I'm not a bot

IntroductionThe Portrait of a Lady is a real story about the grandmother of the writer. The name of the writer is Kushwant Singh. Singh remembers his grandmother as an eternally old woman. The writer tells us the story of his childhood that he spent with his grandmother. Over the years, he explains his relationship with his grandmother. He reflects on her everyday activities and how she matured as a character as time went by. He describes her appearance, which helps in creating an image in the reader's mind. She had been an intensely religious person. It was hard for him to believe that the was also young once and that she was beautiful like most women. The stories of her childhood games were like fairy tales to him.SummaryIn 'The Portrait of a Lady', Khushwant Singh sketches a pen-picture of his grandmother. He talks about growing up in the village with her. He also talks about how their relationship changed after moving to the city. Finally, he mentions her burial, which is a moving scene.Grandmother was a very old woman and she had wrinkled face. She was overweight, short and bent. She walked around the house with her rosary in her hand. She was always dressed in white. Her hair was white. Her lips were always moving in prayer. She would wake the author up and make him ready for school. She went to school with him. The school was attached to the temple. While the children learned the alphabet, she sat inside and read the holy texts.They came back together after school. She gave the village dogs bread. After a while, they went to the city. The author was now at an English school. The grandmother was unable to assist him with his lessons. She wasn't satisfied with what he learned there. She was told by the writer that he was taught music. The grandmother didn't like it at all. She believed that music was meant for prostitutes. She was upset because there was no religious education at the school. There were no stray dogs there. She took the sparrows to feed.After that, the author went to England to continue his education. She was not upset. She went to the station to bid him farewell. She kissed the author as they parted ways. When he returned after five years, she went to the station to receive him. She didn't seem to have aged a day. She was already reciting her prayer. She did not pray throughout the evening. She carried a drum with her. She made a phone call to a group of women in her neighbourhood. She sang songs to commemorate her grandson's return. She became sick the following morning. She prayed quietly in her bed. She passed away peacefully. And the sparrows were affected by her passing. They didn't even chirp. They ignored the crumbs that were thrown at them.Model Explanations (i) When I went ……. to feed the sparrows.In these lines, the author describes how the grandmother would pass her time when he was given a separate room. The separate room broke the common link of friendship between the two. After this, the grandmother lived alone in her room as she had accepted her loneliness quietly. She would sit at her spinning wheel reciting prayers from morning till evening. In the afternoon she would relax for a while by feeding the sparrows.The use of the word 'snapped' is remarkable as it conveys the author's feelings that he did not want that common link of friendship to be broken.(ii) The next morning …… time talking to us.After the grandmother had celebrated the home coming of her grandson, the next day she fell ill. She suffered from mild fever and the doctors suggested that she would be all right very soon. The grandmother, however, thought differently; she thought her end was near. She was very repentant of the fact that just a few hours before the end of her life she forgot to say her prayer. Therefore, she would waste no more of her time. The lines speak of the religious faith of the grandmother.IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ANSWEREDQuestion 1.Which language do you think the author and his grandmother used while talking to each other?The author and his grandmother shared a special bond, communicating with each other in the language they both held dear – their mother tongue. Hailing from the state of Punjab, their conversations were adorned with the beautiful sounds and cadence of the Punjabi language.Question 2.What did the grandmother do in the evenings that was different from her usual routine?In the evenings, the grandmother underwent a noticeable transformation. Instead of engaging in her customary prayers, she would gather the women from the neighborhood and take up an old drum to lead them in song. This ritual would continue for hours on end, with her fervently pounding on the worn-out drum skins while singing of the triumphant return of warriors. It was a captivating display that required our intervention to avoid straining her voice. Astonishingly, it marked the first occasion since we had known her when she abstained from her regular prayers.Question 3.How did the grandmother react when the narrator decided to go abroad for further studies?When the narrator made the decision to pursue further studies abroad, there was an anticipation of disappointment from their grandmother. With a journey that would span five years, the narrator contemplated how this absence might affect their grandmother, especially at her age, which was a time of uncertainty. However, to their surprise, their grandmother's reaction was far from what they expected. True to her nature, she did not allow sentimentality to cloud her actions. In a display of unwavering faith, she accompanied the narrator to the railway station without uttering a single word or revealing any emotion. Instead, her lips moved silently, engaged in prayer, while her mind appeared to be deeply absorbed in this inner communion. As if guided by an invisible force, her fingers continued to caress the beads of her rosary, seeking solace and support. And then, with a tender gesture, the grandmother pressed a gentle kiss upon the narrator's forehead, a silent farewell that held a profound significance. Initially, the narrator cherished this intimate gesture as a symbol of their last physical connection before parting ways. However, little did they know that this would not be the sole representation of their bond.Question 4.Why did the grandmother become unhappy when the narrator started learning English and Western science?The grandmother's sense of unhappiness grew gradually over the years as the narrator's education progressed. Initially, she would wake the narrator up and prepare them for school, displaying her dedication to their education. However, as the narrator returned from school and shared their learnings, particularly in English and Western science, the grandmother's discontent began to manifest.One reason for the grandmother's unhappiness stemmed from her inability to assist the narrator with their lessons. The shift towards English and Western science meant that the grandmother's traditional knowledge and practices were no longer applicable in aiding the narrator's education. This lack of usefulness likely made her feel excluded and detached from the narrator's academic journey, leading her to experience a sense of frustration and helplessness.Moreover, the grandmother's discontent can also be attributed to her conflicting beliefs and values concerning the teachings at the English school. She held deep-rooted faith in God and reverence for traditional religious scriptures. The absence of religious teachings within the English school's curriculum caused distress to the grandmother, as she believed that God's wisdom and the scriptures held utmost importance in shaping a person's education and understanding of the world. The grandmother's unease and disappointment arose from the belief that the teachings at the English school neglected these vital aspects of knowledge.In summary, the grandmother became increasingly unhappy as the narrator delved deeper into their education due to two primary reasons. Firstly, she felt excluded and useless as she could no longer assist the narrator with their lessons in English and Western science. Secondly, her strong faith in God and the absence of religious teachings at the English school conflicted with her belief system, causing distress and disappointment.Question 5.What caused the decrease in interaction between the narrator and his grandmother?Over time, the narrator and his grandmother's interactions became less frequent. Despite initially assisting the narrator with waking up and preparing for school, their bond gradually weakened. When the narrator returned from school, the grandmother would inquire about what the teacher had taught, hoping to engage in meaningful conversation and share knowledge. However, the narrator's responses mainly consisted of English words and concepts from Western science and learning, such as the law of gravity and the idea of the world being round. These answers left his grandmother deeply unhappy and disheartened. She struggled to understand or connect with the lessons being taught at the English school, feeling distressed by the absence of teachings about God and the scriptures, which held great significance to her. The situation took another unfortunate turn when the narrator informed her that they were going to receive music lessons. The grandmother's reaction was one of significant concern and distress, associating music with lewdness and considering it as something only belonging to lower-class individuals like harlots and beggars. Although she did not voice her disapproval explicitly, her silence spoke volumes, further widening the gap in their communication. As a result, the grandmother rarely engaged in conversation with the narrator after that point. These differing beliefs and perceptions regarding education and cultural elements gradually caused a decline in their once close relationship.Question 6.How does the author's daily routine change when they move to the city?In the village, the author formed a close bond with their grandmother, who took care of them in the absence of their parents. Each morning, the grandmother would lovingly wake the author up and prepare them for school. As she bathed and dressed the author, she would softly recite her morning prayers, which the author found comforting, yet failed to remember. The grandmother would ensure that the author had all the necessary school supplies, including a wooden slate, a small earthen inkpot, and a red pen. Before heading to school, they would share a meal consisting of a thick, stale chapatti spread with butter and sugar. Their journey to school was a pleasant walk, during which the grandmother carried stale chapattis to feed the village dogs.However, everything changed when they moved to the city. The author's daily routine underwent a significant transformation as they began attending an English medium school. Instead of walking to school, a motor bus would arrive to pick them up and drop them off. The bustling city streets lacked the presence of the village dogs, leaving the grandmother without her usual companions to feed. Undeterred by this, she adapted and found solace in nourishing the sparrows that frequented the verandah of their new home. This shift in their routine marked a symbolic transition from the rural setting to an urban environment, bringing about changes in both their daily activities and the creatures they cared for.Question 7.How does the author's relationship with his grandmother change when his parents move to the city?When the author's parents made the decision to relocate to the city, a significant shift occurred in the author's relationship with his grandmother. Their once close bond experienced a dramatic turning point. Prior to the move, the author and his grandmother not only shared a room but also shared the experience of attending school together. Accompanied by his grandmother, the author would commute to an English school in a motor bus, the streets devoid of roaming dogs. However, with the family's transition to the bustling city, things abruptly changed.No longer did the author's grandmother accompany him to school. Their daily routine was altered, and the absence of her presence during this important part of the day marked a symbolic transformation in their friendship. Although they still resided together under the same roof, the bond that was once fortified by their shared school experiences had been disrupted.Instead of joining the author on his daily commute, his grandmother found solace in a new habit – feeding sparrows in the courtyard of their city house. This seemingly simple act of tending to the birds became a replacement for their previous companionship during school journeys. While the author embarked on his educational pursuits alone, his grandmother focused her attention on nurturing these feathered creatures in their small urban oasis.The relocation to the city uprooted not only the author's physical surroundings but also the dynamics within his familial relationships. The close-knit camaraderie between the author and his grandmother underwent a tangible shift. Once inseparable partners in school, they now led separate lives during this significant aspect of their daily routine. Yet, their connection endured, albeit through new expressions such as the tender care given to the courtyard sparrows.In summary, the author's relationship with his grandmother underwent a transformative change when his parents moved to the city. The shift in their friendship was demonstrated by the grandmother no longer accompanying the author to school, effectively severing their shared educational experiences. Nevertheless, their bond endured, albeit manifested in the grandmother's nurturing of the sparrows in the courtyard.Question 8.What does the author compare his grandmother to?In this verse, the author draws a parallel between his grandmother and the tranquil winter scenery found in the mountains. The grandmother is depicted as a source of pure white serenity, exuding a sense of peace and contentment.Question 9.How does the author view his grandmother's stories about her childhood?The author holds a certain perspective on his grandmother's stories about her childhood – one of disbelief and detachment. In his mind, it is inconceivable to imagine his grandmother as young and attractive. The idea of her engaging in childhood games seems far-fetched and difficult to comprehend for him and his cousins. As a result, they perceive her stories as illogical and disrespectful, equating them to the typical moral tales she tells them. This suggests a lack of connection with his grandmother's past, as he struggles to bridge the gap between her current persona and the vibrant youth she once experienced.Question 10.What does the author think about his grandfather's portrait?The author holds the belief that their grandfather's portrait does not reflect the image of someone who had a wife or children. In their description, they depict the grandfather as an individual who appears to be at least a hundred years old, adorned with a large turban, wearing loose-fitting garments, and sporting a long, white beard. The author expresses disbelief at the notion that their grandmother was once young and attractive, finding such thoughts almost repulsive. Based on the portrait, the author concludes that the grandfather's appearance only suggests the existence of numerous grandchildren, rather than implying the presence of a wife or children.Question 11.How does the author perceive his grandmother's appearance?The author's perception of his grandmother's appearance is rooted in the fact that he had known her as old and wrinkled for the entirety of their twenty-year relationship. The author becomes aware of his grandmother's past beauty and youth through the mention of a portrait of his grandfather. In this portrait, his grandfather is depicted wearing loose fitted clothes, a turban, and a long, white-colored beard that reached his chest. The grandfather's aged appearance led the author to believe that he may have had numerous grandchildren, but the author found it difficult to imagine him with a wife or children. This lack of connection to the concept of his grandmother being young and attractive suggests that the author perceives her primarily based on her current appearance and struggles to reconcile it with the notion of her younger self.PARTIALLY AND COMBINED ANSWER ANSWERED QUESTIONSQuestion 1.Describe the changing relationship between the author and his grandmother. Did their feelings for each other change?Sub-QuestionsHow did the author's grandmother spend her days during the time of their weakened bond?During the time of their weakened bond, the grandmother would spend her days alone, chanting prayers and spinning the wheel. She accepted the seclusion and found solace in her religious practices.Did their feelings for each other change over time?No, their feelings for each other did not change. Despite the strain and distance in their relationship, they still had deep love and affection for each other.How did the relationship between the author and his grandmother change when he went to university and abroad?When the author went to university and later abroad, their bond weakened. The physical distance and the author having his own room at university created a separation in their friendship. However, their feelings for each other remained unchanged, and they still loved each other deeply.What was the grandmother's opinion on music lessons?The grandmother disapproved of the author taking music lessons, believing that music was only for beggars or harlots. She did not see it as a respectable pursuit and expressed her silent disapproval.How did the author's grandmother feel about the new school he attended in the city?The grandmother did not like the author's new school in the city as they never taught him about God or scriptures. This lack of religious education at the school was distressing to her.Full Answer Combined"The changing relationship between the author and his grandmother can be observed through their journey to the city. As they settled there, a shift occurred in their dynamic. While they still shared the same room, the author's grandmother was no longer able to accompany him to school, as he now commuted by bus. This change in routine disrupted their daily interactions and closeness.During this time, the author's grandmother would inquire about his studies, seeking to stay connected to his educational pursuits. However, she held reservations about the teachings at the new school, particularly the absence of lessons on God and scriptures. These concerns weighed heavily on her, leading to a silent expression of disapproval.As a result, their conversations became infrequent, and a palpable distance grew between them. The author's transition to university further strained their relationship, as he was given a room of his own, severing the common link they once shared. Despite these changes, it is important to note that their feelings for one another remained unchanged. Their love and affection endured, even as external circumstances created a divide.While Your article succinctly highlights the key turning point in their friendship, the additional details from Their article offer a deeper understanding of the impact these changes had on their relationship. The grandmother's disapproval of the school's teachings and her subsequent withdrawal, as well as the physical separation caused by the author's transition to university, all contribute to the evolving dynamics between them. This fuller picture allows us to appreciate the complexities of their bond while acknowledging that their love for each other remained constant."Question 2.How did the sparrows express their sorrow when the author's grandmother died?Sub-QuestionsWhat happened to the sparrows when the family carried the grandmother's corpse?When the family carried the grandmother's corpse, all the sparrows flew away quietly.Did the sparrows eat the bread crumbs thrown by the author's mother?No, the sparrows didn't eat anything, even when the author's mother tried to feed them by breaking the bread and throwing it in front of them.How did the sparrows express their sorrow when the grandmother died?The sparrows expressed their sorrow by sitting in a scattered way around her in the verandah, not chirping and maintaining complete silence.How did the grandmother develop a special relationship with the sparrows?The grandmother developed a special relationship with the sparrows by feeding them in her verandah each day.Full Answer CombinedThe sparrows were deeply affected by the grandmother's passing, their sorrow evident in their uncharacteristic silence. These feathered friends, with whom she had nurtured a special bond, gathered around her verandah, perched in a scattered manner. Their usual cheerful chirping was conspicuously absent, as if they too mourned the loss of their beloved caretaker.In an attempt to offer solace, the author's mother tried to feed the sparrows by breaking bread and tossing the crumbs before them. However, to her dismay, the sparrows disregarded the nourishment, their attention elsewhere. It was as if their hearts were heavy with grief, rendering them disinterested in sustenance.As the family solemnly carried the grandmother's lifeless body, a quiet hush fell upon the verandah. The sparrows, paying their final respects, silently took flight, bidding their farewell to the one who had shown them compassion and care throughout their days together.Though brief, Your article alludes to the sparrows' emotional response to the grandmother's passing. However, the inclusion of the additional details from Their article paints a more vivid picture of their sorrow and the depth of their connection with the grandmother.Question 3.How did the author's grandmother spend her days after he grew up?Sub-QuestionsWhat did the grandmother do while chanting her prayers?While chanting her prayers, the grandmother's hand remained busy telling the beads of her rosary. This suggests that she engaged in the physical act of moving the beads through her fingers while reciting her prayers.How did the grandmother spend her time feeding sparrows?In addition to her spinning and religious practices, the grandmother would spend a portion of her day feeding sparrows. The excerpt does not provide specific details on how she fed them, but it mentions that she did so regularly.Did the grandmother have any specific religious practices or rituals?Yes, the grandmother had specific religious practices and rituals. She would continuously chant her prayers while spinning at the wheel, and she also dedicated time to telling the beads of her rosary, keeping her hand busy with this practice.Did the grandmother go into seclusion or isolate herself from others?Yes, the grandmother went into seclusion and isolated herself from others. She devoted herself to her religious practices, spending her days alone at the spinning wheel, chanting prayers, and telling her rosary beads.How did the grandmother spend her entire day after the author grew up?After the author grew up, the grandmother spent her entire day at the spinning wheel, continuously spinning. She would also tell the beads of her rosary as she chanted her prayers throughout the day.Full Answer Combined"After he grew up, the author's grandmother spent her days in a quiet solitude. Living in her room, she found solace in the rhythmic motions of her spinning wheel, reciting prayers as the thread spun and weaved. Her days were filled with devotion, her hands never finding rest as they moved the beads of her rosary, the prayers flowing from her lips in a continuous chant. In the afternoon, for a brief respite, she would step outside to feed the sparrows, their fluttering wings and grateful chirps bringing a sense of serenity to her heart. With unwavering dedication, she embraced seclusion and fully immersed herself in her religious practices, finding peace and fulfillment in her chosen path."