The ghost's child

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The article discusses the character of the child in the novel "the Ghost child" by Sonya Hartnett. The main idea in the novel is that one must not tie him or herself to a love affair that ended long ago. One must be in a position to bury the past and move on with life.

Key words: Love, self worth.

INTRODUCTION

"The Ghost's Child" is a fable that was written by Sonya Hartnett. It was published in the year 2008. The story is an analysis of life and most of its components. As the story begins, an elderly woman comes back to her house to find a strange boy sitting on the sofa. The boy is the 'ghost' according to Sonya. Maddy (the elderly woman) decides to accommodate the boy. He turns out to be a good companion as they spend most of their time chatting. As the boy was looking at the wall pictures, he sees a picture of a girl and a boat. The small boy questions Maddy on the things in the picture not knowing that it was going to trigger her old memories about her lost love. The mood of the sitting room turns into a rather fantastic state. A love talk begins as the old woman tells the boy of the ordeals that lead to loss of her love. She narrates that once she was in love with a man called Feather. She tells the boy that she found the man at the beach holding a Pelican. Maddy gives all the details of their affair with Feather to the boy. She at some point told the boy the condition under which the affair ended. The boy starts to have pity on the old woman but has very little to do. When the woman told the boy that she was planning on a journey to the beach, the young boy decides to accompany her. This journey is what triggers the unfolding of themes in the story. This paper is an analysis of the small boy, his significance to the story and how he was used by the writer to achieve her intended goals.

The first theme that is well highlighted in the story is love and its loss. As the boy and the old woman were narrating at the sitting room, the love story sprouts. The boy was used to tactfully introduce the theme when he asked about the girl and the boat. The discussion changes the mood into a fantasy situation where the old woman remembers her love with Feather. She takes the boy through the ups and downs of their relationship. All this time, the boy was listening to Maddy and commenting here and there. The woman still shows that she has not forgotten of her past love. She tells the boy that she has several questions that she could like to ask Feather as he is the only person who has the answers to them. However, she is strong enough to live her own life even after losing her love. She has decided to shake off the dust and move on with life.

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life. Although the boy does not offer much in terms of advice to the old woman, he provides companionship and a person with whom she can share the past memories. The boy becomes part of the situation and even decides to take the woman to the beach to look for her love.

Another theme that comes out very well in from the story is the worth of life. In the story, the old woman decides to treat the small boy with humanity as he also deserved to live just all others. As the boy resides with the old woman, he presents himself boldly but seems to get bored at some point. The writer states that “he was like a strong bold bird that had flown into the room.” She continues to describe the boy as bored but unafraid. In a real life situation, whenever a young person lives with an old person, the young seem to get bored. However, there is need to be bold and to find a point of commonness.

As the story approaches the end, The Ghost’s child becomes an indication of self worth. He believes that he will be part of the solution to Maddy’s problems. This is one of the main themes that make the book fit for children. The writer of the book has used the “Ghost child” to show how important a child can be in solving adults’ problems. However, she also brings out the need for self worth. One must discover him/herself and have a strong sense of self.

Together with the other characters, the “Ghost’s child” has been used to make the intended themes clearer. Through these characters, the writer has brought out an ideal life situation. Love is a normal life occurrence. However, one must not tie him or herself to a love affair that ended long ago. One must be in a position to bury the past and move on with life. To conclude, Sonya has brought out the concept of a secret solution to every life issue. She has used the Ghost’s child to show that in every life problem, there is a “ghost” solution.

Conflict of Interests

The author has not declared any conflict of interests.

REFERENCES