Different Influences, Same Impact

Ms. Hancock and Charlotte’s mom are very different in many ways. However, they both make huge impacts on Charlotte’s life in The Metaphor by Budge Wilson. Ms. Hancock is important in Charlotte’s school life, but Charlotte’s mom influences Charlotte’s home life. Charlotte experiences two styles of teaching. Ms. Hancock takes a more laid-back approach. On the other hand, Charlotte’s mom is more old-school. This essay will explain how the two of them will bring Charlotte’s life the perfect balance of originality and practicality.

In the introduction Charlotte describes Ms. Hancock as, “Plump, and unmarried and overenthusiastic.” Charlotte described Ms. Hancock’s style and appearance as, “Flamboyant as her nature.” These quote shows how Ms. Hancock was a very joyful person all the time. It also shows Ms. Hancock was a free spirit and didn’t care what others thought. She loved teaching kids and inspiring them to open up through their writing. Readers can tell Ms. Hancock was very significant in Charlotte’s life because Charlotte felt more comfortable in her classroom than at home. “We are free to respond positively to Ms. Hancock’s literally excess without fear of the mockery”, Charlotte feels she will not be judged if she gives her opinions or ideas in Ms. Hancock’s classroom.

Charlotte’s mom is very different from Ms. Hancock. She is sophisticated, organized and more old-fashion when it comes to parenting Charlotte. Charlotte’s mom is more practical and teaches Charlotte life lessons. “But of course I’m 13 by now, and I knew all about cleaning tubs and wiping off countertops and sweeping crumbs.” This quote shows how she made sure Charlotte knew how to clean up after herself and to never leave a mess. Much how she hinted at these things at the dinner table. Her mother always talked about being studious and not “stepping outside the box.” She wanted Charlotte to be a good student and to always follow instructions and expectations. Unlike Ms. Hancock’s classroom, Charlotte did not always feel comfortable being herself. She was worried her mom would try to “fix” her.

Ms. Hancock and Charlotte’s mom both have different ways of teaching but in the end they both want what’s best for Charlotte. Ms. Hancock inspires Charlotte to be herself and to not let fears get in the way of what she wants. They both want Charlotte to succeed however, Charlotte does not see how her mom helps her achieve her goals. Charlotte enjoyed learning from Ms. Hancock but when they met again in tenth grade she did not want to engage herself in Ms. Hancock’s lessons. Charlotte was too busy trying to make friends with her new peers she forgot what Ms. Hancock had always taught her; to be yourself and keep pushing when others hold you back. In this case her peers weren’t holding her back but it was her desire to fit in that held Charlotte back. Charlotte’s mom is not one to stand out in a crowd and that is what Charlotte was trying to do. She was taking her mom’s idea of blending in. However, she usually doesn’t take her mother’s advice, only acknowledges her mother when she is talking. Though Charlotte closes herself to both of these women in her life, their advice is always in the back of her mind. The two of them influence Charlotte in many ways that will benefit her in later in life.

As you can see they are completely opposite characters. But Charlotte appreciates both of their opinions and thoughts. When Charlotte reconnects with Ms. Hancock she is partial about letting Ms. Hancock in. Mainly because she wanted to fit in with the other kids that did not like her. Also, because her mother had made it clear to Charlotte that Ms. Hancock was different. Charlotte’s mom made it seem that Ms. Hancock was weird and not a good teacher. They both have unique personalities and lifestyles which makes their influences on Charlotte very important to making her a well-rounded girl. Charlotte knows their impact is important because she knows they believe in her.