

Kristina McCallum Confessions of a Shopaholic by Sophie Kinsella

Literature Circle 2, Characterization Assignment:

Comment [I1]: Grade of 43/45

Quotation Analysis

Comment [I2]: Score of 19/20

- 1) "Hello, Phillip?" I say into the receiver—then immediately I wish I'd said something thrusting and impressive, like a simple "Yep." "Rebecca, listen, sorry to be a bore," says Phillip, "but I've got a migraine coming on. I'm going to head home." "Oh," I say puzzledly. "And I wondered if you could run a small errand for me." An errand? If he wants Tylenol, he should get a secretary. "I'm not sure," I say discouragingly. "I'm a bit tied up here." "When you've finished there. The Social Security Select Committee is releasing its report at five O'clock. Can you go and pick it up? You can go straight to Westminster from your press conference." What? I stare at the phone in horror. No, I can't pick up a bloody report. I need to pick up my Visa card! I need to secure my scarf. "Can't Clare go? I say. "I was going to come back to the office and finish my research on..." What am I supposed to be writing about this month? "On mortgages." "Clare's got a briefing in the City. And Westminster's on your way home to Trendy Fulham isn't it? Phillip always has to make a joke about me living in Fulham. Just because he lives in Harpenden and thinks anyone who doesn't live in lovely leafy suburbia is mad. "You can just hop off the tube," he's saying, "pick it up, and hop back on again." Oh God. I close my eyes and think quickly. An hour here. Rush back to the office, pick up my visa card, back to Denny and George, get my scarf, rush to Westminster, pick up the report. I should just about make it. "Fine, I say. "Leave it to me." Pg.20 paragraph 5

This quotation says a lot about Rebecca's character; it not only shows that she enjoys fashion but at the same time she knows what her job is. It proves that she has a fun side, while at the same time knowing when to be serious. The part where she is running through her head what she knows is right and what she wants to do help prove that she has a strong character. It also gives her a sense of being responsible. Rebecca no doubt wants to go get her scarf however she knows that her job is more important than a sale on designer scarves no matter how good the sale is.

Comment [I3]: D?

Comment [I4]: Of what type? BMS in describing who she is.

Comment [I5]: Don't many of her other actions in the novel contradict this idea? Make sure that you are accurately analyzing her entire character.

- 2) "Becky! What a surprise!" Oh God. It's Martin Webster from next door, leaning over the fence with a rake in his hand and a huge friendly smile on his face. Martin has this way of always making me feel guilty, I don't know why. Actually I do know why. It's because I know he was always hoping I would grow up and marry Tom, his son. And I haven't. The history of my relationship with Tom is: he asked me out once when we were both about

sixteen and I said no, I was going out with Adam Moore. That was the end of it and thank god for that. To be perfectly honest, I would rather marry Martin himself than marry Tom. "Hi!" I say overenthusiastically. "How are you?" "Oh, we're all doing well" says Martin. "You heard Tom's bought a house?" "Yes," I say. "In Reigate. Fantastic!" "It's got two bedrooms, shower room, reception room and open-plan kitchen," he recites. "Limed oak units in the kitchen." "Gosh," I say. "How fab."
Pg. 46 Paragraph 3

This quotation shows that Rebecca's parents raised her to have respect for her elders. She obviously does not have much interest in Tom's limed oak cabinets or talking to Martin at all; however she pretends to be interested and be polite. I believe this says a lot about her character and the type of person she is. If she has simply acted as though she did not hear Martin when he leaned over the fence to say hi then that would have showed that she had low character. Instead of being rude though she acted as an adult and turned around to acknowledge his greeting. She then continued to have a conversation with Martin rather than just say hi and keep walking. This quotation truly shows that she has a good character consisting of respect and manners. It shows that she knows how to act in different situations, and how to conduct herself so that she comes off as a polite person.

Comment [I6]: D?

Comment [I7]: BMS

Comment [I8]: So, is perception of being polite more important to her than actually being polite?

Vocabulary Activity:

Comment [I9]: Score of 9/10

1) Reverentially

"Very slowly, I take the dark green box out of the bag, remove the lid, and unfold the tissue paper. Then, almost reverentially, I lift up the scarf. It's beautiful."
Pg.32 paragraph 3

Reverentially – expressing or having a quality of reverence

Comment [I10]: Don't define a word with a form of the word.

Mark threw Sarah's designer purse off the desk; reverentially Sarah picked it up as though it was a small child he had thrown.

2) Anorak

"I feel my smile disappear. Oh, bugger. Of course. The blue anorak for Michael. The blue sodding anorak for Millets." Pg.8 paragraph 5

Anorak– a usually pullover hooded jacket long enough to cover the hips

James couldn't bear the strong wind||so he pulled out his anorak and pulled it over his body.

Comment [I11]: C

3) Inanely

"So," I say inanely. "I hear Tom's got limed oak units in his kitchen!" Pg.47 paragraph 5

Inanely – lacking significance, meaning, or point

Greg rolled his eyes at the teacher's speech as though what she was saying was inanely and a waste of his time.

Comment [I12]: Use *inane* here. You need an adjective not an adverb.

Creative Activity:

Comment [I13]: Score of 15/15

I believe Rebecca should run for economic advisor. Rebecca does not have the best experience herself with staying out of debt, however she is learning from her mistakes. Even though she has a shopping addiction, which is with her own money. She knows how to manage money and how to save she is just not capable of doing this on her own. Regardless of how she manages her own money I believe that she could drastically help the country save money and cut down on spending because in the case of national finances there are no sales to distract her from her spending cutbacks. Another bright side to Rebecca running is she has Suze to support her. Suze not only knows what it is like to manage a lot of money but she seems to do well with her own finances. Suze is also someone who Rebecca respects and would be willing to listen to her opinion in the time of a crisis. Another person Rebecca could use is her new friend Luke Brandon who is CEO of a large business Brandon Communications. Not only does Luke know a thing or two about finances and the economy; he also knows how to manage a corporation with many employees which would help Rebecca with her nationwide responsibilities. The best campaign slogan for Rebecca is a mistake made is a lesson learned. This slogan is good for Rebecca because it addresses her past and how she made mistakes financially in her past but she has learned from her mistakes. It also shows that she has experience and the mistakes she made she would not allow the country to make. Her history may not give her the best résumé for the job but when you analyze what she could really bring to the table I believe Rebecca would be a great economic advisor.

Comment [I14]: D?

Comment [I15]: Excellent choice!