



# INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA - WORKSHEET

## ENGLISH THE ADDRESS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: XI Sec: \_\_\_\_

### SHORT QUESTIONS

1 **Why was the narrator surprised on visiting her home at the wake of the war?**

Ans. The narrator's was a Jewish family settled in Netherlands. One day, when she came home, the narrator saw that much of her furniture and crockery was either missing or misplaced. In fact this disorder was caused by Mrs. Dorling, an old friend of her mother who had been shifting the family's valuables to her home for safe-keeping but the narrator was unaware of it.

2 **Why was the narrator's mother glad to have Mrs. Dorling to help the family?**

Ans. The narrator's mother was an innocent woman. To her, Mrs. Dorling's offer to help the family by carrying their valuables to her own home was a blessing. She believed that Mrs. Dorling would return the family's valuables once the war ended. Besides, the two of them had been friends years ago so trusting an old friend at the time of great crisis seemed appropriate.

3 **Why did the author first hesitate to claim her belongings from Mrs. Dorling?**

Ans. When the war was over and the narrator began to feel a little secure, she felt like missing her family belongings. On a second thought, she began to suspect that the presence of her family articles would remind her of her dear ones who were no more with her so she hesitated to claim those articles from Mrs. Dorling's house. Besides, she lived in a poor room that looked the oddest place to accommodate her expensive possessions.

4 **For a while the narrator thought she had rung the wrong bell but soon her doubts vanished.**

Ans. **Why did the narrator initially doubt that she had made an error? How did she know that she had rung the right bell?**

The narrator had been absolutely certain about the address of Mrs. Dorling, Number 46, Marconi Street and she had expected the good lady waiting for her arrival to return her household things but what happened was one that was never imagined. Seeing Mrs. Dorling's hostile behavior and her admitting that she didn't recognize her visitor, Margo doubted if she had rung the wrong bell but soon her apprehensions died away and she clearly saw that she had the right address. Mrs. Dorling's asking, "Have you come back?" dispelled her doubts. Her doubts further melted away when she noticed that Mrs. Dorling had put on her mother's cardigan.

5 **Why did the narrator return to her poor dwelling without claiming her family's possessions from Mrs. Dorling?**

Ans. The author's mother gave Mrs. Dorling's 'Address' to the author to re-acquire their belongings back when the terrible situation of war gets back to normal. For the frustration of the author, as she reaches the concerned location, she was greeted by the rather hostile and ill-behaved resident of the Address. Mrs. Dorling's unwillingness to return her belongings was apparently reflected by her attitude. When, the second time she visited that house, she was distressed and regretted her decision of claiming her belongings back and consoled herself to adjust without her precious belongings.

6 **What are the contrasting elements in the characters of Mrs. Dorling and Mrs. S?**

Ans. The mother of the author, Mrs. S was a lady of simplicity. She didn't seem to have seen the harsh and cruel side of this two-faced world. She could easily befriend people, and rather more easily, trust them. That's why she trusted Mrs. Dorling, who was just an acquaintance of her, and allowed her to keep all her precious belongings for the time being. Moreover, she was so kindhearted that she was sympathetic enough for Mrs. Dorling, who had to carry all her heavy articles all alone. In



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contrast, Mrs. Dorling was an absolute thief, a unique combination of cunningness and betrayal. She cheated Mrs. S and seized her very precious belongings very wittingly. She can be called a perfectionist in this 'occupation' of hers.

7 **Why did the author decide against claiming her family possessions from Dorling?**

Ans. Having been treated unpleasantly and having noticed the repulsive reaction of Mrs. Dorling in her very first visit, the author developed an awful impression of Mrs. Dorling. On her second visit, the narrator saw how dearly Dorling's daughter loved those utensils and furniture and how proud she was of possessing them. Moreover, the author was very shocked to see the dreadful way in which her precious possessions were preserved. Also, now, when the author would adoringly look at her belongings, memories of her parents and her near ones' death, rather than her her childhood's happy memories, would sprout in her. This made her reluctant to claim her family possessions back from Dorling.

8 **Justify the title of the story, "The Address."**

Ans. The story revolves around the author, who, after a long period of time, has come to her former neighbor, Mrs. Dorling, to claim her possessions back – the possessions that Mrs. Dorling had misappropriated in the pretense of extending help to the narrator's family at a crucial juncture. Twice the narrator visited this address and returned with a heavy mind and empty hands. Though she found reasons to leave her memorable possessions, it is well expected that the address would again and again return to her mind, throughout her life. Like her mother had once asked her to remember, she would remember this Marconi Street address whenever memories kept coming back. Thus, the address plays the central role in the story hence the title.