

### **CHARACTER SKETCH OF PAPPACHI:**

Pappachi had retired from government services in Delhi and came to live in Ayemenem. Pappachi found it difficult to cope up with the ignominy of retirement. Pappachi had no feelings of love for his wife Mammachi, who had taken to trade of pickle and jam making and thus had earned fame. Mammachi had almost turned blind due to conical corneas but Pappachi never helped her because he thought it improper and below his dignity. He lacked the qualities of a good and loving husband. Pappachi was egocentric. He would beat Mammachi every night but one such night Pappachi was warned by Chacko not to beat Mammachi again.

Pappachi was badly hurt by this incident. He was stubborn and thereby stopped talking to his wife and it continued till the end of his days.

Pappachi was a man of unusual tastes. He always wore a well-dressed three piece suit and his gold pocket watch just to struck an impression around, although, he would sweat freely inside. No one in the house was allowed to sit in his favorite mahogany rocking chair. After chacko incident, Pappachi would sit on the verand- ah and sew buttons on his shirt, though the buttons were intact. He wanted to create an impression that Mammachi had neglected him. He wanted to spoil the image of his wife. He also succeeded to some small degree in corroding Ayemen- em's view of working wives. A great shock of his life was the moth which he had discovered was not named after him. Pappachi had been an Imperial Entomolog- ist but his designation was changed to Joint Director, Entomology.

Pappachi was 17 years older than his wife. He felt jealous of his wife who appeared to be still in her prime.

Pappachi always kept the photograph of himself as a young man on his drawing table. This photograph was taken in a photographer's studio in Vienna where he had done the six month diploma course in entomology. It was during those few months when Mammachi took her first lessons in the violin. The lessons were abruptly stopped when Mammachi's teacher praised the qualities of Mammachi.

At Pappachi's funeral, Mammachi cried. Ammu said "Mammachi was crying more because she was used to him than she loved him. She was used to having him slouching around the pickle factory and was used to being beaten from time to time."

### **Character sketch of Mammachi:**

Mammachi is an admirable woman. Mammachi has taken to pickle-making commercially soon after the retirement of Pappachi (her husband). She has risen to fame in her trade.

Mammachi has almost lost her eyesight owing to conical corneas but she continues her trade of pickle-making in which she is not given a helping hand by her husband. Actually she belongs to a society which is dominated by men. She is used to the cruel treatment perpetrated on her by Pappachi. The poor creature never complains against the harsh treatment meted out to her. Although, she is busy in pickle-making, in order to bring prosperity to her home. She is not treated well. Pappachi is jealous of her rising fame.

Throughout the text it is clear that she is least bothered about the discovery of moth. She is a silent worker who has grown accustomed to her surroundings.

Q2. It is Pappachi's son Chacko who says these words. Chacko has come for a summer vacation from Oxford and he has grown very strong due to rowing to which he is very fond of. One day he hears Pappachi beating Mammachi and he quickly strides into the room and twists Pappachi's wrist (with which he has been beating Mammachi) at his (Pappachi's) back and warns him never to do that again.

Q3. Pappachi and Mammachi had nothing in common with each other. Mammachi was used to the cruel treatment perpetrated on her by Pappachi. Pappachi was of the idea that beating his wife up was his right. Mammachi cried at his funeral not because she loved him but because she had become used to his beatings and his slouching around the pickle factory. It amazes the one how humans become habituated to unusual things which can make them to suffer various aches and pains. Such was the relationship between Pappachi and Mammachi.

Q4. In the story, we find two converse aspects of Mammachi's character. Initially we find her to be out of luck because of the unfair treatment she is meted out. She is a silent worker who has grown accustomed to her surroundings. But later in the text we find how she persists with her job of pickle-making. She gets no help from her husband but she continues with her newly found lucrative venture of pickle-making. She earns a name for herself which Pappachi resents. Thus, she proves herself to be an independent and resilient woman.

Q5. It is apparent throughout the text that Pappachi's life is full of irony. Pappachi breaks his favourite mahogany chair but ironically no one shows any reaction. To impress the people around he drives his sky blue Plymouth but perspires badly inside

his woolen suits. There is irony in the incident when after twelve years, he comes to know that the moth discovered by him will not be named after him, but ironically after the person, who was far junior to Pappachi and whom Pappachi had disliked always.

Q6. The instances of humour are as under:

1. Pappachi would sit on the verandah and sew buttons although every button was intact
2. Pappachi liked to struck the impression around while driving.
3. He put the moth in the sun for a few hours for alcohol to evaporate.
4. The discovery was of little importance as he was told that the moth had been identified as a slightly unusual race of well-known species.
5. After twelve years, he received a real blow as the moth deceived him(moth was named after a person who was far junior to Pappachi and whom Pappachi had always disliked).