

The Doll's House (by Katherine Mansfield)

Part I

When dear old Mrs. Hay went back to town after staying with the Burnells she sent the children a doll's house. It was so big that the carter and Pat carried it into the courtyard, and there it stayed, on two wooden boxes beside the feed-room door. No harm could come to it; it was summer. And perhaps the smell of paint would have gone off by the time. For, really, the smell of paint was quite enough to make anyone seriously ill, in Aunt Beryl's opinion.

There stood the doll's house, a dark, oily, spinach green, and bright yellow. Its two solid chimneys were painted red and white, and the door was painted yellow. There were four windows, real windows, and a tiny porch painted yellow. But perfect, perfect little house! Who could possibly mind the smell. It was part of the joy, part of the newness.

"Open it quickly, someone!"

The hook at the side was stuck fast. Pat prized it open with his penknife, and the whole house front swung back¹, and – there you were gazing at one and the same moment into the drawing-room and dining-room, the kitchen and two bedrooms, the little hall with a hat-stand and two umbrellas. That is the way for a house to open!² Why don't all houses open like that?

"Oh-oh!" The Burnell children sounded as though they were in despair. It was too marvelous; it was too much for them. They had never seen anything like it in their lives. All the rooms were papered. There were pictures on the walls, painted on the paper with gold frames. Red carpet covered all the floors except the kitchen; red plush chairs in the drawing-room, green in the dining-room; tables, beds with real bedclothes, a cradle, a stove, a dresser with tiny plates and one big jug. But what Kezia liked more than anything, what she liked frightfully, was the lamp. It stood in the middle of the dining-room table, an exquisite little amber lamp with a white globe. It was even filled and ready for lighting, though, of course, you couldn't light it. But there was something inside that looked like oil and moved when you shook it. The father and mother dolls, who were in the drawing-room, and their two little children asleep upstairs, were really too big for the doll's house. They didn't look as though they belonged³. But the lamp was perfect. It seemed to smile at Kezia, to say, "I live here." The lamp was real.

The Burnell children could hardly walk to school fast enough the next morning. They burned to tell everybody, to describe to – well – to boast about their doll's house before the school bell rang. "I'm to tell," said Isabel, "because I'm the eldest. And you can join after. But I'm to tell first." There was nothing to answer. Isabel was bossy⁴, but she was always right, and Lottie and Kezia knew too well the powers that went with being eldest⁵. They said nothing.

"And I'm to choose who's come and see it first. Mother said I might."

For it had been arranged that while the doll's house stood in the courtyard they might ask the girls at school, two at a time, to come and look. Not to stay to tea, of course. But just stand quietly in the courtyard while Isabel pointed out the beauties, and Lottie and Kezia looked pleased.

But hurry as they might, by the time they had reached the boy's playground the bell had begun to jangle. They only just had time to whip off their hats and fall into line before the roll was called⁶. Never mind. Isabel tried to make up for it by looking very important and mysterious and by whispering behind her hand to the girls near her, "Got something to tell you at playtime."⁷

Playtime came and Isabel was surrounded. The girls of her class nearly fought to put their arms

attention. Isabel was choosing the two who were to come back with them that afternoon and see it. She chose Emmie Cole and Lena Logan. But when the others knew they were all to have a chance, they couldn't be nice enough to Isabel. One by one they put their arms round Isabel's waist and walked her off. They had something to whisper to her, a secret. "Isabel's *my* friend."

Only the little Kelveys moved away forgotten; there was nothing more for them to hear.

Notes:

1. the whole house front swung back – передняя стенка вся откинулась назад
2. That is the way for a house to open! – Вот как должен бы открываться дом!
3. belong – эд. быть на своем месте
4. bossy – властная, склонная командовать, верховодить
5. the powers that went with being eldest – эд. власть принадлежит старшим
6. the roll was called – переключка закончилась
7. "Got something to tell you at playtime."
8. to make enough of something – отдавать должное, достаточно расхвалить что-либо

List of Vocabulary:

1. to arrange
2. to boast about something
3. to burn to do something
4. in despair
5. to be the elder
6. to gaze
7. to giggle
8. to join in with somebody
9. to nudge
10. in one's opinion
11. to whip off

A. Training Exercises

1. Recall the situations from the story in which the vocabulary of the list is used.

2. Choose words and word-combinations from your active vocabulary to express the following notions:

1. a view or a judgement in the mind about a particular matter;
2. to look long and attentively;
3. to lose all hope or confidence;
4. to speak with excessive pride;
5. to take off or to pull off very quickly and forcefully;
6. to be eager to do something;
7. to come to an agreement or understanding;
8. one having authority by virtue of age and experience;
9. to laugh in a silly manner;
10. to take part in a collective activity;
11. to push or to touch gently or slightly.

3. Paraphrase the following sentences using the words from the list:

1. In Aunt Beryl's view the smell of paint was too terrible

2. Open the door (quick/ quickly).
3. The sight was (marvelous/ marvelously).
4. The lamp was (perfect/ perfectly).
5. Mike was my friend. (real/ really)
6. The dolls were too big for the doll's house. (real/ really)
7. The Burnell children could walk to school fast enough the next morning. (hard/ hardly)
8. He knew too his rights. (well/ good)
9. The girls should stand in the courtyard while they were gazing at the doll's house. (quiet/ quietly)
10. Isabel tried to look (mysterious/ mysteriously).

5. Insert the articles where necessary. Explain your choice.

1. Old Mrs. Hay sent ... children ... doll's house.
2. There stood ... doll's house, ... dark, ... oily, ... spinach green.
3. That's ... way for ... house to open!
4. But ... perfect, ... perfect ... little house!
5. ... lamp was ... real.
6. "I'm ... eldest", ... Isabel told to ... little sisters.
7. Never ... mind!
8. Isabel held ... quite ... court under ... huge pine trees at ... side of ... playground.
9. And ... only ... two who stayed outside ... ring were ... two who were always outside, ... little Kelveys.

6. Open the brackets using the appropriate form of the Infinitive.

1. No harm could (to come) to the doll's house.
2. Perhaps the smell of paint would (to have) gone off by the time.
3. The smell of paint was quite enough (to make) anyone seriously ill, in Aunt Beril's opinion.
4. That is the way for a house (to open)!
5. Why don't all the houses (to open) like that?
6. The lamp seemed (to smile) at Kezia.
7. They burned (to tell) everybody, (to describe), (to boast) about their doll's house.
8. I'm (to tell) first.
9. There was nothing (to answer).
10. The bell began (to jangle).

7. Define the word forms ending in -ing. Translate the sentences into Russian.

1. *After staying* with the Burnells dear old Mrs. Hay sent the children a doll's house.
2. There you were *gazing* at one and the same moment into the *drawing*-room and dining-room, the kitchen and two bedrooms.
3. They had never seen *anything* like it in their lives.
4. The lamp was even filled and ready for *lighting*.
5. But there was *something* inside that looked like oil.
6. There was *nothing* to say.
7. Lottie and Kezia knew too well the powers that went with *being* eldest.
8. Isabel tried to make up for the lost time by *looking* very important and mysterious and by *whispering* behind her hand to the girls that she had got something to tell them at playtime.
9. The children played in the playground in the *morning*.

8. Insert prepositions where necessary:

1. When dear old Mrs. Hay sent the children a doll's house, the Burnell children went to the children's doll's house.

12. The lamp is best ... all.
13. One ... one the girls put their arms ... Isabel's waist and walked her

9. Find the sentences with the Past Perfect Tense in the text. Translate them into Russian.

10. Find the sentences with the Passive Voice in the text. Transform them into the Active Voice. Translate them into Russian.

B. Speech Exercises

11. Describe the doll's house. Prove the statement that the doll's house was perfect outside and inside using the following words:

- Dark, oily, spinach green, bright yellow, red, white;
- Chimneys, a door, windows, a porch;
- A kitchen, a drawing-room, a dining-room, a bedroom;
- Red plush chairs, green arm-chairs, tables, beds, a cradle, a stove, a dresser, a hat-stand, a carpet;
- Bedclothes, a plate, a big jug, a lamp, dolls, an umbrella.

12. Describe the lamp in the doll's house.

13. Describe the playtime on the playground.

14. What could separate the little Kelveys and the rest children at school? Give your reason.

15. Answer the questions:

1. Why did Mrs. Hay send the children the doll's house?
2. What and why did Kezia like best of all in the doll's house?
3. Why did the Burnell children hurry to school the next morning?
4. What had been arranged by the girls at school for the visits to the doll's house?
5. Why did Isabel try to look very important and mysterious?
6. What did Isabel forget to say about while describing the doll's house?
7. Why was it very important for Kezia to tell everybody about the lamp?
8. Whom did Isabel choose to come and see the doll's house first? Why did she choose these girls?
9. Did the Kelveys have a chance to come to the Burnells and see their doll's house?
10. Why were the little Kelveys the only two who stayed outside the girls' ring and moved away forgotten?

16. Express your agreement or disagreement with the following statements. If you find the statement wrong, correct it using the following expressions: *You are not right; It is not true to the fact; As a matter of fact it is wrong; I'm afraid that's not quite right; No, that's wrong.*

1. When dear old Mrs. Hay went back to town after staying with the Burnells she was so sick and tired that she tried to forget about them as soon as possible as a bad dream

why they were allowed to play with the girls from the school and soon they became their special friends.

11. The lamp in the doll's house made a great sensation.

12. Emmie Cole and Lena Logan were the two who were to come back with the Burnells and see the doll's house, but the others had no chance to see it.

17. Make comments on the following phrases:

1. Isabel was bossy. She was always right.

2. The Kelveys knew better than to come anywhere near Burnells.

18. Some up what you have learned about the Burnells and the Kelveys in Chapter I.