The Metaphor

As a species the human race has its flaws, we get jealous, we want to be the center of attention always and even if something or someone is good for one of the people we love we don’t want to have that new thing control them. In the short story “The Metaphor” by Budge Wilson. The protagonist in the story Charlotte is influenced heavily by Ms Handcock and her Mother. When charlotte was in the 7th Ms Handcock made the class good, she had a way of teaching that was engaging and made it feel like they weren’t even learning however, when she got to high school she realized that not everyone else has the same passion for learning as she did. With Ms Handcock and Charlottes mother being such big influences in Charlottes life, both of them helped shape Charlotte to who she is today.

When Charlotte was in the 7th grade Ms Handcock was her English teacher and she made the English class so fun for Charlotte that it did not even seem as if she was learning. Charlotte loved English class and when the class learned about metaphors Charlottes was by far the best with the teacher talking to her after the class ended about how good her metaphor was. Charlotte was confused because she had not known that her metaphor was so good. She was simply writing whatever came to her head. When Charlotte came the high school she was different, people did not share the same passion for English as she did, and when she saw that Ms Handcock was her teacher she didn’t want anyone to know that she had had Ms Handcock as a teacher in the past. Charlotte still loved writing metaphors but she did not want people to know that she loved school and especially English class. Ms Handcock taught Charlotte how to enjoy learning and how to enjoy English class.

Charlottes mother was strict and was a good influence on Charlotte. Charlotte was taught to do as she was told and to keep things clean and was just taught to be a put together young women. When Charlotte found out that Ms Handcock was dead she was devastated, she had thought that because she was ignoring her she had done something, but it did not seem like Charlottes mother cared. Charlottes mother told Charlotte to get over it because Ms Handcock did not seem very fit and there was lots of ice that day but, when Charlotte says “I killed her” if just seems like her mother dismisses it as nothing. Charlotte felt completely betrayed by her mother, her favorite teacher Ms Handcock was dead and Charlotte felt like it was her fault. The death of Ms Handcock changed Charlotte, she still wishes that Ms Handcock was alive because kids loved her, loved learning from her and understood her but parents would just dismiss her because she’s excited about school.

Charlotte clearly felt very deep feeling for both Ms Handcock and her mother. When charlotte writes the metaphor in class about her mother it’s so detailed and even Ms Handcock was impressed by it, and when Ms Handcock asked Charlotte to talk about what she wrote and Charlotte did not even know she had written that much, she barely even knew what she was talking about because she was encouraged to just write and not think about what she was writing about. Charlotte also felt very deeply for Ms Handcock too which we see at the end of the story when she says “I wish that party wasn’t over” because she realizes how much she misses Ms Handcock and she realizes that she was being selfish because one of the only things that could make Ms Handcock happy was having people enjoy her class but at the end of every class Ms Handcock was defeated. Charlotte cared very deeply for Ms Handcock and her mother and they both changed her in one way or another.

Charlotte was influenced and changed by Ms Handcock and her mother and she was affected by the different things that happened to her and the people around her in the story. When Charlotte found out that Ms Handcock was dead she felt like the person the blame was herself, and when charlotte told her mother about what happened to Ms Handcock her mother did not feel the same way as Charlotte and Charlotte felt betrayed. Charlotte will never be the same after what happened with her, Ms Handcock and her mother. She won’t have the same relationship with her mother after she felt completely betrayed by her and she won’t get the same enjoyment out of English class and learning in general without Ms Handcock teaching her way and teaching for enjoyment and for the purpose of learning.