Contradictory of Teaching Methods

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Is there only one method to blossom a child? In the short story, The Metaphor, written by Budge Wilson, shows two characters that greatly influence the protagonist, Charlotte. Charlotte’s mother is an exceedingly cold person who advise Charlotte in a settle environment. However, opposite of Charlotte’s mother, Miss Hancock was a warm person who taught Charlotte the beauty of metaphors. Miss Hancock and Charlotte’s mother both show two different approaches to make Charlotte mature.

Miss Hancock in the story was a static and round character. Her charming lessons were cherished by most of the students during junior high school. Everyone in Miss Hancock’s class liked her; “in fact, almost to a person, [they] loved her” (pg. 66, paragraph 2). Miss Hancock really care about all of the students; therefore, most of the students favored her. However, when she became the senior high school English teacher, students started to disfavor her including Charlotte. Charlotte liked Miss Hancock personally. However, since most of her friends disliked Miss Hancock, she only had the choice to follow her friends. After learning metaphor from Miss Hancock, Charlotte was able to greatly change her mood. Her education about the metaphor allow her to escape her life at home. Charlotte indicated Miss Hancock as “a birthday cake” (pg. 80) after Miss Hancock’s death. Showing how Miss Hancock was important to her as the birthday cake in a party. The metaphor Charlotte made expresses the positive relationship she had with Miss Hancock.

Charlotte’s mother is static and flat character. Charlotte’s mother was emotionless and not supportive of Charlotte. She was always against Charlotte. Charlotte gives a metaphoric description of her mother as a cold building (pg. 68). Charlotte’s mother also shows dislike against Miss Hancock by criticizing her fashion: “her head was covered with a profusion of small busy curls, which were brightly, aggressively, golden – ‘in bad taste,’ [her] mother said, ‘like the rest of her’” (pg. 65-66). When Charlotte tells her mother a pleasant story of Miss Hancock; her mother did not agree with Charlotte. However, Charlotte’s mother did her duty as a mother. Due to her cold actions, Charlotte was able to grow more mature and independent. Charlotte was able to be more autonomous since her mother left her alone at home. After school “when [Charlotte] arrived home, [she] opened the door with [her] key… read the note on the hall table… It said: ‘At a Children’s Aid Board Meeting. Home by 5. Please tidy your room’” (pg. 70, paragraph 1). Charlotte’s mother left home Charlotte alone and raise her self-sufficient.

Even though, Miss Hancock and Charlotte’s mother are both very different characters they share some similarities. Ironically, Miss Hancock is shown as a warm mothering character and Charlotte’s mother as a cold English teacher. Moreover, they both have passion about Charlotte’s future and the power to control Charlotte. Miss Hancock as a teacher wanted Charlotte to learn English such as metaphors well willing to succeed. Charlotte’s mother also wanted Charlotte to achieve her goals learning from her life lessons. Miss Hancock’s gave an attentive teaching to Charlotte. “If [Charlotte] ever need any help- with your writing, or, well, with any other kind of problem, just let me know” (pg. 69, paragraph 7) when she was learning metaphor. In the end, Charlotte was able to learn lessons from Miss Hancock and her mother. Charlotte’s mother was always serene, and she never got mad of screamed at Charlotte. Charlotte stayed home from the school and said, “I killed her… we all killed her… but especially me” (pg.80, paragraph 4). Charlotte was very afraid of Miss Hancock’s death and keep repeat to her mother and father about the tragic accident. Charlotte’s mother did not criticize and taught Charlotte through conversation.

In conclusion, there might be more than one way to change a person. The short story, “Metaphor”, delivers the variety of relationships with Charlotte. Charlotte was impacted by two strong characters in two different ways. This method can be helpful since Charlotte is getting cared by two supporters. However, Charlotte might suffer in between two opposites.