<Between Two Extremes>

Who have you been influenced more by your mother or your teacher? “The Metaphor” by Budge Wilson is about a girl who was in grade 7 and suffered by lots of things. The main character Charlotte was influenced by two people: her teacher Miss Hancock and her mother. Charlotte was the type of character who was kind and always inspires other people by making them feel good about themselves. When Charlotte moved to a new school, she met Miss Hancock again. Miss Hancock was her favorite teacher when she was in middle school, however, she didn’t help Miss Hancock when she was suffering from teaching her class. Her mom and Miss Hancock are a different people and their differences brought great influence to Charlotte.

Charlotte used to be influenced by her mother. Her mother always tried to solve everything with reasons and be very cold, “My mother is a flawless, modern building, created of glass and the smoothest of pale concrete.” Her mother’s ideals are scarcely different from her teachers or her peers, therefore, she struggled to decide whether to support Miss Hancock in high school or not. Charlotte’s mother was flawless and cruel to every person so when Charlotte was suffering from her teacher’s death, she responded “Don’t lose perspective. She couldn’t keep order and she had only herself to blame.” Also, “A woman like that can’t survive for five minutes in the high schools of today. There was nothing you could have done.” It sounded like she’s comforting Charlotte, but meanwhile, she was being careless to someone’s death. Charlotte regretted that she didn’t help Miss Hancock when Miss Hancock couldn’t adjust well in high school. She kept saying to everyone “I killed her. We all killed her. But especially me.” However, her mother disapproved of Charlotte being depressed and not going to school because of Miss Hancock’s death. She couldn’t understand her daughter, instead, she kept pushing Charlotte, “I’ll have to ask you to stop this nonsense. You’re disturbing the even tenor of our home.” Her mother was quite opposite to Miss Hancock.

Miss Hancock was also the person who influenced Charlotte a lot. Miss Hancock was Charlotte’s favorite teacher since she met her in middle school. She was an unmarried, kind and enthusiastic teacher. Whenever she was teaching, the class was energetic and students were happy during the class. Also, she was very passionate about teaching her students and learning new things. She made everything sound interesting and knew well how to make her students involved in the class. Miss Hancock was a very caring and helpful person too. Once Charlotte announced the metaphor of her mom in front of Miss Hancock, she thought Charlotte might have a problem with her mother because Charlotte described the bad things of her mother. So, she decided to call Charlotte after class, “do you have anything you would like to discuss your mother’s metaphor?” Charlotte responded quite harshly, but Miss Hancock rather give her a compliment of the metaphor that she wrote than rebuking her, “That’s perfectly fine. I just wanted you to know that your writing was very intriguing today and that it showed a certain maturity that surprised and delighted me.” Miss Hancock was an inspirable person. Charlotte mentioned her even at home, “I told them about Miss Hancock’s lesson on The Metaphor. I said what a marvelous teacher she was, how even the dumbest of us had learned to enjoy writing compositions, how she could make the poetry in our textbook so exciting to read and to hear.” Miss Hancock was a great teacher.

Although Charlotte was influenced by different people who have opposite traits of each other, they shaped Charlotte to become a great person. They are both women and honest but have different minds and personalities. Miss Hancock never pushed her students, she was more likely to be optimistic about how students develop themselves, “inspecting notebooks, making suggestions, dispensing eager praise.” Miss Hancock had massively inspired Charlotte that she could be referred to as Charlotte’s role model. Her discipline made Charlotte keep learning, writing metaphors, and improving herself. However, the way of disciplining Charlotte was quite different from her mother. She didn’t punish or yell, she always quietly corrected her daughter in a calm voice. Although her method worked, seeing as Charlotte was always perfectly behaved, the relationship between her and Charlotte was never close, “but what is it about my mother’s methods that leave me feeling so deprived, so unsalvageable?” She talks like she doesn’t care at all about Charlotte’s feelings or minds. Nevertheless, Charlotte was greatly influenced by her mother at home.

Charlotte’s mom was a cold, heartless, and strict person. Miss Hancock was an enthusiastic, passionate and outgoing teacher. Even though, those two people’s traits are completely opposite, both played an important role in Charlotte’s life. Because of the different traits, Charlotte was confused and suffered from making a decision. However, they both hoped Charlotte to become a great person in the future and they all cared about Charlotte.