The Metaphor

Have you ever been in the middle of two people fighting? Did you know what to do? In the story The Metaphor, Budge Wilson introduces the relationship of Charlotte’s favorite teacher Ms. Hancock and her Mother. Charlotte’s mother influences her thoughts because she is always saying negative things. After Charlotte leaves her favorite teachers class she ends up getting her again in grade 10. Since Charlotte’s mother influenced her so much she pretended not to know her favorite teacher and everything was different.

In the story charlottes life is described as perfect and nothing ever to be wrong. That is how lit looked from the outside perspective at least. Once you really got to know charlottes life you would realize that it is definitely not perfect. She can never make a mistake without getting in trouble by her mother. Charlottes mother expects her to do everything right and never make a mistake. However when Charlotte is in Ms. Hancock’s class she can be free to express herself and free to make a mistake. She can be who charlotte wants to be and not feel that she has to perfect. School is when she can forget about her mother’s cold-hearted sayings. Charlotte was never able to have friends over and be relaxed. When her friends would come over they would compliment how nice the house was but then would leave to go to another so that they could have fun. Charlotte’s house was sad and boring. There were no bright colors and no good snacks for charlotte to eat. As an example of her life Charlottes mother tells her to clean her room when there are only a couple books on the floor and also one t-shirt hung over the night stand. That is not messy at all.

The relationship between Ms. Hancock and Charlotte was great. In the beginning of the story Charlotte describes how lovely she was. She described her and her clothes as “flamboyant as her nature”. The kids adored her and each student could “contemplate her face with considerable satisfaction”. Charlotte was constantly changing her thoughts through how she really felt about Ms. Hancock and how her mother’s tainted words imprinted different thoughts. Charlotte’s mother constantly makes passive aggressive comments about Ms. Hancock. Charlotte’s mother’s feelings towards Ms. Hancock were obvious according to her comments “Oh you know. Overdone, too much enthusiasm. Flamboyant. Orange hair. Is she the one?” These comments fueled a deep hatred in charlotte that not even Charlotte had noticed yet. Budge Wilson made it obvious how charlotte felt even though in the story charlotte never directly said it. Charlotte’s mother and Ms. Hancock treated Charlotte very different. Ms. Hancock encouraged Charlotte and made her happy. When charlotte wrote her first metaphor and read it to the class Ms. Hancock was very surprised at the level of her writing. This inspired Charlotte and helped her to feel proud of herself for once. On the other hand Charlottes mom was never picking her up. She was never praising her for what she did and never made sure that she was happy. The only time she would check in would be to make sure charlotte is doing her chores and keeping up with school.

Ever since Ms. Hancock’s entrancing lesson on metaphors, Charlotte has been addicted to writing metaphors. Even before the lesson Charlotte had been taking baths once even two times a day. Now that she has learned about metaphors it is her new hobby in the bath to write them. The author hints that most of her metaphors are about her mother. They don’t directly say that they are about her mother but you can just tell that they are. During the lesson Ms. Hancock asked the class to create their own metaphors about something. Charlotte created her first metaphor about her mother and it wasn’t necessarily a nice one. It just goes to show her feelings about her mother. She explained that her mother was “flawless, modern building created of glass and the smoothest pale concrete.” This was only the start of the metaphor and it already explains that her mother is cold and never makes mistakes. How charlotte speaks of her mother and how she speaks of Ms. Hancock are completely different. She explains how her mother is cold hearted and that Ms. Hancock is a happy flamboyant person.

As I mentioned in the beginning, Charlotte switch schools and was now into high school. Starting her grade 10 year she had a new teacher and exciting enough it was Ms. Hancock. Unfortunately Charlotte’s mother had worn off on her and she pretended that she didn’t know Ms. Hancock. She avoided her whenever she could and tried her best to make sure she couldn’t recognize her. On the tenth day of class Ms. Hancock finally clued in that it was in fact Charlotte from her grade 7 class. They had their first interaction, which was awkward. The first thing Ms. Hancock asked charlotte was if she was still writing her metaphors. Their conversation was short and their connection from grade 7 just wasn’t the same. Over time relationships change and sometimes you just can’t get the same spark back. Charlotte chose not to tell her mother that she was in Ms. Hancock’s class again. She already knew how she would react so she just kept quite. One day after school the students were notified that Ms. Hancock had walked in front of a bus and died. Charlotte took this to offence and immediately blamed herself. Crying at home, her mother still wouldn’t console her telling her “Charlotte do please go blow your nose and get a hold of yourself.” She also explained how she never told her that she was in her class again. Her mother never understood that as Charlotte got older she distanced herself from Ms. Hancock and she didn’t actually want to do that. Charlotte’s mom just wanted to move on and forget when her daughter was grieving.

People shouldn’t have to choose who they like based off of their parent’s views. Charlotte could never stand up to her mother because she would never win. You should never be told that you couldn’t like a certain person. Ms. Hancock and Charlottes mother are very different people with very different views on life. They both influence charlottes life and thoughts. Charlotte can’t let the two intervene and wreck her life for her. She deserves to be happy and do what she loves to do and not be restricted by any means. Her opinions are always being tainted by different views and she can never find level ground. Charlotte should continue to write her metaphors I order to really find out about herself