Room – Character Questions – Steppa

**Q: “Although he is not one of the main characters, Steppa plays an important role in Jack’s life”. Do you agree with this statement? Support your answer with reference to the text.**

Based on my reading of the novel “Room” by Emma Donoghue I think that Steppa does play an important role is Jack’s life and his adjustment back into normality. Steppa is a calm character who is laid-back and tactful which helps Jack. When Grandma and Ma start arguing in the clinic, Steppa stands up and says to Grandma, “We should let these folks rest”. Later, when Jack is staying with Grandma and Steppa, Jack throws a tantrum and Steppa picks him up, carries him to his room and waits until he has stopped crying before asking if he’s like to watch the game and eat pie with him. Jack agrees. Steppa copes very well with a difficult situation. He doesn’t get drawn into arguments like Grandma and Ma but just deals with things in a calm and easy-going way. He avoids conflict and his presence helps life run more smoothly for everyone.

Steppa is also a very kind and patient man. When he catches Jack playing with matches, he does not get angry but teaches Jack about everything in the kitchen and how to use it. Jack doesn’t know how to play with LEGO, but Steppa teaches him and says any miskates Jack makes are “no problemo”. Steppa spends time with Jack and doesn’t get angry when the boy does something wrong. Although he never had children of his own, Steppa is really a good grandfather.

Room – Character Questions – Grandpa

**Q: Do you have any sympathy towards Grandpa and the way he behaves towards Jack? Explain your answer with reference to the text.**

Based on my reading of the novel “Room” by Emma Donoghue I do feel sorry for Grandpa. I just think that he finds it difficult to deal with the reality of his grandson. Grandpa doesn’t want to see Jack at all and when he is forced to, he says he doesn’t even want to be in the same room as Jack because “It makes me shudder”. He cries as he explains this to Ma, saying, “But all I can think of is that beast and what he –.” Grandpa is unable to accept Jack because Jack is a constant reminder of what Ma went through. Unfairly, he blames Jack for existing. He initially refuses to see Jack as a person in his own right and calls him “it” rather than “He”.

However, in spite of this reaction I think that Grandpa is a good man. Grandpa does not want to meet Jack at first but he does because his daughter wants him to. He looks straight at his grandson and says, “Pleased to meet you, Jack”. Later, Ma tells Jack that in time Grandpa will “get his act together” and behave like a “real Grandpa”. Although Ma is very annoyed with him, she knows her father is a kind man underneath it all and is confident that he will come to terms with Jack in time.