***Childhood Discrimination***

Why should people be differentiated by their skin color or social level, while they have the same red blood? According to Bullying Canada website, the longer a child is bullied the more likely they are to develop physical, emotional, and psychological scars that can last a lifetime. In the short story, “Long Long After School”, by Ernest Buckler, Wes was being bullied by other students because of the color of his skin. In the local cemetery, Wes walked towards his old classmate and they started talking about their old teacher, Miss Tretheway. Wes told them about how Ms. Tretheway treated him while other students made jokes about them. She didn’t find him strange as his other classmates did. Wes told his old classmate about how she taught him to see the beauty in everyone. In contrast, in the short story “The Teacher’s Reward”, by Robert Phillips, the student is discriminated against by his teacher. The character, Simpson, visited his old teacher, Miss Scofield at her house, but his teacher forgot everything about Simpson because he was poor. He talked about how she used to call him different and mockery names [Raybe] and how she used to rap his knuckles and blame him for everything that happened in the school. Simpson told Miss Scofield about the bad influence that she had on him.  In both stories, Raybe and Wes faced discrimination at a young age. There are many people out there that are being bullied because of their look; whether that’s because of their social class, skin color, religion, etc. Some people don’t see inside beauty in others.

   In the short story “Long, Long After School”, Wes was being tantalized by his classmates because of his skin color. Wes told his old classmate, “Perhaps you remember how the kids used to tease me at school.” It shows that Wes knew the other students mocked him. They made jokes about the fact that he was black, “Shhh… Wes is blushing” or “look at Wes. He is so scared he’s turning pale.” They made fun of Wes about the fact that he can’t turn pale or blush. On the other hand, in the short story “The Teacher’s Reward”, Raybe was being bullied by his teacher and the students because of his social class. He was a poor student, and Miss Scofield used to call him names. Raybe said to his teacher, “Once you called me Baby-Raybe, and it caught on. that’s what all the kids called me after that.” It stated that with this name, other students copied that name. Miss Scofield remembered him, and she said, “I remember you. You were no good to start with. No motivation. No, follow-through I knew just where you would end up. You have run through to form.” It states how she was treating him by his appearance. She saw him as a criminal before all of that to happen. Wes and Raybe both were being bullied physically because others made fun of them.

   Teachers in both of these stories influenced their students in different ways. Miss Tretheway positively influenced Wes, but Miss Scofield negatively influenced Raybe. Wes’s teacher, Miss Tretheway made a new game that they were supposed to hold hands, but nobody wanted to hold Wes hands because of his skin colour. The girl beside Wes didn’t want to hold his hand, and that girl said, “Your hands are dirty.” Ms. Tretheway protected him by telling that girl,  “Why Marilyn, Wes’s hands are much cleaner than yours. Maybe Wes doesn’t like to get his hands dirty.” It shows that the teacher didn’t want Wes to feel lonely and be comfortable in his skin color. Conversely, Raybe’s teacher, Miss Scofield made him feel isolated and different than the others. She used to make him feel lonely because the way that she treated other students was different. Raybe told her about the time that she rapped his knuckles for everything that happened, and Miss Scofield told him, “Did I? Did I? Yes, I suppose I did. What was it for, do you remember? Passing notes? Gawking out the window?’ ‘Wasn’t for any one thing. You did it lots of times. Dozens of times.” It states that Miss Scofield rapped his Knuckles many times and blamed him for something that wasn’t his fault. Teachers are an example for students because they are the one that shapes the children for the future.

In both stories, the two children were treated differently by their teachers when they were young. Wes was a caring person, he brought flowers to Miss Tretheway's grave after her death. In the past, Miss Tretheway helped Wes with blood transfusion. She made fun of herself by calling herself an old maid, “I did not know whether an old maid’s blood would be any good to a fine young specimen like you.”. She always cared about him. She wanted Wes to feel good about himself. On one hand, Raybe was an orphan and lived with his aunt. He didn’t have good clothes like his other classmates. Raybe blamed his teacher, and he said, “The one who sent me there. Because you picked on me all the time. Made me out worse than I was. You never gave me the chance the others had. The other kids left me out of things because you were always saying I was bad. And you always told me I was dirty. Just because my aunt couldn’t keep me in clean shirts like some of the others”. He notified Miss. Scofield that she was the one that influenced him as an adult and made him go to jail. Both Raybe and Wes were influenced by their teacher. Wes ended up as a good person but Raybe ended up as a criminal.

         People face discrimination in any age and are judged because of their looks, but not because of who they are. Some group of individuals has been subjected to inequity and discrimination by others who see themselves as superior individuals. Raybe and Wes faced discrimination at a young age that influenced them as an adult. Miss Tretheway helped Wes to become a caring student and go the right way. However, Miss Scofield caused Raybe to become a bad person and go the wrong way for the rest of his life. Both teachers shaped their students in adult years. Students spend most of their time with teachers, so they are the ones that shape students. Teachers attitude toward students influence them for the rest of their lives.