

UNIT-7B

Questions And Answers:

1. Why was Akkayya perplexed?

Answer: Akkayya was surprised to see turayi and pomegranate trees in flowerpots instead of growing them in the backyard. She was feeling sorry for the trees. To this, Ammalu burst into laughter and so Akkayya was perplexed.

2. How is a bonsai reared?

Answer: Bonsai is a Japanese art. It is a special method of growing huge tree in a flower pot. One needs to keep cutting its branches, keep changing the pot now and then, and trim it into a small-sized tree.

3. What similarities do you notice between the bonsai tree and the housewife?

Answer: There are many similarities between the bonsai tree and the housewife. The Bonsai is not allowed to grow free rather kept in a flowerpot where its original size is overlooked and is trimmed again and again to cut down its original size. Thus, it can never grow to its original size as its roots are confined into the flower pots.

Similarly, the house wife is confined to the four walls of a house and is always expected to look after the clothes, utensils, keep the washerman's account, etc. The housewife is too not allowed to go out of her house and earn like a man and live a free life. The housewife's life is similar to that of bonsai whose roots are confined to that of the household chores.

4. What made the narrator feel the urge to free the bonsai?

Answer: The narrator was moved by Akkayya's words. Akkayya was a housewife and she knew how distressful life is when one is not allowed to live freely. Akkayya said that the bonsai look cute, sweet in the flowerpot but it cannot even withstand a simple dust storm and is dependent on someone else, so how can it even give shelter to anyone. Hearing this, the narrator felt the urge to free the bonsai.

5. What is the central theme of 'Bonsai Life'?

Answer: In the lesson, 'Bonsai Life', the author compares the life of a housewife to that of a Bonsai who is not allowed to grow freely.

The author very well tells us how a housewife is confined to the household chores. She is expected to clean utensils, wash clothes, keep the washerman's account.

Here, in this lesson, the author shows us how Akkayya was not allowed to study after class five and was married to a man from a village whereas she had keen interest in studies but her interests were chopped off like that of a bonsai tree which can grow to a height of a tall building if allowed to grow freely.

In short, we can say, the central theme of 'Bonsai Life' is women's education and empowerment. If a girl is educated properly and allowed to grow freely then she can also have a dignified life like that of a man.

