

## A life lived

### Introduction

"Girl" is a short story about a mother teaching how to become a proper lady. Two lines stood out to me: "*but I don't sing benna on Sundays at all and never in Sunday school;*" (313) and "*but what if the baker won't let me feel the bread?*" (314). The word "I" sets these two sentences apart from the rest of the story and is also italicized. These two sentences are the author's perspective, hence the word "I." Throughout, the author uses "you" to communicate with the reader. The mother did not fully hear the "girl" voice. As one of the children of my parents, I relate my personal experience to the teachings. They are not entirely similar, but the author's thought for her child and my parents' care for us is the same. Thus, I wrote about "Girl."

### Project Description

"Girl" is about a mother's words of wisdom. However, the child never got to respond to their parent's love. Parents love their children and provide them with the best of their ability. But unfortunately, some kids do not show appreciation to their parents. Thus, I wrote "From Your Little Butterfly" as a way of saying thanks to my parents. Parents sacrifice many things to make their children happy, and a little love can satisfy them.

The title, "From Your Little Butterfly," is written like a signature in a letter: "yours truly," "sincerely," and more. Butterflies are creatures born without a parent ("Journey North: Monarch Butterfly"). At the age of 16, Jamaica Kincaid moved to New York from Antigua (312) ("Jamaica Kincaid"). Thus it's a perfect representation of her transition to adulthood. Though birds can compare them, butterflies are beautiful little creatures. Unfortunately, they have also

preyed on predators. It's a perfect situation to represent Jamaica Kincaid's transition from Antigua to New York.

Each of the stanzas in the poem represents a phase of life. The first stanza is about being a kid. As previously mentioned, butterflies are born without a parent. However, "you watched me grow" can be interpreted as a way of a parent watching their kids from a distance. Kids can grow quickly; thus, it can be interpreted as parents working and spending time with their kids. The third and fourth stanza is mostly about turning to adulthood. At the age of 18, some kids choose to leave their parents. As a result, they face hardship and many challenges along the way. Finally, the last stanza refers to what once a child then becomes a parent. It is essentially the kid saying thanks and goodbye to their parents as they have a kid on their own. Grandparents sometimes see their grandchildren, but not all are fortunate. By shifting the talk from being a child to having a child, the speaker fully realizes the hardship their parent has gone through.

After each stanza, there's a sentence. Those sentences are six words memoir. It was back in high school that I learned about six words biography. It's essentially summarizing a life in exactly six words ("Six Words Gets to The Point – Six-Word Memoirs"). Each phase of life contains an important lesson; thus, the poem needed a six-word memoir to summarize an essential part of life. For example, "Life is not what it seems" is a line that I created to portray that life is full of surprises. Some people may say that life is easy, but others say the opposite. Thus, it is uncertain whether life is simple or complicated.

Furthermore, six words memoir can be a significant challenge. In exactly six words, memoirs are so tricky to write. If you didn't notice, the previous sentence was exactly six words summarizing my experience with a six-word memoir.

## **Conclusion**

Some parents choose to withdraw their emotions from their children. They work nonstop to provide their children with their needs. However, some people fail to see the hardship that their parent has to endure to put food on the table. Parents' love can never be more significant than anything in the world. They are human, too; therefore, they can cry, make mistakes, laugh, and live. It is only then that some people experience their parents' sacrifice. Some people have good relationships with their parents, while others don't. Live not to regret anything. A day will come when some people realize that their parents were right and that they should've done better. Don't let it reach that point. Words can cut the steel of hearts while they can also heal others. Use words carefully to the elderly. As they say, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

### **Work Cited**

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