dorling saw the narrator looking at her mother's cardigan which the former was wearing.

Explanation: Mrs. Dorling had never thought that the narrator would return after years to get her mother's belongings back. She was a greedy woman. She had been using all the stuff for years and didn't want to return it. When the narrator recognised her, she hid herself behind the door.

- (E) The narrator's mother was surprised because the narrator had noticed the changes quickly. The line from the extract that points out to the fact that the narrator was not living with her mother earlier is "I was home for a few days". During the pre-war times, the narrator lived in some other city far away from home and she visited her mother only for a few days.

The Narrator Remembers What her Mother had Told her

After the denial, the narrator started going back to the station, thinking about her mother. Her mother had given her Mrs. Dorling's address years ago. It was the first half of the war. The narrator was home for a few days and, she noticed that the room looked different. Various things were missing. It was that time when the narrator's mother told her about Mrs. Dorling, an old acquaintance. She had suddenly renewed her contact with Mrs. S.

She also informed her that whenever Mrs. Dorling came, she took something home with her. The reason Mrs. Dorling gave for taking their belongings

was that she wanted to save all the precious things, as the narrator's mother would not be able to save everything if they had to leave the place suddenly and might end up losing everything. The narrator's mother had accepted the idea. She was rather obliged that Mrs. Dorling was carrying such heavy luggage every time she visited, as it was really risky during the war.

Example 3. The story is divided into pre-War and post-War times. What hardships do you think the girl underwent during these times? [NCERT]

Ans. The story is set during World War II. During the war, the narrator and her mother were in great fear, and they had to leave their house in order to seek refuge. They were forced to eat black bread, and they were always afraid of being caught and sent to a concentration camp along with other Jews. There, they couldn't even look out of the window, as it was covered with black-out paper. They couldn't sleep peacefully, even for one night.

The narrator lost her mother, and even after the war, she continued to live in the same room in which she lived during the war. The windows were still covered with black-out paper, and she lived in very poor conditions. Thus, we can say that the narrator had suffered a lot and is still going through much hardship in her life.

The Narrator Remembers When She Met Mrs. Dorling in Person

The narrator arrived at the station without having paid much attention to things on the way. She was walking in familiar places again for the first time since the war. She didn't want to upset herself with the familiar sight of streets and houses full of memories from a precious time. In the train, she remembered the first time she had seen Mrs. Dorling. It was the morning after the day her mother had told her about Mrs. Dorling. She was wearing a brown coat and a shapeless hat. The narrator asked her mother if she lived far away, as she was carrying a heavy case. Her mother told her that Mrs. Dorling lived at Marconi Street, Number 46.

Initially, the Narrator was Reluctant to See the Family's Old Belongings

The narrator remembered the address, but she took a long time to go there. Initially, after the war was over, on one hand, she was not interested in all their belongings lying with Mrs. Dorling and on the other, she was afraid of being confronted with things that belonged to her dead mother. She did not want to see their belongings lying in Mrs. Dorling's house in boxes and cupboards and waiting in vain to be put back in their old places again. She was scared that the things might make her very nostalgic. But gradually, her life became normal again, and one day, she became curious about all the possessions that were still at the address.



Character's Mood

→ Afraid; impatient; hopeful

The Narrator Decides to Visit Again

After her first visit in vain, she decided to try a second time. This time, a girl of about fifteen opened the door. The narrator asked her about Mrs. Dorling. She told her that Mrs. Dorling was not at home. She followed the girl along the passage. The narrator noticed an old-fashioned iron Hanukkah candle-holder that the narrator and her mother never used. Then, they went into the living room.

The narrator was horrified. She found herself in the midst of their old belongings that she didn't want to see and they oppressed her as they were kept in the strange atmosphere and were arranged in a tasteless way. She was hurt to see her family's belongings surrounded with a muggy smell and the ugly furniture. The tablecloth, the silver ware and even the still life showing the apple on the pewter plate belonged to her mother.

The Narrator's Keen Observation of Mrs. Dorling's Daughter

She was carefully observing the girl, who had a broad back just like her mother, Mrs. Dorling. She was pouring tea from a white teapot that had a gold border on the lid, and then she took some spoons out from the box. As she turned to give her the cup, she informed the narrator that the box is antique. The narrator already knew what she was talking about as everything in that room belonged to her mother. She also found the burn mark on the table cloth. The narrator indirectly gave a hint to her by saying that one gets so used to touching things in their house, they hardly notice anything. It gets noticed only when something is missing or it needs to be repaired or because one has lent it.

Example 4. How did Mrs. Dorling's daughter treat the narrator? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. Unlike Mrs. Dorling, the daughter invited the narrator inside her house. She was kind and welcoming. She also offered her a cup of tea.

The Narrator Remember Polishing the Silver Cutlery

The narrator remembers the time when her mother was alive and the narrator was at home as she was ill. Her mother asked her to polish the silver cutlery. She was surprised to hear that the cutlery that

they were using was made of silver, and even Mrs. Dorling's daughter was surprised to hear that they were using silver cutlery for eating.



Character's Mood

→ Nostalgic

The Narrator's Final Resolution

The narrator said that she could not stay there any longer and decided to leave. The address was correct, but the narrator didn't want to remember it anymore. She felt that the objects reminded her of memories linked with the familiar life of old times. They had lost their value in the strange surroundings.

She comforted herself by thinking that her present house was too small to accommodate all the old stuff. She left the house, leaving all her family's belongings behind.

Example 5. Why did the narrator of the story want to forget the address?

Ans. The narrator's mother had left all her valuable things with her acquaintance, Mrs. Dorling. However, when the narrator went to Mrs. Dorling's house, she did not allow her to come into the house. The narrator did go into her house in her absence. However, she found her mother's belongings in a strange environment. The way their belongings were arranged in a tasteless manner made her oppressed and burdened. Therefore, she wanted to forget the address.

Example 6. Extract Based:

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

The address was correct but now I didn't want to remember it anymore. I wouldn't go back there because the objects that are linked in your memory with the familiar life of former times instantly lose their value when, severed from them, you see them again in strange surroundings. And what should I have done with them in a small rented room where the shreds of black-out paper still hung along the windows and no more than a handful of cutlery fitted into the narrow table drawer?

[Mod. Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

(A) What kind of emotions are filled in the narrator's heart at this time?

- (a) She's ecstatic upon finding her mother's belongings.
- (b) She's sad and feeling betrayed by Mrs. Dorling.

- (c) She's full of gratitude for Mrs. Dorling for taking care of her mother's belongings.
- (d) All of the above.
- (B) "And what should I have done with them in a small rented room where the shreds of black-out paper still hung along the windows". What does the given line suggest?
- (C) Complete the sentence appropriately
A word from the paragraph which means the same as "small pieces" is
- (D) What is the tone and mood of the above extract?
- (E) Under what circumstances did the narrator's mother allow their valuable possessions to be carried away?

Ans. (A) (b) *She's sad and feeling betrayed by Mrs. Dorling.*

Explanation: When the narrator sees her mother's valuables in a strange surroundings in Mrs. Dorling's house, she

feels oppressed. Mrs. Dorling had promised the narrator's mother, Mrs. S that she would return the belongings once the war was over. The narrator now feels betrayed by Mrs. Dorling. Hence, (b) is correct.

- (B) The given lines suggest that the narrator tried to suppress her feelings of sadness. She comforted herself by thinking that her present house was too small to accommodate all the old stuff.
- (C) Shreds.
- (D) The tone of the above extract is despairing and the mood is melancholic.
- (E) The narrator's family was Jewish. The Jews were persecuted by the Nazis. The author's mother was afraid that they have to leave their house suddenly to protect themselves. They might end up losing their valuable possessions. So, she decided to give her possessions to her acquaintance, Mrs. Dorling.



Significant Morals

- (1) War brings destruction, pain, and the loss of lives which impact humans in various ways.
- (2) The disruption and catastrophic impact that war has brought to the lives of the narrator and her mother.
- (3) A person should leave their past behind and move on with their lives.



Dictionary

Words	Meanings	Synonyms	Antonyms
<i>Poignant</i>	arousing sadness	saddening	unaffected
<i>Chink</i>	narrow opening	gap	compact
<i>Fleetingly</i>	for a short time	momentary	lasting
<i>Musty</i>	stale	smelly	fresh
<i>Acquaintance</i>	known person	familiarity	stranger
<i>Lugging</i>	carrying	lift	keep
<i>Reprovingly</i>	with disapproval	unfavorable	approvingly
<i>Confronted</i>	come face to face	challenge	avoid
<i>Endured</i>	survived	live through	short - lived
<i>Oppressed</i>	saddened	disheartened	liberated
<i>Fancied</i>	desired	yearn	disliked

OBJECTIVE Type Questions

[1 mark]

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Why did the author visit Mrs. Dorling's house?

- (a) She was missing Mrs. Dorling.
- (b) Mrs. Dorling asked her to come over.
- (c) Mrs. Dorling had belongings of the author's mother.
- (d) The narrator's mother wanted her to do so.

Ans. (c) Mrs. Dorling had belongings of the author's mother.

Explanation: The author suddenly decided to see all her precious belongings lying in Mrs. Dorling's house. Earlier, she was afraid of being confronted with her past memories, but as things became normal in her life, she got curious about all the things and, wanted to touch them. Hence, (c) is correct.

2. Which of the following is the correct description given by the author about Mrs. Dorling when she met her for the first time?

- (a) A woman with a straight back.
- (b) A woman with a broad back.
- (c) A woman with a bended back.
- (d) A woman with a round back.

Ans. (b) A woman with a broad back.

Explanation: Mrs. Dorling was a woman with a broad back. She wore a brown coat and a shapeless hat. She picked up the heavy suitcase lying under the coat rack and left the narrator's house. Hence, (b) is correct.

3. Mrs. S gave her possessions to Mrs. Dorling as she wanted:

- (a) to sell them (b) for show-off
- (c) to use them (d) to keep them safe

Ans. (d) to keep them safe

Explanation: Mrs. Dorling told Mrs. S that she wanted to save all their precious possessions, as if they had to leave the place someday, they would lose everything. Hence, (d) is correct.

4. In what condition did the author find the living room of Mrs. Dorling?

- (a) Clean (b) Old-fashioned
- (c) Disorganised (d) Modern

Ans. (c) Disorganised

Explanation: The narrator found the living room in a haphazard condition. She was hurt to see her mother's belongings being arranged in a tasteless way. There was a humid smell in the room and the furniture looked ugly. This made her heart heavy. Hence, (c) is correct.

5. According to the given story, Mrs. Dorling can be described as:

- (a) selfish
- (b) an opportunist
- (c) materialistic
- (d) all the options mentioned

Ans. (d) all the options mentioned

Explanation: Mrs. Dorling comes across as a selfish and rude woman in the story. She exploits Mrs. S by taking advantage of her situation and takes away all their precious possessions with her. She doesn't make an effort to return the belongings to the narrator and refuses to identify her. Hence, (d) is correct.

6. Why was each sound different?

- (a) Because of the strange and different atmosphere.
- (b) Due to different languages.
- (c) Because of the mixed feelings.
- (d) As the things no longer belonged to her.

[Delhi Gov. SQP 2022]

Ans. (a) Because of the strange and different atmosphere.

Explanation: Here, 'sound' means the thoughts of the author about the things that came from her memories. All her belongings were kept in a strange atmosphere in Mrs. Dorling's house. Therefore, the narrator heard her strange voice. Hence, (a) is correct.

7. "I was in a room I knew and did not know." The narrator felt so because:

- (a) her mother's belongings were arranged in a tasteless manner.
- (b) it oppressed her in the strange atmosphere.
- (c) both (a) and (b).
- (d) none of the above.

[Diksha]

Ans. (c) both (a) and (b).

Explanation: The narrator was feeling oppressed in Mrs. Dorling's house when she saw her mother's belongings kept in a tasteless manner. The objects had lost their worth in that strange atmosphere. Hence, (c) is correct.

Extract Based Questions

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

And one day I noticed I was curious about all the possessions that must still be at that address. I wanted to see them, touch, remember. After my first visit in vain to Mrs. Dorling's house, I decided to try a second time. Now a girl of about fifteen opened the door to me. I asked her if her mother was at home.

- (A) In the above stanza, which possessions are being discussed by the narrator?
- (a) Things that are owned by the narrator.
- (b) Things taken away by Mrs. Dorling.
- (c) Things that were important to her mother.
- (d) Things which were stolen by someone
- (B) Complete the sentence appropriately.
The author felt curious about her possessions because
- (C) Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "I wanted to see them, touch, remember".
- (D) Why does the author recount the first meeting with Mrs. Dorling in vain?

Ans. (A) (b) Things taken away by Mrs. Dorling.

Explanation: Every time Mrs. S's old acquaintance visited them, she took their precious possessions in a heavy suitcase. She made them believe that she was taking their belongings so that they could be safe with her.

- (B) The author was curious about her possessions because they were associated with her mother who was no longer alive. Post Liberation, when things became normal in the narrator's life, she became curious about all the possessions that were still at the address. She wanted to see them, touch and remember.
- (C) One can infer that the author suddenly became curious to see the possessions lying at Mrs. Dorling's house. In order to relive the memories of her mother, she needed to see and touch them as her mother had passed away.

- (D) When the narrator visited Mrs. Dorling's house for the first time, she did not give any sign of recognition. She kept staring at her in silence, which led the narrator think that she might have come to the wrong house. The narrator had only seen Mrs. Dorling once before this meeting, fleetingly and years ago. Mrs. Dorling was wearing the narrator's mother's green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. When she saw the narrator noticing the cardigan, she hid behind the door. The first visit went in vain as Mrs. Dorling even refused to talk to her and asked her to come later.

9. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

I looked up. The girl put cups ready on the tea-table. She had a broad back. Just like her mother. She poured tea from a white pot. All it had was a gold border on the lid, I remembered. She opened a box and took some spoons out. 'That's a nice box,' I heard my own voice. It was a strange voice. As though each sound was different in this room. 'Oh, you know about them?' She had turned around and brought me my tea. She laughed. 'My mother says it is antique. We've got lots more.' She pointed round the room. 'See for yourself.'

- (A) What similarity did the author notice about the daughter of Mrs. Dorling?
- (a) She had a voice like her mother
- (b) She had an attitude like her mother
- (c) She had a broad back like her mother.
- (d) She styled her clothes like her mother.
- (B) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.
'I heard my own voice' means to speak about important facts.
- (C) The narrator says, "That's a nice box". What does this indicate?
- (D) What did the narrator realise after seeing her mother's possessions ?

Ans. (A) (c) She had a broad back like her mother.

Explanation: When the girl was pouring tea from the teapot for the narrator, she looked up and noticed that she had a broad back like Mrs. Dorling, her mother. Hence, (c) is correct.

- (B) The above statement is False. After Mrs. Dorling's daughter had poured tea from the teapot, she opened a box and took

some spoons out of it. The narrator complimented her about the box. She found herself in a familiar room with familiar objects. She heard her own voice because complimenting the girl about the box was pointless in that situation. Her own voice seemed strange to her.

- (C) After pouring the tea from the teapot, the girl opened a box to take out the cutlery. The narrator said, "That's a nice

box", because she had recognized that it belonged to her mother.

- (D) After seeing her mother's belongings arranged in a tasteless way in Mrs. Dorling's house, the narrator realises the value of things in one's life. She says that one only notices when something is missing, needs to be repaired, or has been lent.

SHORT ANSWER Type Questions (SA)

[2 marks]

Answer the following questions in about 40 - 50 words:

- 10. These days, it is very difficult to identify a person's real intention. Elucidate with reference to Mrs. Dorling.**

Ans. Mrs. Dorling was a greedy, self - centered and unreliable person. She was an opportunist who took advantage of Mrs. S's fear that she might lose her belongings if she had to leave her house in a rush. She was not a trustworthy lady as she betrayed the trust of Mrs. S.

- 11. In what attire did the author find Mrs. Dorling? [Delhi Gov. Term - 2 SQP 2022]**

Ans. When the narrator visited Mrs. Dorling's house for the first time, she recognised the green knitted cardigan of her mother that Mrs. Dorling was wearing.

- 12. What is the central subject of the story?**

Ans. This short story is a poignant account of a daughter who went in search of her mother's belongings after the war, in Holland. However, the lady with whom her mother had left the belongings planned to exploit them by taking advantage of their situation. She did not allow the daughter to come into her house and refused to recognise her. Nevertheless, the daughter did visit again in her absence, and found their belongings in a strange environment. This evoked a feeling of sadness in her heart and she decided to forget the address forever. Thus, the story revolves around the theme of exploitation and challenges that a person has to face while resolving crisis in their own lives.

- 13. Who was Mrs. Dorling? Where did she live?**

Ans. Mrs. Dorling was an old acquaintance of the narrator's mother. She lived at Number 46, Marconi Street, in Holland. She renewed

contact with Mr. S when the Nazis invaded Holland. In fact, she was a selfish woman who wanted to usurp the belongings of the narrator's mother.

- 14. How did the acquaintance of the narrator's mother behave with her when she came to her house?**

Ans. The woman was rather shocked to see the narrator back. She had thought that no one would have returned after the war was over. When the narrator visited her house to claim her belongings, she behaved rudely and showed no sign of recognition. She did not allow her to come into her house.

- 15. Why do you think the narrator and her mother left Holland ?**

Ans. It was the time of the Second World War and the narrator and her mother lived in Holland. They were Jews. Holland was invaded by Germany. The Nazi regime, under the leadership of Hitler, started atrocities against the Jews. They were arrested and sent to the concentration camps. Therefore, the narrator and her mother decided to leave Holland for safety.

- 16. Why did the narrator think that she had come to the wrong house? How did she become sure that she had reached the right address?**

Ans. When the narrator went to Mrs. Dorling's address, the latter refused to recognise her. The narrator thought that perhaps she had come to the wrong address. Then she saw the lady wearing the green knitted cardigan that belonged to her mother. She became assured that she had come to the right address.

17. Why did Mrs. Dorling renew her contact with the narrator's mother?

Ans. It was wartime. The Nazis had invaded Holland. They were after the Jews. Many Jews were arrested and sent to the concentration camps while others fled from Holland. The narrator and her mother also decided to leave Holland. Mrs. Dorling knew that the narrator's mother had many valuable things. That's why she renewed her contact with Mrs. S suddenly. On the pretext of keeping them safe, she wanted to usurp them. She took advantage of their situation and exploited the narrator's mother's fears of the war. She pretended to protect all their valuables by taking them away with her.

18. Why did the narrator reach the station without paying much attention to the things on her way?

Ans. When the narrator went to Mrs. Dorling's house for the first time, she showed no sign of recognition and denied talking to the narrator. The narrator went to the station without noticing any details on the way. She didn't want to upset her with the familiar sights of houses and streets that reminded her of her precious times.

19. Why did the narrator not go further than was necessary?

Ans. The narrator had not gone further than necessary because she knew that going further would evoke in her the old memories. She wanted to forget that time.

20. What did the narrator observe when she visited Mrs. Dorling's house the second time?

Ans. When the narrator made another visit to Mrs. Dorling's house, she was greeted by her daughter, as Mrs. Dorling was not at home. As she entered the house, she saw all her mother's belongings arranged in a distasteful manner in a strange atmosphere, and an unpleasant smell prevailed in the room. This made her depressed, and she decided to leave the house.

21. What did the narrator recall about the silver cutlery?

Ans. Once, the narrator's mother called her to help her polish the silver cutlery. Only then did the narrator come to know that the cutlery they use every day is made of silver.

22. "I was absolutely not interested in all that stored stuff " Who said this dialogue? Why was the person not interested?

Ans. The narrator, Mrs. S's daughter was not interested in the possessions that were at the address because they once belonged to her mother who is not alive anymore. She was terrified to see those things again as they would remind her of her dead mother.

23. Why did the narrator go to Mrs. Dorling's house? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. The narrator went to Mrs. Dorling's house to collect the possessions, which her mother had given her during wartime. She wanted to renew her past memories.

24. Why was the narrator confident that she had reached the correct address? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. The narrator remembered Mrs. Dorling's house address as told by her mother. However, when she visited Mrs. Dorling for the first time, she refused to recognise the narrator and denied talking to her. This created a doubt in the narrator's mind that perhaps she had reached the wrong address. Then she saw Mrs. Dorling wearing her mother's cardigan, and she became confident that she was at the correct address.

25. Was the narrator treated unfairly by Mrs. Dorling's daughter? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. Unlike Mrs. Dorling, her daughter invited the narrator inside her house. She even offered her a cup of tea.

26. Why did the narrator decide not to collect her belongings? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. The narrator was disappointed after recognising her belongings in a stale and dirty environment. She didn't feel comfortable after seeing all her valuable articles arranged in a distasteful manner at Mrs. Dorling's house. Hence, she decided to leave the house without collecting her belongings as they had lost their worth in the absence of Mrs. S.

27. Why did the narrator's mother ask her to remember the address by heart? [Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. The narrator's mother asked her to remember the address by heart because she gave a number of valuable articles to Mrs. Dorling during the war time. She thought that her

daughter would collect all that after the war was over.

- 28. Describe the plight of ordinary people during and after the war with reference to 'The Address'. [Diksha]**

Ans. War brings suffering, destruction and disaster in people's lives. It is futile as it leaves people with nothing. It causes damage both physically and

emotionally. It takes away the happiness from a person's life, and the person ends up being depressed and isolated. It is a curse for human bonds and relationship as seen in 'The Address'. Mrs. Dorling took advantage of Mrs. S's fear and took all her prized possessions from her with an assurance to give them back once the war was over. However, she never made an effort to return the belongings.

LONG ANSWER Type Questions (LA)

[5 marks]

Answer the following questions in about 120 - 150 words:

- 29. Why was Mrs. Dorling startled to see the narrator at her doorstep?**

Ans. The narrator and her mother had left Holland during World War II after the invasion of the Nazis. They were Jews, and the Nazis sent the Jews to the concentration camps to die. The narrator and her mother knew that their lives were in danger. Therefore, they decided to leave Holland and go somewhere else. The narrator's mother had many valuable things. She wanted to save those things. Therefore, she left them with one of her acquaintances. Eventually, the war ended. The mother had also died. The narrator decided to meet the mother's acquaintance. The acquaintance had never expected that anyone would come back. Therefore, she said, 'Have you come back?' I thought that no one had come back.' She was shocked to see the narrator on her doorstep, as she thought they wouldn't be alive anymore.

- 30. Write a brief note on Mrs. Dorling.**

Ans. The author introduces Mrs. Dorling as her mother's acquaintance who had suddenly renewed contact with her mother during the time of the war. She is being described as a negative person who is mean, greedy, and dishonest. She only knows how to exploit people and take advantage of their situations. During the war, she visited Mrs. S's house because she knew that she had expensive things in her house. She pretended to keep their belongings safe with her and carried them with her in a heavy suitcase. Her intention was not honourable at all. She wanted to decorate her house with their belongings.

She also lacks good sense and decency. When the narrator visited her house after the war was over to claim her belongings, she refused to even recognise her. She didn't even allow the narrator to walk into her house. Instead, the sight of the narrator at her doorstep gave her a shocking surprise. She was quite sure that she and her mother would not come alive after the war.

- 31. "I resolved to forget the address; of all the things I had to forget, that would be the easiest". What made the narrator say this? What does it tell about her personality?**

Ans. The narrator's mother had left all her valuable things with her acquaintance, Mrs. Dorling. However, when the narrator went to Mrs. Dorling's house to claim her possessions, she did not allow the narrator to come into the house. Later, she made another visit into her house in her absence. This time, she found her mother's belongings arranged in a strange environment. They were arranged in a tasteless manner. Those things had lost all their emotional value for her. She did not even want to look at those things. Moreover, she was living in a small rented room where there was no space to keep the things with her. Therefore, she wanted to forget the address. According to her it was the easiest of all the things she wanted to forget. This tells the readers that the narrator was disappointed after she came out of the house. She was horrified to see her mother's belongings kept in a hideous way. She didn't want to think about them anymore. She desired to move on in life.

- 32. After reading the story, what opinion do you form about the narrator's character?**

[Delhi Gov. QB 2022]

Ans. The narrator comes across as an emotional yet brave woman who is determined to leave the past behind and move ahead in life. She belongs to an affluent Jewish family but ultimately becomes the victim of war, losing out on everything in life. She has been suspicious of Mrs. Dorling since the beginning but has unwavering faith in her mother's decision to give away their valuables to her.

When she pays her first visit to Mrs. Dorling, she gets upset because she refuses to recognise her. Although disheartened, she doesn't lose hope and visits her house again. However, when she sees her mother's beautiful things kept by Mrs. Dorling in a tasteless manner, she loses interest in those things. With a feeling of detachment, she goes back to her rented room and decides to start life afresh. She is a brave and confident girl who only wants to live in the present.

33. Imagine that you are Mrs. Dorling. You are filled with regret for your actions and want to apologize for them. Write a letter to the narrator describing your feelings and your desire to make amends.

Ans. Number 46

Calvin Street

Holland

4th June, 1945

Dear Marga,

How have you been? You must be shocked to receive this letter from me. Honestly, even I had not expected to be writing this letter to you. I hope this letter can help me speak my heart out.

A few days ago, you paid a visit to my house to claim your belongings, and I behaved with you in a rude manner. I didn't even ask you for a cup of coffee, and I even refused to recognise you. What came over me, I don't know! I feel like a thief now. Your mother was always kind to me, and she trusted me with her possessions. I have cheated the departed soul and betrayed her trust. I should have made an effort to return those things once the war was over.

I am apologizing for my actions and rude behaviour. I have decided to make amends. I will soon return all the stuff to you. Also, you are welcome anytime at my house. Tell me what more I can do to undo the terrible things I have done.

Yours lovingly,

Mrs. Dorling

34. How is the title of the story 'The Address' apt and suitable? [Mod. Diksha]

Ans. 'The Address' discusses the consequences of war. During the war, the narrator's mother asked her to remember Mrs. Dorling's address so that she could reclaim their belongings once the war was over. Post-war, when the narrator visited Mrs. Dorling's house, she was upset to have met with an unwelcoming attitude. She refused to identify the narrator and was even surprised to see her alive. However, she made another visit to her house out of curiosity. This time she went inside, as Mrs. Dorling was not at home. The narrator was horrified to see her mother's possessions arranged in a tasteless manner in a strange setting. She felt miserable and burdened.

The story ends with the narrator's resolve to forget the address. She didn't want to go back and see her mother's belongings ever again, as they had lost their worth in the absence of Mrs. S. Thus, the entire story revolves around the address: House number 46, Marconi Street.

35. What kind of a welcome did the narrator expect from Mrs. Dorling? What behaviour did she get from her? Why do you think it was/was not justified?

[Delhi Gov. SQP 2022]

Ans. When the narrator visited Mrs. Dorling's house to see her mother's belongings, she anticipated Mrs. Dorling to be cordial and friendly. Mrs. S trusted Mrs. Dorling when she gave her valuables to her. However, when the narrator paid her first visit, Mrs. Dorling treated her in a cold and indifferent way. It was evident that she was displeased to see the narrator. She didn't even let her enter the house and tried to shut the gate on the spot. She was shocked to see the narrator as she had assumed that no one would return after the war. She asked the narrator to leave with an excuse that she was occupied at the moment. The behaviour is not justified as the narrator was there to just see her mother's belongings. The objects were linked with the memories of her mother who didn't exist anymore.

36. What is the theme of the story?

Ans. The central theme of the story, "The Address" is the personal struggles that we all face as individuals while resolving crisis in our own lives. War brings death and destruction in a person's life and creates a de-humanising

effect on human beings. This can be observed in the character of Mrs. Dorling who wanted to take advantage of Mrs. S. She made a commitment to keep the belongings safe while the war was ongoing, but never intended to return them. She wanted to adorn her house

with the belongings. When the narrator visited her house and saw her mother's belongings kept in an odd environment, and in a tasteless manner, she realized that they have been betrayed by Mrs. Dorling who pretended to help her mother.

