

THE CHARACTERISTIC OF A GOOD MOTHER THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTER IN JESSAMINE CHAN’S “THE SCHOOL FOR GOOD MOTHERS”

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Submitted	Accepted	Published

ABSTRACT

This research discusses the characteristics of a good mothers in *The School for Good Mothers* by Jessamine Chan. There are two questions that need to be answered in this research: the characteristics of a good mother in the novel and the mother's good parenting style towards the child in the novel. The aim of this research is to find out the characteristics of good mothers in novels and good parenting patterns for children in novels. In analyzing the problem, the author uses qualitative methods. The author of this thesis uses an extrinsic approach and a parenting approach. The results of the analysis show the characteristics of a good mother, a good parenting style for children is that a mother gives a lot of love to her child, teaches her child new knowledge, prefers children to work, and has good self-awareness. The author concludes that the characteristics of a good mother are mothers who always love their children with all their heart, always put their children first and educate their children to be good children.

Key words: Goodmother; Characteristic; Parenting

Introduction

Mothers are important figures for children, and mothers are children's first teachers, where they get information and lessons from mothers about many things, including attitudes and behavior, how children should behave, and how to behave well. Research shows that, in general, interactions with the mother tend to be more frequent because the child will be very close to the mother and more directed, more focused on teaching interpersonal behavior. Basically, marriage norms assume that the husband is the head of the household, responsible for paying the family wages, and the wife takes primary responsibility for the household and raising children and merges her personal identity with her husband (Lee 381). Women are expected to be mothers, and mothers are expected to take primary responsibility in raising children and teaching children about good manners in order to become better individuals (Lee 385).

Goodwin and Huppatz (2010) show that a good mother can be a concept based on projections and stereotypes. They argue that a good mother is "a social concept that forces women to conform to certain standards by which they are valued and judged as good. A good mother always acts responsibly to care for her children and always puts her children first above all else because he is always devoted to his family and makes his family always feel comfortable. The archetype of a mother is a devoted caregiver. However, a more realistic assessment is that a good mother is not a perfect mother. A mother can behave the same or differently towards each child but a mother will always behave fairly to each child. A child's belief is that the mother is everything to the child, a child will really love his child. In our ever-changing society, many women now work to help the family economy so women must be able to divide their time between caring for children and working (Neubauer and Fradella, 2018).

Being a mother seems to have both good and bad sides, our society often views motherhood as unpaid work that requires time and is very hard and scary and undesirable. Usually mothers will adjust their schedule to suit their children and their needs. Mothers must be able to divide their time between caring for them and doing their work, even though it is hard, they will do it wholeheartedly. because being a mother is not easy and you have to be



physically and mentally strong. This assumption is a problem for single mothers, who often have less flexible schedules and are unable to work and sometimes this causes a mother to experience stress, so that before becoming a mother, a woman must be physically and mentally strong to be able to fulfill all her responsibilities and can be a good mother for her children and family (Dodson and Luttrell, 2011).

One novel that raises this theme is *The School for Good Mothers*. This novel tells the story of a working woman named Frida, who has just divorced her husband and becomes a single mother to Harriet, who is almost 2 years old. Once he left Harriet home alone for two hours. Frida knew it was irresponsible and was going to drink coffee, stop at the office and come back, but as soon as she got to the office, she started answering emails and lost time. and that and that, when Harriet's screams caused the neighbour to hear and alert the authorities, and finally Frida had to spend time in rehab and become a good mother before she got custody of Harriet. Frida has gone from a confused mother who is recently divorced and needs some time to herself, to someone who has been declared a danger to her child by the government. The main character of this story represents how a woman can be a mother and a worker. This story shows the efforts of Frida Liu and to do everything necessary to care and work, because just raising a child is not easy. In addition to being the best mother, he must also be a father, because children need these two figures as role models in their lives. One of the forms of a literary work is a novel. A novel is a form of literary work that contains a series of stories interwoven into several parts/chapters, each of which forms a complete story consisting of theme, plot, characterization, setting and point of view created by a character. Then the writer uses it as a means to convey the ideas he wants to in still in his readers.

Mothers try to understand their children. Mothers are afraid when they cannot protect their children. Mothers are sad and shed tears when they are away from their children. Although sometimes it seems that the mother is happy, although she is far from her child, this is only a mask to strengthen herself. But deep in his heart he had a sadness that only he could feel.

Literature Review

Parenting

In analyzing the novel, the author uses a parenting approach. The parenting style is parents' skills in raising children. Child care is a series of decisions regarding socialization of children, including what parents must do so that children can assume responsibility and participation as a member of society. So raising children is the way parents do it to explain to children how children can have great responsibility for everything they do Do. (Berns, 1997).

Parenting style is an important aspect in shaping a child's personal development, such as character and attitudes. Parents really need sufficient knowledge and skills to be able to care for their children children well. Parental information includes perceptions of child care, and differences in parents' roles in children's lives. (William & Lerner:2006:915).

Parenting is a series of continuous interactions between parents and children, and a process that produces change on both sides. By definition, this This process includes birth, protection, education and guidance of children which influences the child's character and attitudes. (Martin & Colbert: 1997).

Parenting techniques include attitudes and behavior, all of which are taught by parents, so parents must really set good examples for their children. (Grusek in Bornstein: 2002:154).

Research Method

The writer uses an extrinsic approach to analyze the data which obtained in the school for good mothers According to Wellek & Warren, Extrinsic approach means interpretation from outside the literary work which has an influence in constructing the literary work. Through an extrinsic

approach, research is not only based on the literary work but also contains the author's biography and life experiences, the story behind the writing of the story, as well as the values the author wants to share. (wellek, 2011: 73) extrinsic approaches are elements outside the story that also help create the storyline. Even though external elements help structure a literary work, they do not directly influence the literary work. This external element is usually in the form of the author's subjectivity, which has attitudes, beliefs and views on life, which then influence the writing of the literary work.

The research approach that the writer uses is relevant for this research because it is appropriate to explain the characteristics of good mothers and good parenting patterns for children in the novel *The school for good mothers* by Jessamine Chan

Instruments and Procedures

Reading, This research uses the reading method to find out the instruments in the novel *The school for good mothers* and get a lot of information in the story. So this research can run well. Reading is a method for analyzing a story and getting a lot of data in the story to make this research.

Data Analysis Procedures

To analyze this research data, several procedures are needed, such as examining the data that has been found, such as analyzing the conflict that occurs in the story, analyzing the parenting patterns depicted in the novel *The school for good mothers*, analyzing the description of the characteristics of a good mother in the novel *The school for good mothers*.

Findings and Discussion

The characteristics of a good mother are a mother who always cares about her child, a mother who is ready to raise her child, and always puts family before herself.

Characteristic of A Good Mother in the novel

Being a mother is one of the most challenging jobs in the world. You're expected to be an equal parts provider, teacher, good role model, nurturer, and confidant. Leaving many of us questioning what are the qualities of a good mother. Characteristics are the importance of psychological characteristics, manners or manners that distinguish a person others character.

A. Mother's love

A mother is the first person who will give a lot of affection and love to her child, a mother will put her child first before herself.

"I couldn't let you go like that. Not with that mean lady. Not in that office. I'm not going to let you go." Harriet rubs her eyes. She looks out the window. "It's dark, Mommy. I'm scared. I'm scared. Mommy, where we going?"

Frida holds Harriet's hands, then kisses her knuckles and fingertips. "I don't know yet."
(Jessamine Chan,2022:318)

A mother's love will always be there. A mother will love her child with all her heart and always look after her child wherever she is.

B. Have good self-awareness

A good mother will have good self-awareness, and be able to understand the circumstances around her, a good mother will be sensitive to her surroundings.

"Who was in charge of the baby?"

"I was. Like I told you, I went to work. I work at Wharton."

She explains that she produces a faculty research digest, rewriting academic papers as short articles with takeaways for the business community. Like writing term papers on subjects she knows nothing about. She works from home Monday through Wednesday, when she has custody—a special arrangement. It's her first full-time job since Harriet was born. She's been there for only six months. It's been so hard to find a decent job, or any job, in Philly." (Jessamine Chan,2022:04)

A good mother will be sensitive to her surroundings and will understand the existing situation so that the mother will be more sensitive towards her child.

C. Mother protection

A good mother will protect her child from all bad situations, a mother does not want her child to suffer a disaster, even if her child does something wrong, a mother will defend her child in front of other people, but the mother will advise and teach her child well.

"Frida laughs. "We can look at the moon later, sure. Maybe we'll even see some stars tonight. You're never up this late, are you? We're going to have a nice time, bub. For as long as we can. Go back to sleep, okay? Don't be scared. I'll take care of you. I love you so much. I came back, see? I'm going to stay with you." (Jessamine Chan,2022:318)

A mother's protection is very strong, especially for her child.

D. Raise Children with Love

A good mother will care for her child with a lot of love, and the love given by the mother is very sincere.

"The psychologist asks whether Frida finds child-rearing overwhelming or stressful. He asks about her drug and alcohol consumption, whether she has a history of substance abuse." (Jessamine Chan,2022:45)

Children will really love their mothers because mothers are a child's first teacher, and mothers will give a lot of love and affection to their children.

E. Able to act collaboratively

Mothers will collaborate with their children to create a very good atmosphere and make the whole house comfortable.

"They'd been up off and on since 4:00 a.m. Frida's article was due last week. All morning, she went back and forth between Harriet's play corner and back to the living room sofa, where she had her notes spread out on the coffee table. She wrote the same paragraph over and over, trying to explain Bayesian modeling in layman's terms.

Harriet kept screaming. She wanted to climb onto Frida's lap. She wanted to be held. She grabbed Frida's papers and threw them on the floor. She kept touching the keyboard. Frida should have put on a show for Harriet to watch.” (Jessamine Chan,2022:05)

Good collaboration will create a good atmosphere and make the whole house comfortable and create a healthy family.

F. Children are a priority

A child is a priority for a mother, a mother will always put her child first, children are everything for a mother.

“The social worker is stuck in rush-hour traffic. Frida waits in the mint- green room. Half an hour passes. She calls Gust. "I forgot to tell you. I know you guys are cutting back on dairy, but please let her have dessert tonight. I was going to let her have some ice cream.” (Jessamine Chan,2022:09)

A mother's priority is her child, children are everything to a mother, mothers will always put their children first in all situations.

Good mother parenting in the novel

A woman will become a mother when she has children, a woman will have her own parenting style. And a mother will provide good care for her child.

A. Raising and caring for children alone

A good mother will not want her child to be raised by someone else, she wants her child to be educated like the mother wants.

“Susanna is holding Harriet. She's given her some apple slices. It always kills Frida to see Harriet's ease with Susanna, her ease even now, after a day of illness and fear and strangers. This morning, Frida dressed Harriet in a purple dinosaur T-shirt and striped leggings and moccasins, but now she's in a raggedy pink sweater and jeans that are much too big, socks, but no shoes.” (Jessamine Chan,2022:08)

Mothers will care for their children with all their heart, and mothers care for them the way you want them to, mothers want their children to grow up well like the mother wants them to.

B. Education

Mothers are a child's first teacher, mothers will teach children a lot of new knowledge.

“One day, she'll teach Harriet never to behave this way. Never to offer her body like the lowliest cut of meat. She'll teach Harriet about integrity and self-respect, will give her enough love so she'll never go begging. Her mother never talked to her about sex, about bodies or feelings. Frida won't make that mistake.” (Jessamine Chan,2022:36)

The education that mothers give their children comes from the mother's experience, mothers will teach their children so that when they grow up they can face the wider world.

C. Prefer children over work

A mother will prioritize her child more than her work and the mother will continue to struggle so that her child can grow well.

"Only on the days I have Harriet. I took a lower-paying position so I could do this. So I could have more flex time. I wanted to be able to work from home more. How else am I going to see her? A lot of my job is stupid busywork. Emails. Nagging professors to approve drafts Most of them treat me like a secretary. It's not ideal, but Harriet and I have a system. I work for a while, then take a break to feed her and play, work some more, put her down for a nap, get some stuff done during her nap. I work late after she goes to bed. She's good at playing by herself. She's not as needy as other toddlers." (Jessamine Chan,2022:44)

Mothers will put their children first before their work because for a mother children are number one

D. Play with children

A good mother will always accompany her child. He will spend time with his child, even if only for a moment. The mother will accompany her child while playing and in between playing the mother will give her child a lot of knowledge so that the child can grow well.

"One, two, three!" She pulls Harriet by the legs. Harriet shrieks happily. Frida picks her up. "Let me look at you, bub."

Harriet smiles, exposing her few chicklet teeth. She pats Frida's cardigan with her sticky hands. Frida smothers her with kisses. She runs her fingers along Harriet's eyelashes, lifts Harriet's blouse and blows raspberries on her stomach, making her cackle." (Jassemine Chan,2022:54)

When playing is the right time for mothers to provide a lot of good knowledge so that the child can understand and learn how to live a healthy life.

E. The best helper when feeling afraid

A mother is a helper for her child, when a child feels afraid or traumatized by something, she will be ready to help and calm her child.

"Harriet rubs her eyes. She looks out the window. "It's dark, Mommy. I'm scared. I'm scared. Mommy, where we going?"

Frida holds Harriet's hands, then kisses her knuckles and fingertips.

"I don't know yet."

"Can we see the moon?"

Frida laughs. "We can look at the moon later, sure. Maybe we'll even see some stars tonight. You're never up this late, are you? We're going to have a nice time, bub. For as long as we can. Go back to sleep, okay? Don't be scared. I'll take care of you. I love you so much. I came back, see? I'm going to stay with you." (Jessamine Chan,2022:318)

When a child feels afraid, the mother will try to protect her child and make her child feel comfortable, the mother is her child's helper.

Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion of research data, it can be concluded that *The school for good mothers* is what the characteristics of a good mother are and how good parenting patterns are depicted in this research. The characteristics of a good mother are mothers who always care for their children with love, put their children first in everything, prioritize their children, and other mothers will continue to defend their children when their children are wrong but mothers will advise and explain where their children are wrong and mothers will teach them how to do it. live a good life so that their children will be better.

A good mother's parenting style is a mother who always collaborates with her child to create a comfortable atmosphere with the family and the mother is her child's helper when her child experiences difficulties wherever they are.

A mother is everything to her child, a mother will do everything for her child to become a successful person, a mother is the first person who is happiest when her child is successful, a mother's desire is to see her child succeed in the future and a mother's love is vast and unrivaled.

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