

WHILE-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Read lines 1-38 and answer the following questions:

- a. What gifts did the narrator and her sister receive from their granny?
- b. In what ways were the gifts different?
- c. What did the narrator do with her gift and why?
- d. How did the narrator feel after what she had done?
- e. What did her father do?
- f. How did she justify her behaviour to her father?

2. Read the rest of the story and say whether the following statements are True or False. T F

- 1 She thought that the idea of giving the doll away was good
- 2 Her father thought that her aunt had a negative influence on her
- 3 Her father told her she had to change.
- 4 She felt no one understood her

3. Read the following statements and tick (V) the ones that best describe the narrator's feelings:

- 1 She felt confused about what she had done
- 2 She felt satisfied at having smashed the doll
- 3 She thought her parents exaggerated the importance of her act
- 4 She felt ashamed of what she had done
- 5 She regretted the act and promised not to behave like that any longer

4. Read the lines below again. What feelings do they evoke?

- *"But he hadn't told me why I'd done it and I thought he knew everything".*
- *"They are always expecting me to do things".*

Choose from the following:

- reproach
- disappointment
- anger
- shame
- guilt
- sadness

5. Go over the answers you gave in Activities 3, 4, 5.

Try to define the narrator's character.

The following adjectives may be of some help:

- **spoiled**
- **contradictory**
- **difficult**
- **strong-willed**
- **stubborn**
- **uncertain**
- **insecure**
- **unpredictable**

AFTER-READING ACTIVITIES Discuss these questions with your partner:

a. If you had been the narrator's parents would you have behaved in the same way or not?

b. Can you justify the "irrational" act of the narrator?