

Class -X English
The Hundred Dresses
Part-1

Q1. How is Wanda seen as different by the other girls? How do they treat her?

Ans : Wanda is seen as different by the other girls. She is poor and a lonely girl. They treated her as inferior to them and always made fun of her. The girls teased her by commenting on her dress and dirty feet.

2. How does Wanda feel about the dresses game? Why does she say that she has a hundred dresses?

Ans: Wanda did not show any feelings regarding the dresses game. It is most likely that she was deeply hurt. But she maintained a stoic face and showed that she was made of tough nerves. She was a girl who was very poor and came from a long distance which made her feet dirty. She wanted to draw attention of her friends. So, she felt very happy whenever she told her friend that she had hundred dresses without realizing that they were making fun of her.

3. Why does Maddie stand by and not do anything? How is she different from Peggy?
(Was Peggy's friendship important to Maddie? Why? Which lines in the text tell you this?)

Ans: Maddie always stood by and never did anything as she was afraid that if she did, she would lose Peggy's friendship. She was a poor girl and therefore, felt that if she spoke against the others, they would target her next. Unlike her, Peggy was a rich girl. This was also the reason why Maddie could think from Wanda's point of view, but Peggy could not. Maddie was Peggy's best friend. It seemed as if she was in awe of Peggy. She admired her quite a lot as she said that Peggy was the most liked girl in the room and that she drew better than anyone else. She did not have the courage to go against her. Some of the lines from the text which show that Peggy's friendship was important to Maddie are as follows.

- (i) Peggy, who had thought up this game, and Maddie, her inseparable friend, were always the last to leave.
- (ii) She was Peggy's best friend, and Peggy was the best-liked girl in the whole room.
- (iii) Peggy could not possibly do anything that was really wrong, she thought.
- (iv) Oh, Maddie was sure Peggy would win.

Q4. What does Miss Mason think of Wanda's drawings? What do the children think of them?
How do you know?

Ans: Miss Mason appreciated the paintings of Wanda. She was impressed at the creativity of the girl because she had painted hundred paintings which were in wide range of variety and worthy of winning a medal. The children also admired the drawings. Everybody stopped and whistled or murmured admiringly. After Miss Mason had announced that Wanda was the winner, they burst into applause, and even the boys were glad to have a chance to stamp on the floor and whistle. Also, just as Peggy and Maddie entered the room, they stopped short and gasped. Later they recognized the designs as those which Wanda had described to them. And in the

end, Peggy exclaimed, "...and I thought I could draw." This shows that she also realized how good Wanda's drawings were.