

# **The Revolt of Mother – Mary Eleanor Wilkins Freeman**

## **Questions and Answers - The Revolt of “Mother” – Set 1**

1. Who are the main characters in The Revolt of “Mother”?
  - The main characters in the story are Sarah Penn (the Mother), Adoniram Penn (Father) and their children Nanny and Sammy.
2. Who is the protagonist of the story The Revolt of “Mother”?
  - The protagonist of the story is the strong and independent woman Mother Sarah Penn.
3. Who is the antagonist of the story The Revolt of “Mother”?
  - While throughout the story it is shown that Men are shown to be dismissive to the idea of women having a voice, t/here is no true antagonist in the story.
4. Is The Revolt of “Mother” a true story?
  - The Revolt of “Mother” is not a true story and is a work of fiction. The settings are written to draw inspiration from the patriarchal society of North America back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Incidentally, this was when the story was written.
5. What happens in the end of The Revolt of “Mother”?
  - Father arrives from his travel and asks why the family is in the barn. The Mother resolutely tells him that they live there and that Father must put up windows and partitions and buy furniture for it so that it would become a house. In the end she gets what she wants.

## **Questions and Answers - The Revolt of “Mother” – Set 2**

6. What is the main idea or theme behind The Revolt of “Mother”?
  - This main theme is the defiance or the reversal of traditional gender roles.
7. What happened in the start of story The Revolt of “Mother”?
  - In the start of the story, men were digging in the farm to erect a structure and Mother wants to know what they are digging for. Her husband is very reluctant to answer the question until he says that they are making a new barn. When Sarah asks why, he simply says that he has nothing to say.
8. What does Sammy say to the Mother when she asks him what the men were building in the farm?

- Sarah asks Sammy, her son, if he knew that Father was going to build a new barn, and Sammy says he has known for around three months. When she asks the young boy, a man in making, he replies that he has nothing to say.

9. What is the moral of The Revolt of “Mother”?

- The moral of “The Revolt of 'Mother'” is that opportunity must be seized when it comes along, even if that means taking advantage of unforeseen circumstances. A wasted opportunity missed due to indecision might never be available again.

### **Questions and Answers - The Revolt of “Mother” – Set 3**

10. What does the barn symbolize according to the Father Adoniram Penn?

- For the hardworking Father, a new barn symbolizes prosperity, growth and economical success.

11. What does the barn symbolize in the revolt of mother according to the mother?

- For the mother, it indicates that the animals are getting a better and new house than themselves. Their house is run down and inadequate.

12. What is the climax in the revolt of mother?

- The Father comes home and sees that that the Mother has moved the kids and all their possessions into the new barn. Father finally accepts that the new barn is now their house.

13. What is the irony in the revolt of mother?

- It is ironic that the animals are getting a better living arrangement than the humans, whose home is rundown and inadequate.

14. What is the conflict in the Revolt of mother?

- The story revolves around the mother's conflict of being a submissive wife which is what the society wants her to be or to be a strong independent woman

15. What is Adoniram favorite pie?

- There were brown-bread and baked beans and a custard pie; it was the supper that Adoniram loved on a Saturday night.

### **Questions and Answers - The Revolt of “Mother” – Set 4**

16. When did the Revolt of Mother take place?

- It takes place in the late 1890s (when the author wrote the short story). Women were brought up to be subservient to men, a common practice during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

17. Who is Adoniram in the Revolt of Mother?

- Adoniram Penn also known as “Father” is Sarah Penn's husband. He has two children, a daughter Nanny and a son Sammy. He is a honest and hardworking, successful farmer. Adoniram spends great amount of time and money on the farm and livestock than he does on his family.

18. Who is Sarah Penn in the Revolt of mother?

- Sarah Penn also known as the “Mother” is the protagonist in “The Revolt of 'Mother”’. Sarah has been a dutiful wife to her husband, Adoniram Penn, for 40 years. In the story, she rises up to the occasion and questions her husband’s decision to build a new barn.

19. What had Adoniram promised Mrs Penn forty years before?

- Forty years ago, her husband Adoniram had promised Sarah that their new house should be built within the next few months where the barn was now coming up.

20. When does the Mother get the idea to move into the barn?

- Sarah Penn gets the idea of moving into the barn when her daughter says that she would rather get married in the barn than the parlour.