#### WORKSHEET

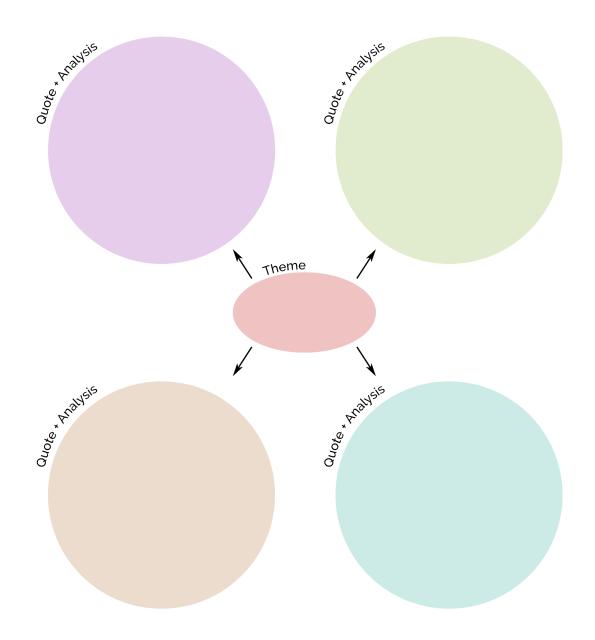
# Of White Hairs and Crickets

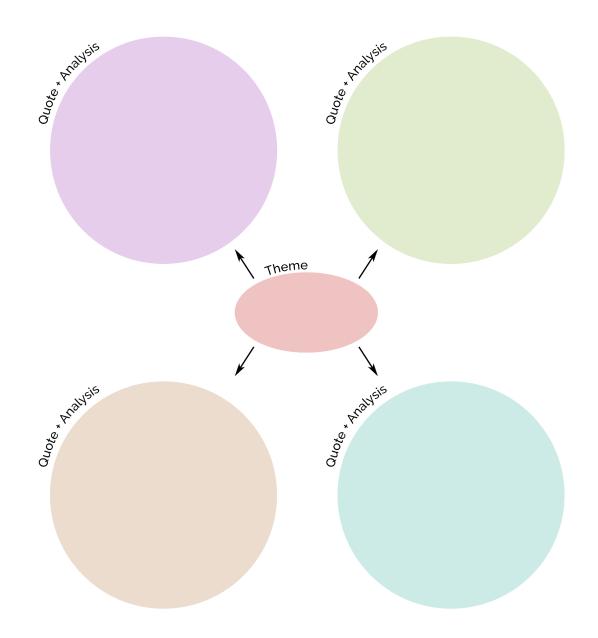
**Rohinton Mistry** 

### TASKS

1a. Pick two of these themes, then make a mind map for each by adding four separate quotations from the story that relate to them. Make short notes of analysis, explaining how and why each one relates to your theme.

- Ageing and Mortality
- Parent-Child Relationships
- The Passage of Time
- Unspoken Emotions
- Maturity and Growth
- Vulnerability





**1b**. What, in your opinion, is the author's final message or statement about each theme that you chose?

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**2.** Why do you think the adults in the story are given **archetypical names**, such as 'Mummy', 'Mammaji' and 'Daddy', leading us to never know their real names?

**3.** In this story the narrator goes through one event that changes how he views his world, have you ever experienced anything similar? Write a paragraph on an event that changed how you viewed things, whether it be in a small or big way.

**4.** Research, using the internet or books, the topic of the British Empire's involvement in India. Pick something that interests you from this topic, and write a paragraph discussing it, and whether it surprised you or not, and why it did or did not surprise you.

### EXERCISES

**1.** Choose a moment in the story where emotions are brewing beneath the surface (e.g., the son waiting for his father to ask him to continue). Write a brief dialogue that could have taken place, highlighting the unspoken feelings of the characters.



**2.** "Of White Hairs and Cricket" is filled with symbols (things that carry deeper meanings e.g. stars to fate, the night to mystery and so on). Find 5 symbols in the text, and write down possible meanings they could have in this particular story.

**3.** Consider an alternate ending where the father asks his son to continue with the tweezers. How would this shift the tone and message of the story? Write a new ending and briefly explain your choices.



## **PRACTICE ESSAY QUESTIONS**

- "The narrator is doomed from the start because he is unable to express their emotions clearly." Do you agree? Justify your answer using evidence from the text.
- 2. How does Mistry explore human nature in "Of White Hairs and Cricket"? Refer closely to the text in your analysis.
- 3. Within "Of White Hairs and Cricket" the setting acts as a major influence on the story. Explain how the setting is used to explore the theme of struggle within the text.