

1. The passage describes a school over one hundred years ago. How is Ursula's school different from your own school? Describe any THREE features that are different

Ursula's school is almost a century old hence it runs on different practices such as use of apron as protection for teachers since they used chalk and ink but now we do not need them as teachers don't use chalk they use markers or ball points. Back then electricity was not used for lights instead they had gas lights. To make copies of paper we use photocopier but Ursula's school had jelly tray.

2. Re-read the description of the school building in lines 1 ('The school squatted low ...') to 10 ('... tramping feet'). How does the writer's choice of words in these lines suggest Ursula's feelings as she approaches and enters the school?

Ursula feels apprehensive as she is entering the school, the use of adjectives like 'small, mean, wet' and 'grimy and horrible' suggest she is not looking forward to going to this school. The use of short words set a tone of reluctance and grumpiness from Ursula.

Personification has also been used to describe the setting of the place as well as the objects inside it. For example the plants 'shadowily looking through the windows' makes it seem that Ursula is looking at the objects even as a threat. The place 'has a threatening expression' suggests Ursula feels fearful from the eerie environment. The use of a simile 'like a prison' suggest she feel like a prisoner stuck inside a cell.

3. The word 'domineering' comes from the Latin word 'dominus' which means 'lord'. What do you think that the writer means when he describes the building as 'domineering' (line 7)?

**The word 'domineering' originates from the word 'lord' which represents power and dominance god has over the world. Similarly the school building has been described to be authoritative and has unsettling power over its visitors. It seems like it is trying to intimidate people.**

4. Re-read the description of the teachers' room in lines 11 ('Ursula went forward...') to 21 ('...all seemed unreal'). Choose a phrase from these lines that you think describes the teachers' room particularly well and explain why you chose it.

**The phrase 'dark, little room that never got any sun is a fitting description of the teacher's room'. The use of adjectives 'dark and little' suggest the room seems claustrophobic and too small for the number of people inside. The lack of sun suggest its not a very happy place to teach in and seems like a metaphor for the lack of warmth**

and love inside the room

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5. Look at the description of the man in lines 37 ('Again the man glanced up sharply') to 53 ('...against his nature'). Do you find it surprising that Ursula likes the man? Give reasons for your answer.

It is surprising that Ursula has a liking towards this man since he does not replicate the feeling instead is quite rude to her. He gives short replies to her questions with 'fierceness' in his voice which suggests he is not interested in her. He glances up 'sharply' when Ursula speaks to him and seems intimidating which makes one think given the fact Ursula is a quite timid character why she would be drawn to somebody that is threatening.

The writer says the man treats Ursula 'as she does not count' which is a mean and rude. In line 53, there is a suggestion that this is 'against his character' -so maybe Ursula seems see beyond his stiffness and looks through his heart.

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6. What type of activity or exercise do you think might be printed on the sheets that the man is copying for his pupils using the jelly tray (lines 16-19)?

**The school seems like the type that uses rote learning technique and learning.....**

**might be unimaginative so he might be copying some writing on the sheets.....**

**in order to learn better spelling or improve handwriting. It only mentions the sheet.....**

**contain 'violet colored writing' that can be either classwork or a test perhaps.....**

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7. What do you think that the writer means when he describes Miss Harby as 'neutral-tinted' (line 54)?

**I think it means she is a diplomatic person who does not have strong**

**opinions nor she shows emotion. She can be considered a boring**

**person or not particularly interesting. The writer also mentions her clothing**

**which is beige ,ordinary that shows monotony.**

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8. Do you think that Miss Harby would be a good teacher? Give reasons for your answer, using details from the passage.

**..I don't think Miss Harby is a good teacher because she seems to be forced**

**in this profession which is dealing with kids who clearly she dislikes.**

**She calls her pupils 'a pack of kids trailing in anyhow-nohow' who she hates**

**which suggests her hatred for them. She also talks about 'kids dirty feet' which**

**makes it look like she finds flaws and faults in the children only. Ursula finds**

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..Miss Harby to be bossy because of her insistence on her getting her an apron.....  
..which she seems is unnecessary. Being bossy might also be considered a good trait.....  
..because it shows an ability to control the class. She also seems organised.....  
..with her 'black pinafore' ready, so this might be another good quality.....

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9. Imagine that you are one of Ursula's pupils. Write a description of how she behaved in your very first lesson and what happened.

**Paragrph 1: Describe the entrance of Miss Ursula. How she introduced herself**  
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to the class and if she seems nervous .Her posture should also be explained  
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eg hands sweaty or hunched back.  
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**Paragraph 2: The reaction of the class should be explained. Give an idea of any misbehavior**  
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that the kids have started to show. How do you feel about the reaction of the  
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class towards Miss Ursula.  
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**Paragrph 3: How is Miss Ursula behavior changing as the time goes on**  
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Is she still composed or is she confused ? Add a interesting incident that  
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might make her leave class.  
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**Paragraph 4: Miss Ursula might be forced to leave class because of the misbehavior**  
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Did you think she might be coming back tomorrow?  
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