



1.5 The New Dress

ICE BREAKERS

- (1) Write in Column 'B' the description of the clothes; you would choose to wear for the occasions given in Column 'A'.

A	B
A birthday party	A pair of jeans and a t-shirt/top
A prize distribution ceremony at school	School/college Uniform
A picnic	A pair of shorts with a t-shirts
An entertainment show	Shirt with a trousers and a blazer

- (2) Discuss the criterion of the choice of your clothes with the help of the following points:

- 1] Occasion
- 2] Society (people you may meet at the venue)
- 3] Availability
- 4] Fashion
- 5] Your wish/whim
- 6] A suggestion or advice by someone (mother, sister, friend etc.).
- 7] Any other than the above mentioned reasons

Ans:

- 1] Occasion
- 3] Availability
- 5] Your wish/whim
- 6] A suggestion or advice by someone (mother, sister, friend etc.).

- 1] Divide the class into groups. Discuss the role of costumes in enhancing your personality.

Ans:

- 2] State whether you agree or disagree with the following statements and discuss the reasons.

- 1) A simple dress makes one's personality look dull.
- 2) We should not judge ourselves from the comments we receive from others.
- 3) A fashionable and costly dress makes you look rich, intelligent and beautiful.
- 4) We should choose a dress according to the fashion rather than our choice.



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Question and Answer

A1) (i) Narrate in your words the picture imagined by Mabel as she thinks herself in the party as a fly at the edge of the saucer.

Ans: Mabel felt that we are all like flies trying to crawl over the edge of the saucer, some crawling slowly with their wings stuck together. In order to make the other people at the party look insignificant and unimportant, she tried hard to visualize them as poor, struggling flies, trying to pull themselves out of something or into something. However, her inferiority complex was so strong that she ultimately saw only herself as a fly trying to drag itself out of the saucer. She saw the others as dragonflies, butterflies, beautiful insects, dancing, fluttering and skimming lightly.

(ii) There are a few other characters mentioned in the story. Discuss the way their reactions help us to understand the inferiority complex of Mabel.

Ans:

1] Mrs. Barnet:

As soon as Mabel takes off her cloak, Mrs. Barnet tries to draw her attention towards the various appliances needed to tidy one's hair, clothes, etc., Mabel panics and the first thought that comes to her mind is that her dress is awful, just as she suspected.

2. Rose Shaw:

She compliments Mabel by telling her that her dress looked perfectly charming. However, Mabel's low self-worth makes her think that Rose is simply trying to mock her by sarcastically complimenting her dress.

3. Robert Haydon:

As Mabel thinks out loud that she looks like a dowdy, decrepit, dingy old fly, Robert stops to hear her. He thinks that Mabel is trying to reassure herself by saying this, so that she can feel that she is detached, witty and did not feel out of anything. He, therefore, says something quite polite to Mabel, which she misinterprets as insincere. She cannot comprehend that someone can actually say something genuinely nice to her and therefore she thinks of it as a lie.

4. Miss Milan:

Mabel's low regard of self can be witnessed when one small comment from Miss Milan overwhelms her to the extent that she is moved to tears thinking about the patient and enduring side of the nature of humans.

5. Charles Burt:

Mabel is already vulnerable when she tells Charles that her dress is old-fashioned. Though she tries to cover up by saying that she was talking about the picture, Charles is already annoyed and announces that "Mabel's got a new dress". But to Mabel, who is already vulnerable, this feels as though she has been humiliated in front of everyone; as if she is the fly again and has been pushed back into the saucer. She depicts Charles in a negative light, almost as a villain, though that is not the case. Mabel's insecurities have made her feel that everyone around her dislikes her and her dress.

(III) Discuss Mabel's opinion of herself as a wife and mother.

Ans: Mabel felt that she had always been a fretful, weak, unsatisfactory mother, and an unsteady and uncertain wife. She felt that she was hanging about lazily in a kind of twilight existence with nothing very clear or very bold, or standing out.



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(iv) Describe the dress Mabel was wearing, What had been Mabel's thoughts about it earlier?

Ans: The dress was a pale yellow, old-fashioned silk dress, with a long skirt and high sleeves and waist. It had looked so charming in the fashion book, but not on her. Mabel had thought earlier that the dress would make her look modest, old-fashioned and charming.

(A2) (i) Pick out the sentences from the story which describe the ambience (atmosphere/माहोल) of the party at Mrs. Dalloway's place.

Ans: Sentences from the story which describe the ambience of the party at Mrs. Dalloway's place are:

- 1). ... as she took her cloak off and Mrs. Barnet, while handing her the mirror and touching the brushes and thus drawing her attention, perhaps rather markedly, to all the appliances for tidying and improving hair, complexion, clothes, which existed on the dressing table...
- 2). ...as she greeted Clarissa Dalloway, she went straight to the far end of the room, to a shaded corner where a looking-glass hung and looked.
- 3) Rose herself being dressed in the height of the fashion, precisely like everybody else, always.
- 4). ... and looked at a picture, an engraving.
- 5)all the time she could see little bits of her yellow dress in the round looking-glass which made them all the size of boot-buttons or tadpoles...
- 6)if she had been dressed like Rose Shaw, in lovely, clinging green with a ruffle of swansdown, she would have deserved that... 7) Charles Burt and Rose Shaw, chattering like magpies and perhaps laughing at her by the fireplace

(ii) Mabel is thinking too much of her dress. Propose five sentences supporting the above statement.

Ans: 1) She could not face the whole horror - the pale yellow, idiotically old fashioned silk dress with its long skirt and its high sleeves and its waist and all the things that looked so charming in the fashion book, but not on her, not among all these ordinary people.

2) I feel like some dowdy, decrepit, horribly dingy old fly.

3) She faced herself straight in the glass; she pecked at her left shoulder; she issued out into the room, as if spears were thrown at her yellow dress from all sides.

4) It's so old-fashioned.

5) But in her yellow dress to-night she could not wring out one drop more; she wanted it all, all for herself

6) It seemed to her that the yellow dress was a penance which she had deserved.



(iii) Critically analyze Mabel's weak economic conditions in the past as one of the reasons that led her to choose the old-fashioned dress.

Ans: Mabel came from a family of ten that never had enough money. As a child who did not have much in life, Mabel must have looked at the pretty women in the Paris fashion book and that glamorous pictures have imprinted in Mabel's mind. But the condition of her family was poor. Mabel selected the old fashioned and low budget dress due to her current financial condition. Mabel could not think to choose a fashionable dress because she knows its cost which is "thirty guineas". So Mabel decided to go with the "old is gold" approach.

(iv) The cause of Miss Mabel's disappointment is not only her poor background in the past but her too much bookishness also. Substantiate.(prove/justify)

Ans: From the second that Mabel arrives at the party, she obsesses over her dress and drives herself crazy thinking that everyone at the party is talking about her. Though her inferiority complex stems from the fact that she comes from a poor background, it cannot be denied that her bookishness, too, had a role to play in her disappointment. The first instance is when Mabel sleeps after reading Borrow or Scoot and wakes up at night battling with the intensity that people were commenting on the hideousness of her dress. We can also see, on multiple occasions, that Mabel keeps repeating tags and phrases from Shakespeare and lines from books that she had read long ago, to overcome the agony she feels due to her dowdy dress. Her "flies trying to get out of the saucer" theory is another way of escaping reality by imagining everyone as flies or insects. Whether it is imagining Rose Shaw as Boadicea or thinking that a party makes things much more real or much less real, her beliefs come from the books that she has read. Reading gives her pleasure and the moments that she spends reading are divine for her. Even at the end, when she decides to transform herself, she thinks of reading books to achieve that goal. Thus, it can be concluded that Mabel's disappointment was not just the result of her poor background, but also her tendency to remain in the world of imagination, thereby making it difficult for her to come to terms with reality.



(v) Do you appreciate Mabel's tendency of deciding her own value from the comments given by others? Explain your views.

Ans: No, I do not appreciate Mabel's tendency of deciding her own value from the comments given by others. Mabel has a very low opinion of herself and that is the reason why she seeks validation from others around her. She holds everyone, but herself, in high regard. However, Mabel is unable to take a compliment when she is given one, because of her over-analytical nature. She is so low on confidence

that she thinks people are disguising their insults as compliments and lying to her. Instead Mabel should have risen above what other people think of her and she should have been comfortable in her own skin. We should never judge our self-worth by other people's opinions of us. This will only make us more critical of ourselves and in turn make us lose confidence in our abilities.

(A3) (i) Write the synonyms for the word 'dress' by filling appropriate letters in the blanks. One is done for you.

Ans:

A	B
(a) a t t i r e	(a) a t t i r e
(b) _ _ r _ _	(b) a r r a y
(c) _ _ _ t _ _ e	(c) c o s t u m e
(d) _ _ r _ _ _ t	(d) g a r m e n t
(e) _ _ t _ _ t	(e) o u t f i t
(f) _ _ _ a _ _ l	(f) error in question

Conchology means the scientific study or collection of mollusk (मोलस्क) shells. Refer to the dictionary and find out the meanings of -

• **Etymology** : the study of the origin of words and the way in which their meanings have changed throughout history.

• **Archaeology** : It is the scientific study of human life and activities of the past through the excavation of sites and analysis of the material remains.

(A4) (i) Use the correct tense form of the verbs given in the brackets and rewrite the sentences.

(a) She (take/takes/took/had taken) that old fashion book of her mother a few months back.

Ans: She **had taken** that old fashion book of her mother a few months back.

(b) She (pecking/ pecks/ pecked) at her left shoulder for quite some time.

Ans: She **pecked** at her left shoulder for quite some time.

(c) One human should (done /doing/be doing) this for another always.

Ans: One human should **be doing** this for another always.

(d) All this (will be/ is / have been) destroyed in a few years.

Ans: All this **will be** destroyed in a few years.

(e) She (feels/felt/will be feeling) like a dressmaker's dummy standing there.

Ans: She **felt** like a dressmaker's dummy standing there.

(ii) Do as directed.

(a) Lata will sing tonight. (Make it less certain.)

Ans: Lata may sing tonight.

(b) You should wear your uniform. (Show ability.)

Ans: You can wear your uniform.

(c) Sandeep may study to clear the examination. (Make it obligatory/ compulsory.)

Ans: Sandeep must study to clear the examination.

(d) I can do it. (Make a sentence seeking permission.)

Ans: May I do it?

(iii) (a) Frame three rules for the students of your college.

Ans: 1] Students must not use mobile phones in the college premises.

2] Students must wear their ID cards in the college premises.

3] Students must adhere (follow) to the dress code of the college.

(b) Frame three sentences giving advice to your younger brother.

Ans: 1] You should inform us if you plan to stay out late.

2] You should always say 'Thank you' when someone helps you.

3] You should ensure that others should not be hurt because of your words or actions.



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(iv) Fill in the blanks with appropriate modal auxiliaries according to the situation given in the following sentences.

(a) Take an umbrella. It -----rain later.

Ans: Take an umbrella. It **may** rain later.

(b) People -----walk on the grass.

Ans: People **should not** walk on the grass.

(c) ----- I ask you a question?

Ans: **May** I ask you a question?

(d) The signal has turned red. You----- wait.

Ans: The signal has turned red. You must wait.

(e) I am going to the library. I ----- find my friend there.

Ans: I am going to the library. I will find my friend there.

(iv) Do As directed

1] Mabel had her first serious suspicion. (Past Perfect tense)

Ans: Mabel had had her first serious suspicion

2] It was not right. (Make Affirmative)

Ans: It was wrong.

3] She could not beat off (Be unable to)

Ans: She was unable to beat off

4] What a fright she looks! (Assertive sentence)

Ans: She looks a very fright.

5] Their eyelids flickering as they came up. (No sooner – than)

Ans: No sooner did they come up than their eyelids flickering.

6] It was her own appalling inadequacy; her cowardice; her mean, water-sprinkled blood that depressed her. (Simple)

Ans: Her own appalling inadequacy; her cowardice; her mean, water-sprinkled blood depressed her.

7] She touched the letters on the hall table and said: “How dull!” (Indirect)

Ans: Touching the letters on the hall table, she exclaimed that it was very dull.

8] All this had been absolutely destroyed. (Begin with “They---“)

Ans: They had absolutely destroyed all this.

9] All this had been absolutely destroyed, the moment she came into Mrs. Dalloway’s drawing-room. (Hardly –when/ No sooner – than)

Ans: Hardly had she come into Mrs. Dalloway’s drawing-room when all this had been absolutely destroyed.

Ans: No sooner did she come into Mrs. Dalloway’s drawing-room than all this had been absolutely destroyed.

10] It was absurd to pretend it. (gerund)

Ans: It was absurd for pretending it.

11] She had taken that old fashion book of her mother’s, a Paris fashion book of the time of the Empire. (Present perfect tense)

Ans: She has taken that old fashion book of her mother’s, a Paris fashion book of the time of the Empire.

12] She felt like a dressmaker’s dummy standing there, for young people to stick pins into. (Make Complex)

Ans: She felt like a dressmaker’s dummy that stood there, for young people to stick pins into.

13] We are all like flies trying to crawl over the edge of the saucer. (Use that)

Ans: We are all like flies that try to crawl over the edge of the saucer.

14] Now she could see flies crawling slowly out of a saucer of milk with their wings stuck together. (Use which)

Ans: Now she could see flies which crawl slowly out of a saucer of milk with their wings stuck together.

15] She strained and strained to make herself see Rose Shaw. (Not only----- but also)

Ans: She not only strained but also strained to make herself see Rose Shaw.

16) She was a fly, but the others were dragonflies. (Use – Though)

Ans: Though she was a fly, but the others were dragonflies.

17) **The most detestable of the vices were her chief faults. (Change the degree)**

Ans: Com: Her chief faults were more detestable than any other vices.

Posi: No other vices were as detestable as her chief faults.

18) **“I feel like some dowdy, decrepit, horribly dingy old fly,” she said. (Reported Speech)**

Ans: She said that she felt like some dowdy, decrepit, horribly dingy old fly.

19) **She did not feel in the least out of anything. (Rhetorical Question)**

Ans: Did she feel in the least out of anything?

20) She saw the truth. (Rewrite as a negative sentence without changing the meaning)

Ans: She didn't see the false.



(A5) (i) Read the sentence ‘we are all like flies....’. The paragraph describes the dejected thoughts that Miss Mabel carries in her mind. All the earlier paragraphs are in a continuity of a story line. The next paragraph begins with, ‘I feel like....’ again resumes to a story. The author has moved in the mind of the character and out of it very smoothly without any intimation or change in the language or tense. Similarly, she has moved in the past years of Miss Mabel’s life. This is called ‘stream of consciousness’ technique. (no answer)

(ii) Read the sentence from the text - What a hideous new dress! This is an exclamation. It can be written as a simple sentence 'The new dress is very hideous'. Find out few more exclamatory sentences from the story and transform them into assertive sentences.

Ans: Exclamatory : How dull!

Assertive : It is so dull.

(iii) Virginia Woolf has created many characters other than Miss Mabel with great skill. Write a character sketch of any one of them.

Ans: Mrs. Clarissa Dalloway hosted the party that Mabel attended. Clarissa Dalloway is a pale and delicate upper-class lady in her fifties. She is a smart, loving and compassionate, who likes to host parties. She married to Richard Dalloway. Clarissa Dalloway treasures her independence and loves her all kinds of friends and keeps a good relationships with them.

(A7) Find out information about career opportunities in the following fields:

(a) **Fashion designing**

Ans: The fashion industry is one of the most lucrative industries. With a variety of undergraduate and diploma courses available in fashion designing, one can choose to become a fashion designer, a retail buyer, a retail manager, a stylist, a personal shopper or a fashion blogger. The institutes offering fashion design courses in Mumbai are – ISDI School of Design and Innovation, National Institute of Fashion Technology, International Institute of Fashion Design, among others.

(b) **Dress designing**

Ans: Dress designing or costume designing is a part of fashion designing and involves researching fashion trends and creating patterns and introducing fabrics into the market. Pattern making, draping, tailoring, etc. are some of the areas that a dress designer needs to master. There are a lot of courses available for this specific branch under fashion designing, which teach the principles and processes of the fashion industry, computer programs used for dress design, the knowledge of materials, workforce leadership and the understanding of industrial equipment. Institutes offering fashion designing courses also provide dress or textile design courses.

(c) **Textile industry**

Ans: Textile industry is divided into Spinning, Weaving or Knitting, Weaving or Knitting. One needs to take a degree or diploma in textile engineering to enter this industry. The more artistic ones can join as Textile Designers, however nowadays one needs to be more apt with computer-aided designing to enter this line. Graduates with textile chemistry find careers in dyeing and finishing, technical services, research and development, quality control, product development, polymer science and environmental control. Most graduates of the textile management program initially enter management trainee programs which can ultimately lead to plant or corporate management. Other career

options include technical sales, industrial engineering, product development, marketing, customer relations, human resources, and cost and inventory control. So one who has a degree in Textile Engineering can work as: Process engineer, Quality control supervisor, Technical Services/Sales Manager, Operations Trainee, Process Improvement Engineer, Medical Textiles Engineer.

(d) Garment industry

Ans: The apparel industry is one of the most important sectors of the economy with regard to investment, revenue, and trade and employment generation all over the world. The apparel industry in India has substantially diversified on the basis of fashion, climate, region, culture, and fiscal factors. Indian textile is witnessing great growth and development in the industrial sector in India as well as abroad. The important segments covered in the apparel industry include home decor and furnishings along with clothing and fashion accessories for kids, women, and men. This sector needs skilled people as Pattern Masters, Cutters, Supervisors, Quality Controllers, the high-end job is for Merchandisers who have to deal with the buyers and keep track of the deliveries.

(e) Image consultancy

Ans:

(f) Psychology and Psychiatry

Ans:



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