

Course

Name

Title

Clarke 1

As a parent, it is your duty to protect your child no matter the situation. Along with providing protection, love, and affection from both mother and father is also required. The reading “Sweetness” by Toni Morrison is about a mother's tough love to protect her daughter as she shares an example of a mother's parenting skills. The mother in “Sweetness” raised a child that was darker than her with fear of her being bothered by racists just like herself. Sadly the way she raised her child caused the child to feel different and for surely pushed her away in the future. Similar to “Sweetness” the reading “Power” by Audre Lorde also had a mother whose child was involved in mistreatment. Though this child was involved in a police brutality killing it also relates to the cruel actions in “Impressions Of An Indian Childhood” by Zitkala-S. This

reading about a mother who lets her native american child go away for better opportunities adds on the many readings that all share the same theme. All three readings consisted of mothers with children who faced oppression due to racism. Also though each mother attempted to be protectors but failed to do so due to different conflicts.

From the moment a child is placed in her mother's hands after giving birth the usual expectations is love at first sight. For “Sweetness” the reality was a world turning experience. “Her birth skin was pale like all babies’, even African ones, but it changed fast. I thought I was going crazy when she turned blue-black right before my eyes. I know I went crazy for a minute, because—just for a few seconds—I held a blanket over her face and pressed.” The mother also known as “Sweetness” stated she was disgusted with the child from birth to the point where she could’ve killed her. She disliked her daughter because she was darker than her and she raised the

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child as if she had to train her like a dog. She limited all the things her daughter could’ve done and she believed the way she raised the child was going to protect her but she was also shaming the child for who she actually was. Though she was attempting to protect her daughter from other racist people she wasn’t able to protect her daughter for herself.

Many know the difficulties Black males have to face in society. From young ages to the old, it has always been a struggle for them. In the poem “Power” by Lorde it tells a story about a mother struggling to keep fighting for her child after he was killed by a White police officer. The officer stated “...“Die you little motherfucker” and there are tapes to prove it. At his trial this policeman said in his own defense “I didn't notice the size nor nothing else, only the color...” in court. For the officer to say this publicly in court with no shame shows the comfort he has

because he knows he won't get in trouble. The mother of the dead child stated "... thirsting for the wetness of his blood as it sinks into the whiteness of the desert where I am lost..." This metaphor tells how the mother is surrounded by nothing but white people that won't help her get justice and her son's blood/death is the only thing that will keep her going. Though this mother wasn't able to protect her son from being killed she is still fighting to protect his legacy.

As a parent letting your child out of your site can be one of the scariest things to do. Letting your child leave your site usually only happens when there's a benefit in the situation. In the chapters in "Impressions Of An Indian Childhood" by Zitkala-S, A Native American Mother who had a family that went through a lot dealing with racist White people. The mother had a child that didn't know much about her history with the white people. "...If the paleface does not take away from us the river we drink..." said the mother to the daughter. The Native American mother is speaking on white people to her child and is telling her why she wants her to stay away from them for her safety. Though the mother had felt how she felt about the White people she couldn't hold the grudge forever especially once the lifetime opportunity for her daughter came along. The daughter was able to go away for a better life opportunity with the "paleface" people she was told to stay away from. As warned her daughter experienced unfair treatment. "...I cried aloud, shaking my head all the while until I felt the cold blades of the scissors against my neck, and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit..." This quote tells how the daughter was violated at school by herself and nobody helped her, especially her mom, the one who would've wanted to.

In conclusion, there are many ways to be a protector but it's impossible to save one from everything. In the three readings "Sweetness" by Toni Morrison, "Power" by Audre Lorde, and "Impressions Of An Indian Childhood" by Zitkala-S they all had mothers that wanted nothing but the best for their children. The mothers wanted to protect their children from racist people that they knew would try to do harm to them. Though they all attempted to do so they all weren't able to do so. One mother didn't realize she was the one she should be protecting her child from , the other had to face a brutal reality that there was no justice in the court system , and the last one tried to make a decision for a better future for her child but she couldn't stop the kids from harming her away in school. Each child had parents who wanted to protect them from the scary world but all went through oppression due to racist people that couldn't be stopped.

Work Cited

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