

Bitsy at the beginning

Look through the following quotations which all relate to Bitsy and discuss what they show us about her character at the beginning of the novel. Think about what sort of impression Tyler is giving us. Consider whether Bitsy changes through the text or not; why is this?

A woman spoke into a tape recorder in an urgent, secretive way.
p.6

Bitsy leading the way ... (Clearly nothing would persuade Bitsy to give up her hold on that baby).
p.10

... Bitsy told her. 'It's going to be just us, our two families, because I believe the girls should get to know each other, don't you? So as to maintain their cultural heritage.'
p.23

'Yes, you're just a little white tooth of a thing,' Dave told Susan, but Bitsy jumped in with, 'Oh! Well! But actually that's not something we would *notice*, really!'
p.30

Bitsy herself wore a black-and-white-striped jersey and black slacks and fluorescent jogging shoes. There was something aggressive about her plainness, Maryam thought – her blatant lack of makeup, her chopped hair and angular, rawboned body. She might also be making a statement.
p.28

Bitsy said, 'We certainly love *your* cuisine,' and she started telling Ziba about something she'd had in a restaurant, a dish whose name she couldn't recall except it had been delicious ...
p.33

'I couldn't bear to work! How could you leave your baby?'
p.36

Bitsy was still studying Susan. For a moment it seemed she couldn't think of anything more to say, then she turned to Ziba. 'You put your daughter in a *playpen*?' she asked.
p.38

'But a *Persian* carpetbag, I'll bet, in some fascinating pattern.'
p.54

'Ah, well, Jin-Ho doesn't have that problem because we're keeping the style she came with. I guess we just don't feel we should Americanize her.'
p.56