Abi-Training: Analysing fiction

Englisch · Klasse 12 · mittel · Lösungen

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Name: _____ Datum: _____

kostenlos, mit Lösungen

Excerpt (invented, for practice): The letter had been on the kitchen table for three days. Nadia moved it when she wiped the table, put it back in the same place, squared its edges with the salt cellar. Her mother watched her do this and said nothing, which was its own kind of speaking. On the fourth morning the envelope was gone. „I put it in your room," her mother said, not turning from the sink. „You'll open it when you're ready." Nadia looked at the empty rectangle of table where it had been. It seemed, absurdly, larger than the letter itself.

1 Narrative technique: Identify and explain.

Third-person limited? Omniscient? Look at whose perceptions are given („It seemed …").

a) Narrative perspective (point of view) — give evidence.
Third-person limited narrator, close to Nadia: we get her perceptions („It seemed, absurdly, larger") but the mother is seen only from outside.

b) Which character's thoughts do we have access to, and where does the narrator stay outside?
Nadia's — her sense that the empty space is larger than the letter; the mother's motives remain unspoken, we only see actions („said nothing", „not turning").

2 Symbols and images: Explain what the following stand for and how the text makes this clear.

A symbol is a concrete thing that carries an abstract meaning — say which meaning and quote the words that suggest it.

a) the letter
A decision or news Nadia fears; the text never names it, which makes the fear general — „You'll open it when you're ready."

b) squaring its edges with the salt cellar
Controlling the surface while avoiding the content: order as a substitute for action.

c) the „empty rectangle" that seems larger than the letter
The fear has grown beyond its cause; „absurdly" shows that Nadia knows this herself.

3 Characters and relationship: What do we learn about Nadia and her mother, and about the relationship between them, from what they do and don't say?

Indirect characterisation: silence, small actions, „not turning from the sink".

a) Nadia: *Nadia: anxious, avoidant, but self-aware; ritual instead of action.*

b) Her mother:
Her mother: observant, patient, protective without pressure; she acts („I put it in your room") but leaves the decision to Nadia.

c) The relationship:
Close and wordless — „said nothing, which was its own kind of speaking"; understanding is shown through gesture, and the mother's not turning round gives Nadia privacy.

4 Write an analysis (200 to 250 words) of how the excerpt creates tension without any dramatic event.

Point - quote - explanation for every claim. Present tense. Focus on the „how", not the „what".

a) Thesis, narrative perspective, time structure, symbols, characterisation through gesture and silence, conclusion.
Own text. Check: thesis, limited perspective, time structure, symbols, gesture and silence, present tense, 200 to 250 words.