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Closing Reading Essay

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A Loving Child with a Strong Father

Hayden's poem "Those Winter Sundays" is about a man lacking appreciation for the hard work and dedication that he does on a day to day basis for his job, but his child loves and appreciates him for all of the hard work that he does. The poem was from a child's point of view and the theme of Those Winter Sundays is created through the stream of consciousness, conflicts, symbolism, and a flat/ static relationship of the poem. The father rises early on Sundays after a tense week of work, it seems as though no one appreciates him. Considering that the father works all the time the father might not show that he cares because he is not emotionally intact. However, getting up early to attend work shows that he cares because he is doing what he has to do to take care of the house. "Sundays to my father got up early. No one ever thanked him" (line 1 & 5). This line represents a loving child who watches their father despise on getting up every Sunday to go to work and never receives a thank you for all of the hard work that he has done.

The father does not express his emotions toward his child in such a way that the child could understand nevertheless the father was motivated to rise early to go to work through the harsh winters to express his love for his child; “Out his clothes on in the blue black cold, / then with cracked hands that ached/ from labor in the weekday.” (2-4). In the poem, *Those Winter Sundays* the “blue, black and cold” represented how cold the winter was. It was so cold in the winter that while getting dressed the father was turning blue. There is numbness from frost bites, which turns the father toes black if they are freezing cold. In the winter there are also no colors, no flowers blooming or rarely any nature. It’s just literally blue and black; black from the streets Ice cold water that has frozen over the winter season.

The child respectfully loves and appreciates her father, even if he does not recognize the love considering how busy and upset he was; “When the rooms were warm, / he’d call, and slowly I would rise and dress, / fearing the chronic anger of that house”. Line (7-9). This line expresses the child’s frightened emotions. The child took into consideration that the father woke up early in the cold while getting ready for work. While taking the father waking up early in the cold into consideration the child did not want to get up in such a way that would have angered the father even more from what he already was from getting up early. Nevertheless “when the room was warm” (Line 7) the father expressed his love for the child by waking the child when the house was warm so that the child could get dressed and ready.

Concluding the unrecognized relationship between the father and child; both the child and the father loved each other. “Speaking indifferently to him” (line 10). They just expressed their love for one another in a different way. Lastly, the last line of the poem “Love’s austere” (line 14)

recognizes how much the child appreciates how hard the father works, and that the child would not let the father working so much go without being unnoticed even though no one thanked him. Nonetheless, the father took care of his child and house through the rough times and that's how he showed his love for the child even though he was a thankless potent father.

Works cited

Hayden, R. (2017, June 07). Those Winter Sundays. Retrieved September 08, 2017, from <https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/those-winter-sundays>