**The Metaphor Essay**

Imagine if someone important in your life instantly dies and you don’t have the chance to say goodbye, how would you feel? In “The Metaphor”, by Budge Wilson, this is what happened to Charlotte and she was miserable about it. Charlotte is a 10th grade student who on the first day of class she sees her English teacher walk through the door and it is Miss Hancock; whom she had in grade 7 and thought she was a great teacher. Miss Hancock is well-liked by her students, supportive and understanding towards Charlotte, while her mother is well-liked in the community but is not supportive or understanding towards Charlotte.

A difference between the two is that Charlotte’s mother is supposed to support her but doesn’t while Miss Hancock who doesn’t have to does. When Charlotte read the metaphor, she wrote to the class in grade 7 it was rude, mean and negative about her mom. After class Miss Hancock asked her to stay so she could talk to her. She asked, “Do you have anything you would like to discuss about your mother’s metaphor?” (69) and if she ever needed anything she could talk to her. Her mother never asks about school, she just tells her to do stuff when she gets home. Miss Hancock also told her, “Your metaphors are unusually good, unusually interesting” (68) which meant Miss Hancock was saying that Charlotte had a great talent for writing, this makes Charlotte feel good about herself. Charlotte’s mother doesn’t know she is a good writer because she has never had any interest in finding out. When Charlotte brought up her class lesson where they learned metaphors at dinner, her mom didn’t care about her learning, all she cared about once she found out Miss Hancock was her teacher was the appearance of her and she said “oh” “her” (71).

A similarity between Miss Hancock and Charlotte’s mother is that both put lots of effort and enthusiasm into what they do. Miss Hancock gives every student help with their work “she fluttered and flitted from desk to desk, inspecting notebooks, making suggestions” (65). Charlotte’s mother is the leader of many boards and committees and people say that she is, “the mainstay of the community, the rock upon which the town was built” (73), this shows that she is important to the community and how she works hard to help it out. Miss Hancock has done “15 years of grade 7 students” (76) so she obviously put a lot of effort into teaching for 15 years. As well it says that no student has ever not liked her, this shows that she was a good, enthusiastic teacher that everyone loved. Charlotte said that her mother will often talk on the phone for hours making plans about important things that she leads. So, they both have very important roles.

Another large contrast between Miss Hancock and Charlotte’s mother is their appearance and personalities. Miss Hancock is quoted as “plump” “like a heavy bird” (65) and has an interesting style in clothing and jewelry and her make-up is poorly done, this shows that Miss Hancock doesn’t really care about the way other people look at her, she wears what she wants to wear. But Charlotte’s mother wouldn’t let Charlotte go to school the day after Miss Hancock was killed because she had cried so much that she looked bad and her mother didn’t want the rest of the city to see her daughter looking like that. Charlotte’s mother’s appearance is described as a flawless figure with perfect make-up. She probably thinks everyone should look as good as her so she judges Miss Hancock based on her looks, and because of this, she thinks Miss Hancock is a bad teacher. Miss Hancock is sympathetic for people including Charlotte but Charlotte’s mother is not. An example of when her mother is not sympathetic was when Charlotte got very upset in the end and she says “I killed her!” (79) and her mother told her “she got exactly what she deserved.” (80).

Miss Hancock is well-liked by her students, is supportive and understanding, while Charlotte’s mother is well-liked by the community but is not supportive or understanding of her daughter, Charlotte. They are both well-liked because they are good at what they do. Miss Hancock is supportive and understanding to Charlotte, when she asked her if she had anything to talk about and let her know that she could do so anytime but, her mother isn’t this way because it seems like she doesn’t care about her school or mental health. Charlotte’s mother doesn’t understand how important Miss Hancock was to her and the impact she had on her.