



18

THE LITTLE GIRL

All fathers are not alike. Some show their love and affection for their children and play with them. Others also love and care for their children but they show it by working hard for them and giving them instructions and advice. Read the story and find out what the little girl's father was like.



OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson you will be able to:

- describe the kind of relationship between Kezia and her parents;
- comment on Kezia's father's attitude towards her and analyse its impact on her personality;
- analyse your own relationship with your parents in terms of mutual communication and expectations;
- suggest ways to promote a healthy relationship between parents and children;
- write short and consistent paragraphs;
- use simple past tense, and
- improve your vocabulary.



18.1 LET US READ THE TEXT

To the little girl he was a figure to be feared and avoided. Every morning before going to work he came into her room and gave her a casual kiss, to which she responded with "Goodbye, father". And oh, the glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter and fainter down the long road!

fainter and fainter:
Sound becoming low
gradually



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In the evening when he came home she stood near the staircase and heard his loud voice in the hall. “Bring my tea into the drawing-room...Hasn't the paper come yet? Mother, go and see if my paper's out there-and bring me my slippers.”

“Kezia”, mother would call her, “if you are a good girl you can come down and take off father’s boots.” Slowly the girl would slip down the stairs, more slowly still, across the hall, and push open the drawing-room door.

By that time he had his spectacles on and looked at her over them in a way that was terrifying to the little girl.

“Well, Kezia, hurry up and pull off these boots and take them outside. Have you been a good girl today?”

“Id-d-don’t know, father.”

“You d-d-don’t know? If you stutter like that mother will have to take you to the doctor.”

She never stuttered with other people—had quite given it up – but only with father, because then she was trying so hard to say the words properly.

“What's the matter? What are you looking so wretched about? Mother, I wish you teach this child not to appear on the brink of suicide ... Here, Kezia, carry my tea cup back to the table carefully.”

He was so big – his hand and his neck, especially his mouth when he yawned. Thinking about him alone was like thinking about a giant.

On Sunday afternoons grandmother sent her down to the drawing – room to have a “nice talk with father and mother”. But the little girl always found mother reading and father stretched out on the sofa, his handkerchief on his face, his feet on one of the best cushions, sleeping soundly and snoring.

She sat on a stool, gravely watched him until he woke and stretched, and asked the time – then looked at her.

“Don’t stare so, Kezia. You look like a little brown owl.”

One day, when she was kept indoors with a cold, the grandmother told her that father’s birthday was next week, and suggested she should make him a pin-cushion for a gift out of a beautiful piece of yellow silk.

to pull off: remove

to stutter: not to speak normally due to a speech problem

wretched: miserable, very sad

brink of suicide: extremely dejected and frustrated

nice talk: here means polite and informal talk/ interaction

stretch out: to keep legs straight on the sofa or bed

gravely: seriously

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Laboriously with double cotton, the little girl stitched three sides. But what to fill it with? That was the question. The grandmother was out in the garden, and she wandered into mother's bedroom to look for 'scraps'. On the bed table she discovered, a great many sheets of fine paper, gathered them up, tore them into tiny pieces, and stuffed her case, then sewed up the fourth side.

That night there was a hue and cry in the house. Father's great speech for the Port Authority had been lost. Rooms were searched-servants questioned. Finally mother came into Kezia's room.

"Kezia, I suppose you didn't see some papers on a table in our room?"

"Oh yes," she said, "I tore them up for my surprise."

"What" screamed mother "Come straight down to the dining-room this instant."

And she was dragged down to where father was pacing to and fro, hand behind his back.

"Well?" he said sharply.

Mother explained.

He stopped and stared at the child.

"Did you do that?"

"N-n-no," she whispered.

"Mother, go up to her room and fetch down the damned thing-see that the child's put to bed this instant."

Crying too much to explain, she lay in the shadowed room watching the evening light make a sad little pattern on the floor.

Then father came into the room with a ruler in his hands.

"I am going to beat you for this," he said.

"Oh, no, no", she screamed, hiding under the bed clothes.

He pulled them aside.

"Sit up," he ordered, "and hold out your hands. You must be taught once and for all not to touch what does not belong to you."



Notes



to stuff: to push in a something into a small space in a careless way

stared: looked angrily

to fetch down: to bring down

screamed: shouted/cried fiercely due to fear



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“But it was for your b-b-birthday.”

Down came the ruler on her little, pink palms.

Hours later, when the grandmother had wrapped her in a shawl and rocked her in the rocking-chair, the child clung to her soft body.

“What did God make fathers for?” she sobbed.

“Here’s a clean hanky, darling. Blow your nose. Go to sleep, pet; you’ll forget all about it in the morning. I tried to explain to Father but he was too upset to listen tonight.”

But the child never forgot. Next time she saw him she quickly put both hands behind her back and a red colour flew into the cheeks.

The MacDonalds lived next door. They had five children. Looking through a hole in the fence the little girl saw them playing ‘tag’ in the evening. The father with the baby Mao on his shoulders, two little girls hanging on to his coat pockets ran round and round the flower beds, shaking with laughter. Once she saw the boys turn the hose on him—turn the hose on him—and tried to catch them laughing all the time.

Then it was she decided there were different sorts of fathers.

Suddenly, one day, mother became ill, and she and grandmother went to hospital.



The little girl was left alone in the house with Alice the cook. That was all right in the daytime, but while Alice was putting her to bed she grew suddenly afraid.

“What’ll I do if I have a nightmare?” she asked. “I often have nightmares and then Grannie takes me into her bed—I can’t stay in the dark—It all gets ‘whispery’”

“You just go to sleep, child,” said Alice, pulling off her socks, “and don’t you scream and wake your poor Pa.”

But the same old nightmare came—the butcher with a knife and a rope, who came nearer and nearer, smiling that dreadful smile, while she could not move, could only stand still, crying out, “Grandma! Grandma!” She woke shivering to see father beside her bed, a candle in his hand.



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“What’s the matter?” he said.

“Oh, a butcher—a knife—I want Grannie.” He blew out the candle, bent down and caught up the child in his arms, carrying her along the passage to the big bedroom. A newspaper was on the bed—a half-smoked cigar was near his reading-lamp. He put away the paper, threw the cigar into the fire-place, then carefully tucked up the child. He lay down beside her. Half asleep still, still with the butcher’s smile all about her it seemed she crept close to him, snuggled her head under his arm, held tightly to his shirt.

Then the dark did not matter; she lay still.

Tired out, he slept before the little girl. A funny feeling came over her. Poor father, not so big, after all—and with no one to look after him. And everyday he had to work and was too tired to be a Mr. Macdonald. She had torn up all his beautiful writing... She stirred suddenly, and sighed.

“What’s the matter?” he asked her. “Another dream?”

“Oh,” said the little girl, “my head’s on your heart. I can hear it going. What a big heart you’ve got, father dear.”



– Katherine Mansfield
(an adaptation)

18.2 LET US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

18.2.1 PART 1

To the little girllittle brown and owl.

Unit -1 tells you about the relationship between Kezia and her father and how Kezia is affected. Lets read and find out what Kezias father expects from her and how she responds to it. The expression ‘to be feared and avoided’ indicates that she was afraid of her father. He would always give her instructions or orders but never made an effort to know what she expected from him. She wanted his love and company. He only wanted her to be obedient, disciplined, organized and a perfect person. He expected her to accept the things as they are and not to question anything. As a result she couldn’t build up self confidence and didn’t feel free to talk. If she tried to talk she would end up stuttering. Her father never tried to find out what was going wrong on in her life. He never gave her time to open her mind to him.





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LET US DO 18.1

Your father is back home from his place of work. You have told him about your programme of going to a movie with your friends and have demanded money for it. He is not happy at your decision and does not approve of it. You have objected to his disapproval by saying, “Papa, I don’t expect this of you!” In this connection your father has asked you to share your expectations from him. He also tells you about his expectations from you. Write three expectations you think your parents should fulfil and three which they would want you to consider. One example is given for you. Write two more.

	Children’s expectations		Parents’ expectations
1.	Parents should not force their likes and dislikes on their children	1.	Children should give due respect to their parents.
2.		2.	
3.		3.	



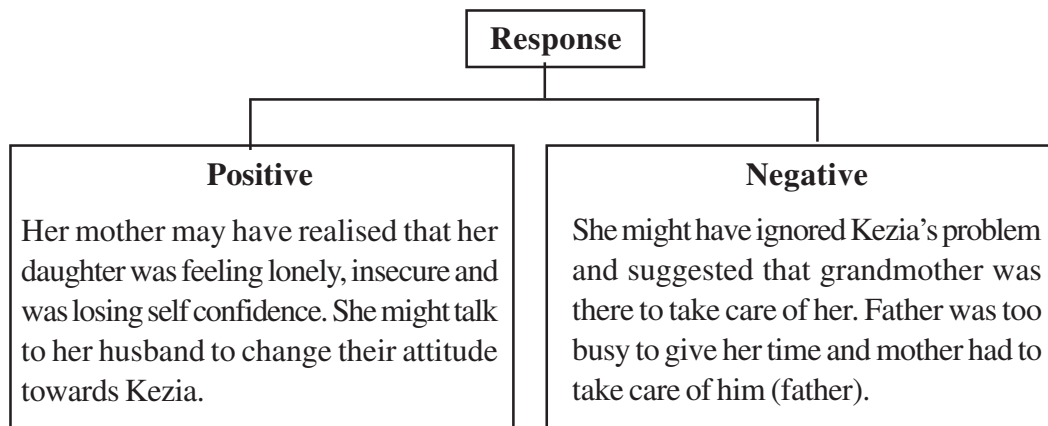
INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.1

Answer the following questions.

- 1 (i) Write Kezia's feelings about her father. Pick out the expressions/phrases from the text to support your answer.
- (ii) What was the real reason behind Kezia’s stuttering?
- (iii) Kezia’s parents never encouraged her to have an open conversation with them. Give an example from the text.
- (iv) Kezia did not object to her parents’ attitude towards her. Describe at least two options she could have considered in order to make them understand her view point, also mention one positive and one negative consequence of her efforts. One example is given for you.

Example :

Option: Kezia could have expressed her feelings to her mother that she wanted to have a more open relationship with them.



2. Why do you think Kezia was more attached to her grandmother than to her mother?
3. Kezia's mother is passive in her attitude towards her. If you were in her mother's place what would you have done to promote a more positive relationship between Kezia and her father?
4. Read the following statements and write 'True', 'False', or 'Not sure' against each one.
 - a. Kezia was scared of her father.
 - b. Her father did not like her.
 - c. Her father did not love her.
 - d. Her grandmother always showed interest in her.
 - e. Kezia's mother was careless about her daughter.
 - f. Her father always disapproved of every move of hers.
5. Tick the right option to complete the following statement
 Kezia's grandmother sent her to have a nice talk with her parents so that
 - she could get over the feeling of fear of her father.
 - she could tell her father how deeply she missed his love and company.
 - her mother comes to understand her daughter's feelings and takes interest in her.
 - the communication gap that was harming her personality development could be overcome.
 - all the above reasons.



LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 18.1

Pick out the words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following:

- seriously _____
- very unhappy _____



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LET US DO 18.2

What makes us give gifts to our parents? How do we expect them to respond to our token of affection?

Tick your choice

- (i) Take it and put it among other gifts.
- (ii) Give us a return gift.
- (iii) Appreciate our feelings behind it.

Kezia gives a gift to her father on his birthday. Let us read and find out how he responds to her.

18.2.2 PART 2

One day when she was kept indoors..... red colour flew in to the cheeks.

On the suggestion of her grandmother Kezia makes a beautiful pin cushion for her father's birthday. She thought he would appreciate her feelings behind it. Out of ignorance she stuffed it with papers which were very important to her father. He was furious when he came to know about this. She pleaded that it was for his birthday. Instead of being soft to her he punished her by hitting her palms with a ruler. She screamed but her father believed this was the only way to teach her not to touch what did not belong to her. Kezia was deeply hurt at heart. Her question to her grandmother 'What did God make fathers for?' shows the intensity of her feelings. Her grandmother believed that she would forget the incident but she did not. She was hurt emotionally. Physical wounds heal but emotional ones don't.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.2

Let us answer the questions:

1. Tick the correct answers to complete the statements:
 - A Kezia made a pin cushion for her father because
 - a. she loved him and wanted to give him a surprise.
 - b. he needed it for his study table.
 - c. her grandmother gave her the idea.
 - B. Kezia's father punished her because
 - a. he didn't love her.

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- b. he already had a pin cushion.
- c. Kezia had accidentally destroyed father's speech and punishment was his way of teaching her a lesson.
2. Kezia's grandmother believed that Kezia would forget the pain by next morning. Was she right? Pick out the words from the text to support your answer.
3. Kezia told the truth to her mother about the missing sheets of paper. Her mother handed her over to her father. Do you think it was right on her part? If you were in her mother's place, what would you have done?
4. Kezia clung to her grandmother and sobbed, "What did God make fathers for"? Why do you think she said so? Choose the correct option:
- a. She found her father to be harsh and angry all the time.
- b. She wanted to be with her grandmother only.
- c. She wanted her father to spend more time at home with her.
5. You are Kezia. Express your feelings about your father's behaviour when you gave him a birthday gift. Write your answer in 50-60 words.



LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 18.2

1. Pick out the words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following:
- a. small pieces of something _____
- b. shouting with anger _____
2. Fill in the blanks in each of the following sets of sentences with suitable words from the bracket.
- a. (planned, suggested, advised)
- (i) My brother _____ me to see the doctor without delay.
- (ii) My friend _____ that we should go for evening walk together.
- b. (preparing, making, doing)
- (i) My sister is _____ a beautiful sweater for me.
- (ii) Sooraj will not accompany us as he is _____ for exams.
- c. (gazed, stared, glanced)
- (i) She became self conscious when her teacher _____ at her.
- (ii) Both father and daughter _____ at the stars as they sat by the lake.



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18.2.3 PART 3

The McDonalds What a big heart you have, father dear.

Let us read and find out what Kezia's choice is: Kezia never got an opportunity to enjoy the company of her parents. She did not have an open relationship with them. In this unit we shall read what she thought when she found the McDonalds playing and enjoying together. She could see the thrill and joy on their faces. She wondered if it could be the same with her family. Her father had never been friendly with her, never encouraged her to feel free with him. She realized that all fathers are not alike. Her father was of a different sort. However, she wanted to enjoy her parents' company.

Another incident happened which made Kezia realise something new about her father. Kezia was left alone at night when her mother was hospitalized and her grandmother accompanied her (mother). She had a nightmare. She screamed calling out for grandmother. Her father came and comforted her. She had an opportunity to be close to him. The way he cared for her, comforted her, gave her a sense of security by taking her under his arms and made her realise that her father had indeed a big heart. He was not able to spend time with her because he was busy during the day. She says, "You have got a big heart, father dear."



LET US DO 18.3

On Sunday your father gives you a choice: spend the day with your parents or go with your friends. What will you choose? Give at least two reasons for your choice.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.3

A. Let us answer the following questions:

1. On the basis of your reading of the unit fill in the blanks in the following passage. The first letter of the word is given as a hint.

Kezia observed in the McDonalds family, that their father was d_____ from her father. He spent _t_____ in the _c_____ of his five children. All of them were _f_____ with their father and their life was _h_____ and _i_____. She thought perhaps all fathers are not _s_____.

2. Write short answers to the following:

- (i) Why was Kezia scared of being alone in the dark?
- (ii) Why did Kezia cry out for her grandmother? Who attended to her?

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- (iii) What did Kezia's father do when he found that she was frightened?
- (iv) Kezia found her father soft and caring. What did she think about her father after the incident of the nightmare?
- 3 Tick the right choice to complete the following statement:
- On the night when Kezia was alone her father was very caring and warm in his behaviour towards her because
- (i) Kezia's grandmother had instructed him to be so.
- (ii) Kezia had called out for him.
- (iii) he cared for her though he had never expressed it.



LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 18.3

1. Pick out the words from the passage which mean the opposite of the following:
- Soft _____
 - Light _____
2. Fill in the blanks using appropriate words from the ones given in the box.

asked, shouted, screamed, trembling, shivering and shaking

- (i) My teacher found me _____ with cold in the examination hall. She gave me her shawl. I felt warm and comfortable.
- (ii) During our visit to a zoo a Cheeta broke out of its cage and ran about. We stood _____ under the tree fearing its attack.
- (iii) The mother _____ for help when her child fell into the ditch.
- (iv) Sagar _____ at the worker when he dropped the hammer on the glass table top.



18.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

Exercise 1

1. Read the following sentences and underline the verbs.
- (i) Raman wanted to continue his studies after schooling but his father wanted him to join the family business. Raman discussed it with him and ultimately convinced him that he would help him as well as continue his studies through NIOS.



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- (ii) Yesterday I called my manager and expressed my desire to be allowed to handle the new machinery.

Note-These verbs are in their past form and are the example of simple past tense. Simple past tense refers to the action which took place in the past and the verbs (action words) are used in their second form.

Simple past is some times indicated by the past signals such as ‘yesterday’, ‘last Sunday’, ‘previously’ etc.

2. Fill in the following blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets.

Last Monday we _____ (go) to attend parents’ day in my daughter’s Aanganwadi school. The teacher _____ (tell) me that she _____ (want) to participate in sports as well as cultural activities in the *Aanganwadi* but due to her poor health she _____ (allow) her to take part only in one activity.

Exercise 2

1. Read the following sentences carefully and notice the structure of each sentence.

- a. Why did he give up his studies after schooling?
- b. He gave up studies because his father wanted him to help him in his family business.
- c. Didn’t you advise him to join NIOS and appear for his examination?
- d. Yes, I told him about NIOS. He said that he would think over it.

- Sentence (a) begins with interrogative word ‘Why’ and a question has been asked. The structure of the sentence is: ‘interrogative word + did + subject + verb in its root form’.
- e.g., why + did + he + give up?
- Sentence (c) is also a question beginning with didn’t (negative) + subject + verb in its root form + object. These questions are in the simple past tense.
- Sentence (b) and (d) are statements in the past tense, and their structures are sub + verb + object.

Note: Statements (positive) in simple past take the 2nd form of the verb but Interrogative sentences begin with interrogative words - (when, why, where) followed by did/didn’t and subject, and the verb is used in its root form.

- Read the following statements and write appropriate questions against each one keeping the underlined words in focus. One has been done for you:

Example:

Statement: Last Sunday he went to Chennai.

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Q. When did he go to Chennai?

(i) He joined his office last month.

Q. _____ ?

(ii) They built their office in Badli Village, after shifting from Badarpur.

Q. _____ ?

(iii) They sold their old house in order to buy a new one.

Q. _____ ?



Notes



18.4 LET US WRITE

1. Write about Kezia's father's attitude towards her in 50-60 words.
2. Think of a situation when someone did not listen to you. How did you feel at that time? Express yourself in 100 words.
3. Imagine that you are Kezia's father. The incident of the nightmare has brought about a change in your feelings/attitude towards Kezia. Write your experience, in about 80 words.
4. 'The dark didn't matter, she lay still.' Explain the significance of the statement with reference to Kezia's relationship with her father.
5. Describe any incident where you misunderstood a person, but later realised the truth.



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

In this lesson you have learnt the importance of inter-personal relationships between parents and their children, siblings and elders in a family for a smooth and successful life and a congenial atmosphere in the family.

For better relationship the first and foremost factor is mutual interaction and regular communication among the members of a family because through communication only we can understand each other's aspirations, expectations, desires, strengths and weaknesses in a better way.

It is essential that parents should spend time with their children. They should give them freedom and opportunities to express themselves. Parents should give them respect and due attention to boost their self esteem and self confidence. Children don't like when parents/elders thrust their view point and decision on them. This attitude curbs their free thinking, creativity, independent decision making ability, in other words the spontaneous development of personality gets hampered. Another important factor affecting relationship



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is that each member- child or parents should feel the necessity of fulfilling responsibilities towards one another. Otherwise things don't work and there cannot be mutual understanding and comfortable atmosphere in the family.



TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. Answer the following questions in about 100 words each.
 - (i) Comment on the role of grandmother in trying to make the family atmosphere warm and friendly.
 - (ii) Why do you think people give gifts to their loved ones?
 - (iii) Do you think Kezia's father was a cruel man who didn't love his daughter? Give reasons.
2. You are Seema /Arjun. You have got an appointment with Kezia's mother for an interview. Complete the following conversation you had with Kezia's mother using the words/phrases given in the box at the end:

Arjun: Good morning Madam.

Mother: Good morning, please, come in.

Arjun: Madam your daughter Kezia is a sweet girl. It seems she is very scared of her father. Is she scared of you too?

Mother: She is very shy and sensitive. She takes her father's comments to heart. I don't think she is scared of me.

Arjun: That's good. I hope you _____ with her.

Mother: Not much, because the _____ keeps me busy. In addition I work for a _____ from home. Her grandmother is there to give her _____

Arjun: Why is her father always so _____ with her? Doesn't he _____ for her?

Mother: He does. But he doesn't _____ it.

Arjun: Why don't you support her when her father scolds/punishes her? Don't you care for her feelings?

Mother: Her father doesn't _____ to me because he believes he is always _____.

angry, company, spend time, care, listen, right, household work, show, firm

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3. Given below are the extracts from the personal diaries of three students about their relationship with their parents. Go through them and write briefly about your relationship with your parents.

A. My parents are very strict about my daily routine, such as studies, food habits, choice of clothes, hobbies, friends etc. They think they are always right.

They expect me to obey them, help them, follow their orders, then everything will be smooth in our life. How shall I learn to meet the challenges of the changing world? I don't understand.

B. I am free to pursue my routine, have my likes and dislikes. My parents guide me when and where I need. I discuss and argue with them. But the decision is my own. They are my friends rather than my bosses. I am really fortunate. I feel it is my responsibility to share their problems and support them in their hour of need.

C. My parents are very liberal in providing me a comfortable life and freedom, but they have no time for me. They don't bother to spend time with us. I wish I could share my experiences and problems with them and feel a family bond.

Now write about your relationship with your parents in your diary.



ANSWERS

18.2.1 PART 1

INTEXT QUESTION 18.1

1. (i) Kezia was scared of her father and therefore did not feel free with him. It is evident from the expressions in the text. 'He was a figure to be feared and avoided'.
- (ii) Lack of confidence in the presence of her father. She never stuttered in the presence of others.
- (iii) Kezia's parents never encouraged her to have a free and informal interaction with them. On Sunday noons her grandmother sent her to the drawing room to have a nice talk with them. She always found her father stretching on the sofa with his handkerchief on his face and her mother reading. She sat on a stool watching them and waiting for their attention until he woke up, looked at her. Instead of giving a welcome smile and calling her affectionately to him, he remarked 'Don't stare so, Kezia, you look like a brown owl'. Such remarks would certainly work as a blow to the child's desire to get closer to her parents.



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(iv) You will give your own expectation. You can start with '*I would expect*

2. Hint

- spend time with her
- pay attention to her
- take interest in her
- guide her, wherever necessary

3. You shall give your own expectation. You can start with '*I would expect ..*

4. a) True, b) Not sure, c) Not sure, d) True, e) Not sure, f) True

5. All the above reasons

LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 18.1

gravely

wretched

18.2.2 PART 2**INTEXT QUESTION 18.2**

1. (c)
2. (c)
3. No, she was not right because Kezia didn't forget it. Whenever she saw her father she put her hands behind her.
4. Put yourself in mother's place, think over the situation and write your own answer.
5. (a)

LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 18.2

1 (a) scraps

(b) hue and cry

2 a (i) advised (ii) suggested b (i) making (ii) preparing

c (i) stared (ii) gazed

18.2.3 PART 3**INTEXT QUESTION 18.3**

1. different, time, company, free, happy, interesting, similar

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2. (i) She had nightmares when she was alone in the dark.
(ii) Because she had a nightmare, her father attended her.
(iii) He carefully tucked up the child and lay down beside her, snuggled her head under his arm.
(iv) She realized that her father was a soft hearted man. He could not spend time with her because he was busy in business matters.
- 3 (iii)

LET US LEARN NEW WORDS 18.3

1. hard, dark
- 2 (i) shivering (ii) trembling (iii) screamed, (iv) shouted

18.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

Exercise 1

- (i) Raman wanted to continue his studies, after schooling but his father wanted him to join the family business. Raman discussed with him and ultimately convinced him that he would help him as well as continue his studies through NIOS.
 - (ii) Yesterday I phoned my manager and expressed my desire to be allowed to handle the new machinery.
2. went, reported, wanted, allowed

Exercise 2

- (i) When did he join his office?
- (ii) Where did they build their office after shifting from Badarpur?
- (iii) Why did they sell their old office?

18.4 LET US WRITE

To answer this questions you can consider the following words and expressions

Always gave instructions/advice, disapproved every action of hers , didn't give her time, never encouraged her for interaction, harsh in his behaviour, used unpleasant words for her.

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1.
 - (i) She played the role of an elderly and caring person in the family, spent time with Kezia and took interest in her matters, encouraged her to have a nice talk with her parents,



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advised her to make a pin cushion for her father with the intention to bridge the communication gap between the two.

- (ii) We exchange gifts as a token of love and regard and to enhance our relationship, and to show that we care for their likes, tastes and needs. It provides an opportunity to spend time with them, to have communication and interaction with them.
 - (iii) No, he wasn't cruel. He was a father of a different sort. He advised her to be nice, disciplined and an obedient girl. It shows that he wanted to see these qualities in Kezia. When her mother and grandmother were in the hospital she was alone at home at night and when she screamed and called for grandmother her father immediately came to her and remained with her throughout.
2. Spend time, household work, firm, company, angry, care, show, listen, right.