

## First Flight

### (Class X – NCERT English)

#### Chapter 6: The Hundred Dresses - II – El Bsoor Ester

##### Detailed Summary (Expanded, Exam-Oriented)

This chapter is the continuation of "The Hundred Dresses" and focuses on Peggy and Maddie's guilt and their attempt to make amends after Wanda leaves.

After learning about Wanda's departure and seeing her beautiful dress designs, Peggy and Maddie feel terrible. They realize they misjudged and mistreated Wanda. The hundred dress designs displayed in Room Thirteen constantly remind them of what they have done.

Maddie is particularly affected. She cannot sleep at night, thinking about how they treated Wanda. She decides that from now on, she will never stand by silently when someone is being teased or bullied, even if it means losing friends or becoming unpopular herself.

Peggy and Maddie decide they must find Wanda and tell her they are sorry. They want to tell her that her dress designs won the competition and that everyone thinks they are beautiful. They want Wanda to know that they admire her talent.

On Saturday, the girls go to Boggins Heights, the poor area where Wanda lived. They climb the hill and find Wanda's old house. It is a small, shabby house that stands empty now. The windows are bare, and there is no sign of life. The Petronskis have already left.

The girls peer through the windows and see only emptiness inside. They realize they are too late. They cannot apologize to Wanda in person. They stand there feeling disappointed and guilty, knowing they have lost their chance.

Peggy tries to justify their past behavior. She says they never called Wanda names or hurt her intentionally. They were just having fun. But deep inside, both girls know they were wrong. Maddie thinks about how even though they did not call Wanda names, they made fun of her and her hundred dresses every day.

The girls decide to write a letter to Wanda at her new address on Boggins Street in the big city. They compose a friendly letter saying they miss her, hope she likes her new school and teacher, and that she won the drawing competition. They tell her that everyone loves her dress designs.

Days pass, but no reply comes from Wanda. Peggy and Maddie check the mail every day, hoping for a response. They keep waiting, but Wanda does not write back. They wonder if she received their letter or if she is still angry with them.

Christmas holidays arrive. One day, Miss Mason receives a letter from Wanda addressed to Room Thirteen. Wanda writes to the class, particularly mentioning Peggy and Maddie. She writes that she and her family are doing well in their new home in the big city.

In the letter, Wanda says she misses everyone. More importantly, she tells Peggy and Maddie that they can keep two of her dress designs - the ones they liked best. She has many more designs now. She says Peggy can have the green dress with the red trimming, and Maddie can have the blue one.

When Peggy and Maddie get home with their dress designs, they examine them closely. As they look at the drawings, they make an amazing discovery. In each dress design, the face of the girl wearing the dress looks familiar. They realize with a shock that Wanda has drawn their faces!

In the green dress design that Wanda gave to Peggy, the face looks exactly like Peggy - with the same hair and expression. In the blue dress design given to Maddie, the face looks just like Maddie. Wanda has drawn them wearing the beautiful dresses she designed.

This discovery moves both girls deeply. Despite all the teasing and mockery Wanda endured, she drew Peggy and Maddie as the models wearing her beautiful dresses. She must have imagined her tormentors as her friends, wanting them to have her best designs.

Peggy and Maddie realize that Wanda has forgiven them. Even though she has moved away and they hurt her, she has given them her most precious creations - her dress designs with their own faces. This is Wanda's way of showing there are no hard feelings.

The girls hang the dress designs in their rooms. Every time they look at the drawings, they think of Wanda. They wish they could tell her in person how beautiful her designs are and how sorry they are. They wish they had been kinder to her when she was there.

Maddie thinks that she will write to Wanda again, telling her that the drawings are beautiful and that they have their faces. She wants to thank Wanda properly. But deep down, both girls know that no words can undo the past or erase the hurt they caused.

The chapter ends with Peggy and Maddie looking at the beautiful dress designs on their walls - permanent reminders of the girl they mistreated and the lesson they learned too late about kindness, acceptance, and the importance of standing up against bullying.

## Central Themes

### 1. Guilt and Regret

Peggy and Maddie experience deep remorse for their treatment of Wanda. Their guilt teaches them an important lesson about treating others with kindness.

### 2. Forgiveness and Magnanimity

Wanda's gesture of giving her best designs to the girls who teased her shows extraordinary forgiveness and generosity of spirit.

### 3. Too Late Realization

The girls realize Wanda's worth only after she is gone, teaching that we should appreciate and respect people while they are with us.

#### 4. Standing Up Against Wrong

Maddie resolves never again to be a silent bystander to bullying, showing personal growth and moral courage.

#### 5. The Lasting Impact of Actions

The dress designs serve as permanent reminders of the consequences of their actions and the person they hurt.

### Character Analysis

#### 1. Maddie

Shows the most growth in this chapter. Her guilt is deeper than Peggy's, and she makes a firm resolution to never again stand by silently when someone is being bullied. She represents the bystander who learns from their mistake.

#### 2. Peggy

Also feels guilty but tries to rationalize their past behavior. She grows too but perhaps not as much as Maddie. She represents those who participate in bullying without fully grasping the impact.

#### 3. Wanda Petronski

Though absent from the chapter, her presence is felt throughout. Her act of forgiveness - giving her best designs to her tormentors - shows remarkable maturity and kindness. She represents grace and forgiveness.

### Important Vocabulary (With Meanings)

- **Courteous** – polite and respectful
- **Intently** – with great concentration
- **Vaguely** – in an unclear manner
- **Exclaimed** – cried out suddenly
- **Faded** – lost brightness or color
- **Peppered** – scattered with
- **Trimmed** – decorated at the edges
- **Admired** – regarded with respect
- **Elaborate** – detailed and complicated
- **Precious** – of great value

### Exam-Ready Key Points

- Peggy and Maddie feel guilty after seeing Wanda's dress designs and learning she left
- Maddie resolves to never again stand by silently when someone is bullied
- The girls go to Wanda's house but find it empty - the family has already left
- They write a letter to Wanda apologizing and telling her about winning the competition
- Days pass with no reply from Wanda
- Finally, Wanda writes to the class saying she and her family are doing well
- She tells Peggy and Maddie to keep two dress designs - her gift to them
- The girls discover that Wanda drew their faces on the dress designs
- Despite being teased, Wanda drew her tormentors as models wearing beautiful dresses
- This shows Wanda has forgiven them and held no grudge
- The girls hang the designs in their rooms as permanent reminders
- They wish they had been kinder when Wanda was there - lesson learned too late