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The Analysis of Theme and Characterization in Raymond Carver "Cathedral".

1. Introduction:

- a. Hook: "The eyes are useless when the mind is blind." (Smith)
- b. Background:
 - i. Who:
 - 1. The main character is the narrator.
 - 2. Another important character is the blind man.
 - ii. What:
 - 1. The short story is "Cathedral" by Raymond Carver.
 - 2. The characterization of the narrator shows how he changes over time and evolves into a more openminded person.
 - 3. The characterization of Robert, who is blind, shows how having an open mind allows a person to make new and lasting relationships
 - 4. The theme of open-mindedness shows the reader how to overcome challenges when meeting new people.
- c. Point: The characterization of the narrator and the blind man in Raymond Carver's "Cathedral" show the theme of open-mindedness, which shows the reader how to overcome challenges when meeting new people.

2. Body

- a. Point: In Raymond Carver's "Cathedral" the author helps us understand how to overcome the challenges of meeting new people through his characterization of the Narrator.

- i. The Narrator

- 1. The story is written in limited omniscience, which means that the narrator shares his thoughts with the reader, but the reader does not get to know what anyone else is thinking. The reader can see that the narrator is a judgmental person.

- a. "This blind man, feature this, he was wearing a full beard! A beard on a blind man! Too much, I say." (Carver)

- 2. The narrator seems to be a flat character because he is set in his ways and does not want to do anything with which he is uncomfortable

- 3. The narrator is a dynamic character, meaning that he evolves over time. His entire outlook on life changes through his interactions with Robert.

- a. "A dynamic character takes time to learn from his encounters, his experience, and mistakes as well from other characters. Sometimes a character learns a lesson and gain maturity." (Editors)

- ii. In summary, since the story is written in third person omniscience the reader gets to see the impact of how the narrator changed over the course of the story.

- b. Point: In Raymond Carver's "Cathedral" the author helps us understand how to overcome the challenges of meeting new people through his characterization of the blind man Robert.
 - i. The blind man
 - 1. This story is written showing no thoughts from Robert only what the narrator thinks.
 - 2. The blind man is a static character he is still willing to let new people into his life. The narrator doesn't change.
 - a. "The blind man let go of his suitcase and up came his hand. I took it. He Squeezed hard held my hand, and then he let go." I feel like we've already met," he boomed." (Carver)
 - b. "When a static character is shown in close visual to a dynamic character, their lack of change can help readers take notice of changes undergone by the dynamic character. In this way they support the process of characterization development." (Hogue)
 - 3. The blind man seems to be a round character he is willing to do whatever he needs to make the narrator comfortable.
 - a. The narrator ask Robert did he want to smoke weed with him. "I'll try some with you", he said. (Carver)
 - b. The blind had no issues about what channel the tv station was on." Bub, it's all right," the blind man said. "Its fine with me. Whatever you want to

watch is okay. I'm always learning something.
learning never ends. It won't hurt me to learn
something tonight I got ears," he said." (Carver)

- ii. In Summary, with the characterization of the blind man Robert being a static and round character his willingness to interact and create a relationship with the narrator is display as open-minded person.
- c. Point: The theme of open-mindedness can be seen throughout the story and shows the reader a way to build longer lasting and more fulfilling relationships.
 - i. The theme of open-mindedness creates conflict within the story. Robert, who is already openminded, can have long lasting and fulfilling relationships.
 - 1. "she hadn't seen him since she worked for him one summer in Seattle ten years ago. But she and the blind man had kept in touch." (Carver)
 - 2. With the sharing of tapes and the poems between the wife and the blind man showed how both was open minded to find others was to communicate.
 - ii. The narrator starts off the story by being closedminded.
 - 1. The wife told the narrator a little about Robert wife and her name was Beulah." Was his wife a negro?" I asked." (Carver)
 - iii. Slowly, the narrator becomes open-minded.
 - 1. Now when the blind man asks the narrator to describe the image of cathedral and let him place his hand on his

hand and follow along. The wiliness of the act showed the narrator character changing.

- iv. In Raymond Carver "Cathedral" the author creates the blind man with an open mind coming in to the story. The author then shows us developing of change with the narrator wiliness to have an open mind which builds their relationship. "We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are." (DiPirro)

3. Conclusion

- a. In Raymond Carver's "Cathedral" characterization of the narrator wiliness to change and the blind man going in with an open mind carries out the theme of the story. In conclusion that helps us understand with having an open mind when meeting people could develop long lasting relationships.
- b. Throughout the short story characterization of the characters builds up a platform for the theme to have a great impact on the readers. The author shows how judgmental and close minded the narrator was but with the placement of the character of blind man in the story having the willingness we had a chance to see how meeting new people could be less challenging.
- c. With theme being the center focus of any story and no story would be worth reading if characterizations of characters weren't key, Raymond Carver did a good job connection all the parts from start to finish.

Work Cited

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