Class 11 English Snapshots Chapter 2: The Address - Notes, Summary, NCERT Answers and MCQs (2026-27)

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What is The Address about?

Fact	Detail (from the NCERT text)
Chapter	Chapter 2, Snapshots (NCERT Supplementary Reader, Class 11 English Core)
Author	Marga Minco
Type	Short story, told in the first person
Narrator	An unnamed young woman, "Mrs S's daughter"
Main characters	The narrator, her mother (Mrs S), Mrs Dorling, Mrs Dorling's daughter
Setting	Holland, after the War; a house in Marconi Street
The address	Number 46, Marconi Street
Visits	Two. The first fails; the second lets her inside.
Central conflict	Wanting to hold on to the past versus needing to move on
Ending	She resolves to forget the address

What happens in The Address? (Summary)

1. The first knock

2. "Have you come back?"

3. A memory of the War

4. The first meeting with Mrs Dorling

5. Waiting before going back

6. The second visit

7. Things she knows by touch

8. The silver cutlery

9. The decision

Who are the characters in The Address?

Character	Who she is	Key traits (with proof)
The narrator	Mrs S's daughter;	Brave, sensitive and practical. Returns twice. Recognises objects by touch.

Character	Who she is	Key traits (with proof)
	unnamed	Chooses to let go.
Mrs S (the mother)	The narrator's mother	Trusting and generous. Believes Mrs Dorling is saving her things. Would think it an insult to ask for promises.
Mrs Dorling	An old acquaintance of the mother	Cold and greedy. Wears the mother's cardigan. Refuses to talk. Keeps everything.
Mrs Dorling's daughter	A girl of about fifteen	Friendly and unaware. Has a broad back like her mother. Calls the things nothing special.

Character sketch of the narrator

Character sketch of Mrs Dorling

Character sketch of the mother

Character sketch of Mrs Dorling's daughter

What are the main themes of The Address?

Theme	Where you see it in the story
War and loss	Mrs Dorling thought no one had come back. The narrator says only she did. Her family is gone.
Memory	The narrator remembers the burn mark, the apple painting and the teapot's gold border.
Betrayal of trust	The mother trusted Mrs Dorling. Mrs Dorling kept everything and wears the cardigan.
Greed in hard times	Mrs Dorling turns up suddenly during the War and carries away suitcase after suitcase.
Letting go and moving on	The narrator chooses to forget the address. She looks to a new life instead.
Home is more than things	Her things feel wrong in a "strange atmosphere." Home was the life around them.

Why is the story called The Address?

Which objects in The Address matter most for exams?

Object	Where it appears	What it means
Green knitted cardigan	Mrs Dorling wears it at the door	Proof of theft; shows Mrs Dorling's lack of shame
Iron Hanukkah candle-holder	Hangs next to a mirror in the passage	A family and religious memory; now just decoration
Woollen tablecloth	Living-room table	She finds the old burn mark. Memory lives in touch.
White teapot with gold border	Girl pours tea from it	Even small details are remembered
Still life with apple	Over the tea-table	A childhood joy now hanging in a stranger's room
Silver cutlery	In the sideboard drawer	Daily things go unnoticed until they are lost
Plates on the wall	Used by Mrs Dorling's family	The girl says they were nothing special

What do the difficult words in The Address mean?

Word	Simple meaning
Chink	A narrow gap
Searchingly	Looking closely, trying to find out
Recognition	Knowing someone you have seen before
Fleetingly	Very briefly
Cardigan	A knitted sweater that opens at the front
Musty	Stale and damp-smelling
Bay window	A window that sticks out from a wall
Jamb	The side post of a door frame
Acquaintance	Someone you know a little, not a close friend
Lugging	Carrying something heavy with effort
Crick	A sudden painful stiffness, like in the back
Crockery	Plates, cups and dishes
Reprovingly	In a way that shows disapproval
Liberation	Being set free; here, the end of enemy occupation
Hanukkah	The Feast of Lights, a Hebrew festival in December (NCERT footnote)
Cumbersome	Heavy and awkward to use
Oppressed	Weighed down; made to feel heavy and sad
Muggy	Warm, damp and stuffy
Still life	A painting of objects like fruit or dishes
Pewter	A grey metal used for plates and mugs
Sideboard	A low cupboard for dishes and cutlery
Severed	Cut off
Black-out paper	Dark paper that hid lights from enemy planes

What are the NCERT answers for The Address?

Questions are from the NCERT text. Answers are written by Nextoper.

Q1. 'Have you come back?' said the woman. 'I thought that no one had come back.' Does this statement give some clue about the story? If yes, what is it?

Q2. The story is divided into pre-War and post-War times. What hardships do you think the girl underwent during these times?

Q3. Why did the narrator of the story want to forget the address?

Q4. 'The Address' is a story of human predicament that follows war. Comment.

What MCQs come from The Address?

Answer: (b) 46. The mother said Marconi Street, Number 46.

Answer: (c) The cardigan. That is how the narrator knew she was right.

Answer: (b) By train. She says she came specially on the train.

Answer: (c) A girl of about fifteen, Mrs Dorling's daughter.

Answer: (b) The Hanukkah candle-holder the family never used.

Answer: (b) A burn mark that had never been repaired.

Answer: (c) The apple on the pewter plate.

Answer: (b) She did not know the daily cutlery was silver.

Answer: (b) She said she must catch her train.

Answer: (c) She resolved to forget the address.

What should you revise the night before the exam?

Number trick: 46 - 2 - 15

- 46 - the house number in Marconi Street
- 2 - visits; the first fails, the second gets her inside
- 15 - the age (about) of Mrs Dorling's daughter

Seven objects: "Can Her Things Tell Sad Stories, Please?"

- Cardigan - green, knitted, wooden buttons
- Hanukkah candle-holder - iron, next to the mirror
- Tablecloth - woollen, with a burn mark
- Teapot - white, gold border on the lid
- Silver cutlery - in the sideboard drawer
- Still life - apple on a pewter plate
- Plates - on the wall; not "anything special" to the girl

Self-check: can you answer these in one line?

Question	Tick when you can answer
How did the narrator know she was at the right house?	[ ]
What did Mrs Dorling's question reveal?	[ ]
Why did the mother trust Mrs Dorling?	[ ]
Why did the narrator wait before visiting?	[ ]

Question	Tick when you can answer
What is the silver cutlery story about?	[ ]
Why did she leave before Mrs Dorling returned?	[ ]
Why did she decide to forget the address?	[ ]

What practice questions can you try on The Address?

Practice question

Short answer (about 40-50 words)

1. Why was the narrator afraid to visit the address soon after the Liberation?
2. What did the mother say about the risk Mrs Dorling was taking?
3. How did the narrator feel inside Mrs Dorling's living room?
4. Why did the narrator tell the girl about the silver cutlery?
5. What does the black-out paper in her rented room suggest?

Long answer (about 120-150 words)

1. Compare the narrator's mother and Mrs Dorling. How do they show trust and betrayal?
2. Why do familiar objects lose their value in strange surroundings? Explain with examples.
3. Write a diary entry by the narrator on the night after her second visit.

Extract-based practice

a) Who resolved this, and when?
b) Why does she say this would be the easiest thing to forget?
c) What does this decision show about her?

What mistakes do students make in The Address?

Common mistake	What the NCERT text actually says
Calling her "Mrs Morling"	Her name is Mrs Dorling. It is on the name-plate in black letters.
Calling The Address a poem	It is a short story, told in the first person.
Calling the narrator "he"	The narrator is a woman, "Mrs S's daughter."
"Acquaintance means a stranger"	An acquaintance is someone you know slightly. Mrs Dorling was an old acquaintance of the mother.
"Mrs Dorling truly did not recognise her"	She first says she does not know her. Her next question shows she does.
Calling the girl a "housekeeper's daughter"	The girl is Mrs Dorling's daughter. She says her mother is out on an errand.
"The narrator went back three times"	She visits twice and never returns after the second visit.
"The narrator took some things back"	She takes nothing. She leaves everything behind.
Quoting exact board marks for this chapter	No mark split is given in the NCERT book. Check the official CBSE syllabus instead.

What is the short answer on The Address?

What do students ask about The Address?

Who wrote The Address?

What is The Address about in short?

Why did the narrator want to forget the address?

Who is Mrs Dorling in The Address?

What is the theme of The Address?

What is the key takeaway from The Address?

Related notes

- Class 11 English Snapshots Chapter 1: The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse notes
- Class 11 English Snapshots Chapter 3: Mother's Day notes
- All Class 11 English Hornbill and Snapshots notes

Sources

1. NCERT, Snapshots, Chapter 2, "The Address" by Marga Minco (Reprint 2026-27). ncert.nic.in
2. CBSE Academic, Class 11 English Core (Code 301) curriculum. cbseacademic.nic.in

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