The Future of Our lives

How would you feel if your teacher abandoned you? Embraced you? This is the experience every child must go through and be shaped before becoming an adult. The future of our lives depends solely on the experiences they have with their childhood teachers. In the short stories, “Long Long After School,” by Ernest Buckler and, “A Teachers Reward,” by Robert Philips, a sense of life-shaping is shown to deeply affect the adult lives of the characters. Childhood events immensely shape who we are and who we become as adults. How are Wes and Raybe influenced and shaped by their childhood experiences? In, “Long Long After School,” a positive outcome is showed to emerge in a child’s adult life. With the experience in his childhood shaping him to always be a good person and kind. On the other hand. In, “A Teachers Reward,” it is shown how with a bad influence when young can result in a harsher and more hurtful life as an adult. Although, both stories are very different but also have similarities with how easily the children can learn and become similar to the teacher's habits and styles.

With a teacher having more of a caring attitude can result in a child growing up to be more accepting no matter how bad times are for them. In the case of Wes in, “Long Long After School” he takes very much after Ms. Trethewey. Wes, although living most of his life with discrimination was able to suppress the feeling of needing to fight back with anger. This was primarily due to Ms. Trethewey being there and giving him to be happy about. For a teacher to truly change a child's life in a good way they need to be there for every moment the child feels they are needed. They must be there like to defend the children like Ms. Trethewey was when Wes was targeted, “She said ‘Yout hands are dirty.’ … Ms. Trethewey said, ‘Why, Marilyn, Wes’s hands are much cleaner than yours. Maybe Wes doesn’t like to get his hands dirty’.” With a teacher defending a child it can drastically change the emotions and feelings that child has and affect their entire future. Solely by reflecting on one event. Ms. Trethewey was there for Wes. she was there for the times he was pushed while sledding in the snow, therefor when he was rejected at holding hands due to his color and there when he was mad about the discrimination. Having that person to look at and be able to calm down gave Wes the ability to look up to someone and give him the ability to think that he wanted to be just like them. With the positive relations, a teacher gives to students it can also grow a larger connection with people being able to find the good in them rather than just forever being angry at them for what they did. In Wes’ case, although he was discriminated for his color, he still found a way to talk to and be kind to the people that discriminated him. This was entirely on the fact that Ms. Trethewey helps him feel accepted and gave him the feeling of joy of someone being accepted and although he had also felt the hatred. He knew that it was better for someone to feel accepted than hated. This made him put any differences or disagreements he had with someone and found a way to accept them and make them feel accepted.Without the teachers showing acceptance to the children they teach, the children of the future would not have the ability to show acceptance, only be able to find anger and not be able to pass on the proper knowledge to the future.

       If a teacher is showing hatred and anger rather than acceptance can result in a negative effect on the child’s future and make them have no sense of a caring attitude. Firstly, in, “A Teachers Reward” Raybe shows the true effects a bad relationship with a teacher can result in a child. Although in Raybe’s case is extreme it is still present in schools. When a child goes to class only to be targeted every day, “you picked on me all the time. Made me out worse than I was. You never gave me the chance the others had.” This targeting can result in a build-up of anger. In many cases, this build-up of anger would be vented off over time with the people they love and trust. The relationship would give the child the ability to vent their emotion. Although, in Raybe’s case he did not have anyone close to him. When he looked for someone to talk to, he would not have anyone he could trust, and when he looked towards the teacher he was targeted further. The teacher should always be there for the student and always be ready to listen in care for them. In Raybe’s case, he was crushed by how he was targeted by the teacher and students. This resulted in a large build-up of anger and ultimately the lashing out and conducting of Raybe’s Revenge. Raybe also tried to do the best with what he was able to due to him not having a teacher that truly gave what a teacher is expected to give. A teacher is meant to care for every child not single the bad one out and hang them there to rot. Raybe had gone through hard times with his family and rather than him being guided and given the further help he needed. He was abandoned by the very person that is meant to teach and inspire you into being the best person you can be. Ultimately, when you become abandoned by your teacher you lose the ability to achieve your best.

                 Similarly, in both stories, they show a define connection between the teacher and the student’s future. Both stories both directly and indirectly tell of teachers is an important role in developing a young person into becoming an adult. In “A Teachers Reward” the story directly states how a student’s life can be affected by there teacher. This is shown when Raybe is thinking about his life,

Yeah. I had A long time to figure it all out. Ten Years to figure it out. Lots of nights I’d try to piece it all together. How I come to be there. Was it my aunt? Naw, she did the best she could without any money. Was it the fellas I took up with in high school? Naw, something happened before that, or I’d never have taken up with the likes of them in the first place, that rocky crowd. And then one night it came to me. You were the one.

Children can even be affected by there teacher if the teacher did not realize or know of this relationship. In “Long Long After School” it is shown more indirectly with Wes showing how he was returning the caring nature he was shown by Ms. Trethewey. With both stories showing two very different outcomes to the view teachers have on our life, they both enforce the fact of role models. Whether a teacher becomes a positive or negative role model, will change the total outcome of the child’s entire life. If the teacher were to be more caring and show more respect the child would try and do the same. On the other hand. If the teacher were to show more hatred and abuse it would result in the child believing this was what they should do. If a child sees a teacher do anything, they will ultimately believe that they must do the same thing. This is for them wanting to do good and look good for the teacher. To look good, they will do anything that they see the teachers do. In both “A Teachers Reward,” and “Long Long After School” the teachers have a great influence on the development of the children and are responsible for there future.

           The future of our lives is greatly dependent on the view we have as children on the people that teach us. Whether this is on a positive way like in “Long Long After School,” or in a negative way like, “A Teachers Reward.” This effect that is on all of our lives is a delicate and very fragile path. It is always with every child. This path can be strengthened with good and positive relations or torn apart with hatred. Whether it gets strengthened or torn apart it will ultimately shape the child’s life and determine its outcome before their childhood is completed. All children should be guided and comforted to the best of there ability to strengthen the outcome of there future and prevent future problems.