

Rappaccini's Daughter - Nathaniel Hawthorne

Questions and Answers - Rappaccini's Daughter – Set 1

1. Who are the main characters in Rappaccini's Daughter?
 - The story has two types of main characters. The visible characters who have dialogues are Beatrice, who is Rappaccini's daughter, Giovanni and the professor Baglioni.
2. Who is the protagonist of the story Rappaccini's Daughter?
 - The protagonist shown throughout the story is a young man called Giovanni Guasconti. He came from the south of Italy to study at the University of Padua. However he is shown to become the antagonist at the end of the story.
3. What happened in the start of story Rappaccini's Daughter?
 - In the start of the story, a young man called Giovanni Guasconti, comes from the south of Italy to study at the University of Padua. He stays in a small room and it overlooks Rappaccini's garden.
4. What is the theme of Rappaccini's Daughter?
 - One of the main themes in "Rappaccini's Daughter" is the boundaries of morality versus the purist of Science. The great scientist Rappaccini values science over everything else including his own daughter. He doesn't think of his scientific experiments in terms of good and evil and the scientist in him makes him forget his morals and chase knowledge.
5. Explain the theme of love in Rappaccini's Daughter.
 - The love which blossoms between the innocent Beatrice and Giovanni Guasconti is shown initially to transcend all difficulties until the man's mind is corrupted by realising that she was different to him and he could not accept that.

Questions and Answers - Rappaccini's Daughter – Set 2

6. Compare the flowers of Corruption in Rappaccini's garden to Beatrice?
 - The innocent and beautiful Beatrice as well as the flowers and plants in Rappaccini's garden are very beautiful and pure but are also lethal and deadly. Thus it is shown that the corruption can exist even in something as pure as his daughter and the flowers that look so pure.
7. Explain the allegory to the Bible in Rappaccini's garden?
 - The story is similar to the poisonous garden of Eden. Rappaccini's garden with its beautiful yet deadly plants and the ruined fountain is similar to the world cursed by sin and death. The theme describes the ancient biblical conflict between good and evil, with the contemporary concern of the effect of scientific progress on humanity.

8. What is the moral of Rappaccini's Daughter?

- The moral of the story "Rappaccini's Daughter" written by Nathaniel Hawthorne is that "True love accepts a person the way they are and sees through bodily flaws deep into the purity of the beloved's soul."

9. What is the message shared by the author in Rappaccini's Daughter?

- The main message shared by the author Nathaniel Hawthorne in the short story Rappaccini's Daughter is that true love comes in accepting a person the way they are. True love transcends across bodily flaws deep into the purity of the beloved's soul.

10. What is Rappaccini's Daughter short story about?

- In this story, love blossoms between a student Giovanni and the beautiful Beatrice, a girl who is poisonous herself because she is raised in a garden filled with poisonous plants.

Questions and Answers - Rappaccini's Daughter – Set 3

11. Explain the tone of the story?

- "Rappaccini's Daughter" is a dark Gothic short story written by the famous American author Nathaniel Hawthorne.

12. Who is the doctor Rappaccini?

- Rappaccini is a great doctor and scientist Rappaccini. He has created a lush and beautiful garden near his house which is filled with the most poisonous of plants and flowers. The doctor is famous for using poisonous plants to create various medicines.

13. What happens in the end of the story?

- In the end of the story, the innocent Beatrice drinks the antidote offered to her by Giovanni. The antidote is very potent and acts on any poison. As a cruel twist, the antidote proves fatal to Beatrice as she is not just poisoned but a poison herself. She dies in front of her father and Giovanni who are both horrified. In the end, Baglioni looks out of the window and rejoices in Rappaccini's misfortune.

14. What is the irony in Rappaccini's daughter?

- Rappaccini out of scientific curiosity has broken many moral lines by using a human, his own daughter, for his experiments. He thus strays away from the fundamental purpose of medicine which is to save people. It is ironic that Rappaccini ends up poisoning his own daughter and her lover by alienating them from society and destroying their lives.

15. How did Beatrice become poisonous in Rappaccini's daughter?

- Her father, the great scientist Rappaccini has fed her with poison and raised her around poisonous plants since her birth thus making her immune to its source in the garden. As

a result, she herself is poisonous, unable to touch flowers or people without poisoning them.

Questions and Answers - Rappaccini's Daughter – Set 4

16. Is Beatrice really in love with Giovanni?

- Beatrice is innocent and pure and has not met any other human other than her father since she is poisonous herself. She overflows with love for every living thing she encounters, including the poisonous flowers in her father's garden. When she meets Giovanni, the two quickly fall in love.

17. What is the main conflict in Rappaccini's daughter?

- The main conflict explained throughout the story is a moral conflict. It discusses the question of using humans in order to advance science. Rappaccini sacrifices his daughter in order to grow his knowledge of deadly plants.

18. What is the conclusion of Rappaccini's daughter?

- Giovanni becomes poisonous himself. Insects and flowers die when they come into contact with his breath. Giovanni is horrified by this and sees it as a curse. He blames Beatrice for his fate and gives her an antidote to cure her and subsequently free her from her father's cruel experiment. She dies taking the antidote since she is poison herself.

19. Who dies at the end of the story Rappaccini's daughter?

- In the end of the story, the innocent Beatrice drinks the antidote offered to her by Giovanni. The antidote is very potent and acts on any poison. The antidote proves fatal to Beatrice as she is not just poisoned but a poison herself.

20. What do you think actually killed Beatrice?

- While Baglioni was responsible for giving Beatrice an antidote which resulted in her physically dying, Rappaccini was responsible for making her poisonous and destroying her life. Thus both her lover and her father were responsible for her death.

Questions and Answers - Rappaccini's Daughter – Set 5

21. What is the relationship between Beatrice and the shrub in Rappaccini's Daughter?

- Beatrice is the only person who can take care of the poisonous shrub as she is poison herself. She refers to the plant as her sister. The poison in her is represented when Beatrice says that it will be her task to nurse and serve the plant. The poisonous plant will in turn reward her with the perfume which to her is as the breath of life.

22. What does the fountain represent in Rappaccini's daughter?

- The lush plants and beautiful flowers in Rappaccini's garden represent temptation, sin and evil. The broken and ruined fountain, which surrounds the most poisonous purple flowering plant, symbolizes Beatrice's pure character which is broken by everything poisonous around her.

23. What does the ending line said by Baglioni represent?

- As Beatrice dies in her father's feet, Professor Baglioni taunts Rappaccini about his failed experiment. This suggests that the professor Baglioni is cruel and sadistic. Throughout the story, all of the characters succumb to their bad intentions except for Beatrice, which results in her death.

24. How does Giovanni know he is poisonous?

- Giovanni buys flowers for Beatrice to check if they will wilt in her hand. If it does, he will have proof that she is poisonous. However, Giovanni discovers that the flowers are wilting in his own hands, implying that he himself has become poisonous.