

1. The location

The scene takes place in the USA. Find in the text the American-English equivalents of the following words:

- holiday => vacation
- wardrobe => closet
- shopping centre => mall
- flat => apartment
- film => movie

2. The Main character

a. Write a sentence about the main character (name, age, job, hometown) (20 words)

The main character called Mary Ann Singleton is a twenty-five year old secretary from Cleveland.

b. In Which city is she and why?

She is on a week's holiday in San Francisco

c. What is the relationship between the main character and Mr. Lassiter?

Mr. Lassiter is Mary Ann's boss

d. Is she appreciated by him? Justify by quoting from the text.

Yes she is. "the office was just falling apart with you gone" line 25-26

Or, "they don't get many good secretaries at Lassiter Fertilizers" line 26

e. What favor does she want her mother to do for her?

She phones her mother to ask her to call her boss and announce she won't come to work the following Monday.

3. The Mother

a. Choose four adjectives from the following list and use them in a short paragraph to describe the mother's personality. (50 words)

Loving / over-protective / bossy / narrow-minded / indifferent / apprehensive / over-imaginative / interfering / down-to-earth / rational

The mother is very loving as she keeps addressing her daughter as

“darling”. She is also over-protective/Interfering as she wants her daughter to live close by “Your Daddy and I thought those new apartments out at Ridgemont might just be perfect for you” Line 43-44.

She is over-imaginative as she thinks that San Francisco is full of killers and dangerous people “...go live with a bunch of hippies and massmurderers” Line 50.

She is bossy when she says “Don’t be silly” line 36 or “don’t be ridiculous” line 40.

b. What paradoxical image does the mother have of the city? (40 words)

On the one hand the mother feels that San Francisco is an exciting city where she had good memories of nights out dancing when she was younger. On the other hand, she has a negative image of the place as she believes it’s a dangerous city full of killers and prone to earthquakes.

4. The decision

Focus on the lines from 29 to the end.

a. What decision has the main character made? (10 words)

She has decided to stay in San Francisco.

b. Pick out three different quotes justifying her decision.

Explain in your own words what desires motivated her choice. (40 words)

“I like it here, it feels like home already” Line 37.

“I just want to start making my own life” Line 42.

“I’m a grown woman” Line 48.

Mary Ann has decided to move to San Francisco as she wants to gain in independence, she wants to put some distance between her parents and herself and live her own life as an adult, far away from her mother’s interfering.

c. Explain in your own words why the mother begins to cry at the end of the text. Give at least three reasons. (40 words)

The mother begins to cry because she hasn’t managed to change her

daughter's mind. She is afraid something terrible may happen to Mary Ann. She feels abandoned by her daughter and she is afraid that her daughter will never return and change irrevocably.