

## Writ 010 Effective Writing & Writ 009 Effective Writing Lab Sample Student Essay

### Synthesis Essay

In the stories “Where Are you going?, Where have you been?”, “The Piano Player”, and “Victoria Roubideaux”, a relationships between the daughters and mothers aren’t so healthy. A mother- daughter relationship is really important because it affects the child. Most children look up to their parents for guidance and comfort. Mothers are afraid of their daughters making the same mistakes as them, yet they handle it through tough love. As a result of the mother's actions the daughters become dependent on their mothers.

In the story, “Where Are you going?, Where have you been?”, Connie and her mother don’t have a strong relationship because of her mother not being able to let things go. Instead of being there for Connie, her mother criticizes everything she does. It mentions on page 8, “ Her mother, who noticed everything and knew everything and who had not much reason any longer to look at her own face.” The fact that her mother knows alot about Connie, shows that she cares for her and that they communicate in some sort of way. Connie’s mother wanted to try and improve their relationship through tough love, yet Connie was focused on jealousy towards her sister and even moreso on herself. On page 102, the story talks about how her mother always compares her to her sister June.” This did not really mean she disliked Connie, and actually Connie thought that her mother preferred her to June just because she was prettier, but the two of them kept up a pretense of exasperation, a sense that they were tugging and struggling over something of little value to either of them.” Their relationship is being stopped from improving because Connie’s mother is having a hard time letting her pasts go and is handling it by constantly picking on her daughter, instead of giving her guidance and that's her way of showing

tough love. Throughout the story readers can tell that when Connie is hanging out with guys, she finds herself in a sticky situation and thinks about her mother's pasts. Connie is overly confident and her mother is shameful that she is brought up this way. It seems like both of them don't think their relationships are that important enough, which is why it is said in the quote, "struggling over something of little value to either of them". Another story that connects to the topic of fear of repeating history and letting go is, "The Piano Player", Angie and her mother's relationship aren't strong because her mother is afraid that her daughter will be like her. Angie's mother is a prostitute and is having a hard time letting her go because she doesn't want her daughter to repeat her pasts, which is why she mentions Simon getting rejected from the school of Angie's dreams. In the story "Victoria Roubideaux", Victoria and her mother don't have a good relationship because her mother is afraid her daughter will repeat her pasts and is showing her support of her daughter being pregnant through tough love. Her mother is afraid she will make the same mistakes as her, yet deep down believes her daughter is better than her, and that she could get out of the mess herself. Her mother even says on page 10, "You're so smart, you know everything. I won't have you in here like this" This proves that her mother has faith in her, yet doesn't want to show her care so easily. Being that her mother is disappointed in Victoria, she refuses to show love towards her in order for her to learn her lesson.

Besides the fact that all 3 stories have a connection within tough love, fear of repeating history and even fear of letting go, they also come to effect with independence and even independence. In "The Piano Player", Angie's mother doesn't allow her to go to music school and be independent. Angie plays piano by ear and it is a talent she wanted to share with others. She was offered to go to a school with scholarship, yet her mother refuses to let her go and says "No, she's mommy's girl." Being that her mother has a fear of her daughter becoming

independent, she is stopping her from following her dreams. But in the story “Victoria Roubideaux”, Victoria depends on her mother to hold her hand. Her mother even compares Victoria to her father, whom is not around much. Her mother says, “ Your father wanted me to hold his head too”(Page 9). All them mornings when he’d come home feeling sick and sorry for himself. I won’t hold yours too.”Victoria constantly depends on her mother to help her through her pregnancy, yet her mother wants to show her that she can be independent. Lastly, in “Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been”, Connie’s mother has a hard time with her daughter being independent and full of herself because she was once that way. The reason why her mother would always compare her towards her sister was because she wanted her to have less confidence. Her mother’s selfishness is putting Connie in a position where she hates her own mother, but is doing it so Connie would have a better trait. Connie tells her friends that “ She makes me want to throw up sometimes” (Page 99). Due to the constant picking and lowering her confidence, Connie ignores all of the negativity and focuses on herself and her goal of being an independent teenager. She even goes out with Arnold and was put into an adult situation where she was afraid and unsure of what to do.

Overall, all three stories connect with each other because the daughters don’t get along with their mothers. Since the mothers have a fear of their daughters repeating history, their daughters often become dependent on their mothers. The mothers in these stories struggle to handle the situations, yet strive to show tough love. In the stories readers can tell the absence of their fathers, which makes their mothers lash out, is part of the reason why it's hard for their mothers to let them go. In the end of the stories readers can tell that by the end of each situation the daughters always end up wanting to come home.

**Cites:**

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