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1. Vitamin-M Summary

Vitamin-M Summary

"Vitamin-M" is a heartwarming story by Asha Nehemiah that explores the relationship between a young boy named Ravi and his elderly grandfather. The story highlights the challenges faced by the elderly, the importance of respect and care for them, and the value of intergenerational bonding. Ravi's mother worries about Grandpa's memory and safety, leading to a protective but sometimes overbearing attitude. Despite this, Grandpa retains his independence and spirit, often surprising Ravi with his wit and actions. The story ends on a warm note with Grandpa gifting Ravi a book, symbolizing the passing of knowledge and affection.

Key Elements

- **Themes:** Respect for elders, memory and aging, family bonds, independence, and care.
- **Characters:** Ravi (the young boy), Grandpa (the elderly man), Vidya (Ravi's mother), and Ravi's father.
- **Setting:** The story is set in a city apartment and various local places like the park, barber shop, and bus, reflecting everyday life.
- **Literary Devices:** Dialogue, imagery, irony, and characterization.

Textual Evidence and Examples

Ravi's mother wishes for a "memory vitamin" to help old people, showing concern for Grandpa's forgetfulness. Grandpa's firm words about his independence reveal his strong character: "I've been looking after myself for the better part of my seventy-five years." The humorous and ironic moments, such as Grandpa's secret outing and the mix-up with the yellow cap, add depth and warmth to the narrative.

Solved Example

Q: Why does Grandpa dislike living in the city with his daughter?

A: Grandpa dislikes the city because of its noise and bustle. He misses his quiet brick house with a big mango tree where he could hear a leaf fall at dusk. The crowded city life makes him feel uncomfortable and restless.

Practice Set

Level 1 - Easy

- Who is the main character in the story "Vitamin-M"?
- What does Ravi's mother wish for to help old people?
- Where does Grandpa live before moving to the city?

Level 2 - Moderate

- Explain why Ravi's mother is worried about Grandpa's safety.
- Describe how Ravi feels about his mother treating Grandpa like a child.
- What does Grandpa's secret outing reveal about his personality?

Level 3 - Challenging

- Analyze the theme of independence versus care in the story.
- Discuss the use of irony in Grandpa's day out and how it affects the story's tone.
- Explain the significance of the gift Grandpa gives to Ravi at the end of the story.

Answer Key

- **Level 1**

- Main character: Ravi
- Memory vitamin: A wish by Ravi's mother to help old people improve their memory.
- Grandpa's previous home: A quiet brick house with a mango tree.

- **Level 2**

- Ravi's mother worries because Grandpa has memory problems and has had accidents like taking double medicine doses and getting lost.
- Ravi feels sorry for his mother but does not agree with treating Grandpa like a child; he respects his grandfather's independence.
- Grandpa's secret outing shows he is independent, spirited, and enjoys his freedom despite his age.

- **Level 3**

- The story balances the need to care for elderly people with respecting their independence, showing the challenges families face.
- Irony is used when Grandpa outsmarts Ravi and the family, adding humor and warmth to the story.
- The gift symbolizes the passing of knowledge and the affectionate bond between generations.

Quick Reference

- **Vitamin-M:** A metaphorical vitamin for memory improvement in elderly people.
- **Bustle:** Busy activity or noise.
- **Wincing:** To show embarrassment or discomfort.
- **Jauntily:** Happily and confidently.
- **Crouch:** To bend the body low.
- **Volley of:** A lot of something.
- **Deterred:** Prevented from doing something.
- **Confront:** To face or challenge.
- **Frantic:** Very frightened or anxious.
- **Creases:** Lines or folds.
- **Darted:** Looked quickly.
- **Trailing:** Following someone.
- **Solemnly:** Seriously.

Glossary

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