

LESSON NOTES 1 SOLUTION

School: Sangam SKM College – Nadi

Year: 13

Subject: English

Strand	Reading and viewing
Sub Strand	Listening and Speaking
Content learning outcome	Appreciate and analyse short stories. Make connections between the text and real life situations through themes in the given short story. Identify elements in short stories. Appreciate moral lessons in short stories.

Short Stories

Theme 1: Love

Short Story 1: Harry By Rosemary Timperley

Themes

1. **Unconditional Love**- the story shows how a mother is able to sense that something wrong is about to happen to her child.

"Yet the first time Christine mentioned the name, I felt a premonition of fear."

This instinct causes her to be more cautious of Christine's whereabouts especially when she was at home.

Even Miss Cleaver understands Mrs. James love and concern and she breaks the rule of protecting the identity of biological parents. Although Mr. James may be equally loving and concerned about Christine's well-being, he did not spend enough time with Christine to feel the signs of danger lurking around her.

Harry also has this love for Christine and wishes to be with his sister even in death. He used to feed and protect Christine as a baby, saving her from being gassed to death by jumping out of a window, thus saving her but dying himself.

2. **Understanding Children** - Although it is difficult to understand children's feelings and needs, Dr. Webster and Mr. James associates Christine's imaginary friend as part of 'child talk.' Even her direct conversations with Harry and descriptions of him do not trigger cause for concern for the two. The story shows that it requires a lot of time and patience to understand children especially during their phase of language learning.
3. **People who are in desperate situations often commit desperate acts** - Christine's father found himself in a desperate situation when he lost his job and was unable to care for his family. The birth of Christine made matters worse as she was an extra mouth to feed. As he was unable to find another job, he decided to kill his family by gassing them.

Mrs. James also becomes desperate when she finds that Harry has been trying to pull Christine away from her. In her desperation, she further alienates Christine by shouting at and hitting her. She also goes out of her way to find out about Christine's past, allowing Harry to go to the school to pick her up.

styles

1. **Effective Title**- the title has been aptly chosen because the plot centres on a red-haired boy by the name of Harry who poses a danger to Mrs. James because he wishes to take Christine away with him. The name, Harry, is an ordinary name but it invokes so much fear in Mrs. James because she instinctively senses that he is dangerous to her family. The readers also sense that Harry is dangerous because they are looking at him through Mrs. James' eyes.
2. **The use of images**- in the beginning and ending of the story which tie up the story well.

"Such ordinary things make me afraid. Sunshine. Sharp shadows on grass. White roses. Children with red hair. And the name Harry, such an ordinary name."

These images connect the narrator's fear for Harry and the readers upon finding out why she fears these things, get to understand her fears and also feel Harry's presence.
3. **Effective beginning and ending**-gives unity to the story and in this case, gives the readers a creepy sensation as they read. In the beginning, as the narrator voices her fears, the reader is interested to know why but doesn't feel her fear. However, at the end of the story, those same words fill the reader with a sense of horror.
4. **The first person narration**- through the eyes of Mrs. James, the reader gets to see the story through a mother's eyes and one can see her desperation as she tries to find ways to get Christine away from Harry. She expresses her fears and the reader follows her to the adoption agency and to the old house where Christine was born. The readers see her fear as she rushes back to the school to find that Christine has been taken by Harry.