

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN PALACIO'S WONER

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Abstract: The aim of this study to reveal the role of parents in palacio's wonder and to find out the impacts of role parents. The writer use qualitative research in conducting this research. The writer classified the sources of the data into two categories: they are primary and the secondary sources. The primary source is the novel entitled wonder by R.J. Palacio and the secondary sources are taken from some books, articles, dictionaries, and internet data that related to the topic. This study used objective approach the result of this research shows roles of parents and the impacts of parents' role. The role of parents included nurturing, parenting and educating. The impacts of parents' role are being a courageous person, becoming a clever child and being a good person.

Keywords: *Nurturing, Parenting, Educating, Wonder, Palacio's*

INTRODUCTION

Commonly, parents have a very important role in raising children (Pajow et al, 2021). In education, the role of parents for children cannot be ignored. The role of parents is the need for compassion and as motivator. In order words, parents are the father and or mother of a child, either through biological or social relationships. They have the responsibility for raising children and supply their needs to achieve the success of the child is not separated from the role of parents (Kelles et al, 2022) and (Lampus et al, 2022). "Parents, particularly mothers, who form a secure attachment with their children, are available and responsive to their child's needs and establish a sense of security within the child." (Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology, 396) The role of parents can encourage the children to become

extraordinary person, although there were pressing challenges of life. Parents also play a role as a motivator in the world of children's education and social life (Nanlohy et al, 2021) and (Rorintulus, 2020). In conclusion, the role of parents is very important for children's development to involve children's spirit and establish the children's character to be better in the future. There is the reason that encourage written this research "The role of parents".

Wonder is debut novel by R.J Palacio (Lolowang, 2010). In Wonder, Palacio tells about August, a child who was born with a facial difference that prevented him to go to school. But nevertheless he has parents that always accept, love, protect, and support him. His parents never neglect their responsibility for August. As parents, August's parents do not discriminate between August and his sister. Therefore the role of his parents, he has courage for going to school. He entered fifth grade in Beecher Prep and he has new student with an extraordinary face. Even though he experienced many difficulties in terms of social at his school, by supports from his parents he is able to be a strong person.

Living with a facial difference cannot easily accepted by other people, especially among child aged ten years as in Wonder. Born with a facial difference is not an error but not everyone can understand it. Palacio describes in Wonder that the role of parents take effect for child especially August who was born with a defect in his face. Although he born with a defect in his face, his parents did not neglect him live without love and protect. August's parents did not discriminate between August and his sister. With the defect face makes August does not want to go to school. His parents do not neglect him become stupid but his parents home school him. His parents give time to teach him. By the supporting from his parents, he finally decides to go to school. In Wonder, the role of parents exactly revealed to handle unusual problem. It is be deferent from other. As parents who taken responsibility for children, it is absolutely. But in this situation and condition like a

child who described in Wonder, not all parents have right role commonly. Therefore, the writer interested to reveal the role of August's parents in this novel.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The writer uses a method in order to do her research systematically. "Scientific research involves rigorous and systematic empirical inquire the data based" (Bogdan and Biklen, 39) Since the data obtained are in the form of words therefore, this research can be classified as qualitative research which is:

"Qualitative research is descriptive. The data in the form of words or picture rather than numbers. The written result of the research contains quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation." (Bogdan and Biklen, 30) This study can be also classified as a library research since the data collected from the novel and the other related books.

Data Collection

In doing the study, the writer collects some sources, which are related with the topics has chosen. The writer collects the data from two kinds sources, they are primary source and secondary source. (Tatipang, 2022) states that: "Two kinds of evidence are relevant for essay about literature: Evidence from primary sources and evidence from secondary sources. Primary sources are the works are literature themselves and secondary sources consist of the facts and opinions outside the work itself. From the quotation above, the data are taken from the novel itself as a primary source and other relevant sources such as book, document and internet browsing are considered as secondary source.

Data Analysis

Analysis means breaking something down into its components and finding the relationships between them that give unity and coherence to the whole.

(Griffith, 1986:30) That is, the author pays attention to the elements of the novel so that the author can understand and convey his message to the reader. In analyzing the data, the author uses a psychological approach. That is, this research focuses on the role of parents in child development based on the conditions and backgrounds seen in the novel *Wonder* by R.J Palacio. in this study aimed at the physical problems of children and how parents deal with these problems by showing the roles, namely: nurturing, nurturing, and educating (Potu et al, 2021). So that the child's problem is solved

According to Hardjana, The psychological approach to literature can be interpreted as a way of analysis based on a psychological point of view. The point of view that departs from the assumption that literary works always discuss the events of human life which is a radiance in living and responding to life. However, studying literary works can be seen in terms of the character's psychology.

The function of psychology itself is to explore the inner soul of the characters contained in literary works and to find out more about the intricacies of human actions and their responses to other actions (Hardjana, 1991: 60).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Role of Parents

All parents in the world expect the best for their child like the parents that described in *Wonder*. To achieve their goal, they do anything for their children. According to Seifert & Hoffnung (1994), authors of book entitled *Child and adolescent development*, parents have four roles: teacher, moral leader, emotional supporter and advocate. In *Wonder*, August's parents try to be the best for their children especially August Pullman. Pullman family divided from Isabel and Nate Pullman as parents, and two children are Via and August. August is the child that born with a defect in his face (Takamuntu et al, 2022). But that situation did not change his parents as parents to neglect their role for their children. The role of

August's parents revealed in Palacio's *Wonder* such as: nurturing, parenting, and educating.

Nurturing

Nurturing is one of parents' roles those are important on children's development. "The family as a cell acts only with love and respect and it dominates the understanding, affection, sacrifice and childcare." (Emerllahu, Dali, 2001) "So, in this way builds family environment, in which we live, laugh, play and develop children." (Claudia, Eberhard, Muhlan. 2008) In this novel, as parents are in nurturing August, August's parents do it in some manners such as: loving, protecting, and calming down.

Loving

"Love is a universal phenomenon (Bataha et al, 2021) and (Ibrahim et al, 2021). Everyone in life experiences love but their attitudes and experiences of love differs radically. It is a strong positive emotion of affection and attachment. It is a feeling of intimacy and care for someone." (Maslow, 1943). In the novel, August's parents take care of their children in loving. They love their children as parents. They did not differ between their children because their boy has facial abnormally. Moreover, August's parents can see that cannot see by the others. It shows when August's parents meet August for the first time after August born.

"Mom says by then they had told her all about me. She had been preparing herself for the seeing of me. But she says that when she looked down into my tiny mushed-up face for the first time, all she could see was how pretty my eyes were. Mom is beautiful, by the way. And Dad is handsome. Via is pretty. In case you were wondering." (Palacio, 7)

August's parents also try to do the best for August's healthy with the surgeries. Although, the results of surgeries are disappoint for them.

"It's because of all the surgeries I've had. Twenty seven since I was born. The bigger one happened before I was even four years old, so I don't remember those. But I've had two or three surgeries every year since then (some big, some small),

and because I'm little for my age, and I have some other medical mysteries that doctors never really figured out, I use to get sick a lot" (Palacio, 4)

August's parents think August have to get learning in school, although his Mom has home school him. It is because they want to give the best learning for August. "I just think you need to learn more than I can teach you," Mom said. "I mean, come on, Auggie, you know how bad I am at fractions!" (Palacio, 8)

When the first day to go to school, August's parents accompany him, and his father said revealed he care him. This quotation explains it. "I love you, Auggie", Said Dad, hugging me. (Palacio, 36) It is quotes shows that August's parents nurture August in loving. With love they raise him. They assured him that they love him and want to August has the better future.

Protecting

Protect is keep safe from harm or injury (Onthoni et al, 2022) and (Parengkuan et al, 2022). August's parents want to do the best for August but they also want to keep protect August. Because as parents, they see the situation is not easy for their boy. But they also do not want to ignore August only get home school. When they try to give the best education for August, although they know it has to through the struggles. August's parents try to explain their mind to August. They try to persuade August, but they keep protect August's felling.

"We can keep protecting him," Mom whispered to Dad, who was driving, "We can just pretend he's going to wake up tomorrow and this isn't going to be his reality, because it is, Nate, and we have to help him learn to deal with it. We can't just keep avoiding situation that..."

"So sending him off to middle school like a lamb to slaughter ...," Dad answered angrily, but he didn't even finish his sentence because he saw in the mirror looking up. (Palacio, 10)

The quotation above shows August's parents protect August felling. They do not want to make August feel that they lost him in the school like so. They make August understand that they keep protect him although he has to go to school.

Calming down

“Children are allowed to express their bad feelings and still parents’ love holds on children need love especially when they do not seem to deserve it.” (Katz and Tello, 2003.) In the novel told that there much bad feelings experienced by August. But through it the parent’s role appears. When August’s parents decide to enter August in the middle school, they know it is difficult for August. Even though when August heard his mother is talking about that plan to school with his father, he is feeling sadness (Makalew et al, 2022). But his parents always can do calm down him. “Everyone will stare at me at school,” I said suddenly crying. “Honey,” Mom said. She turned around in the front seat and put her hand on my hand. (Palacio, 10)

August’s parents also rise up his enthusiasm and confidence to school. The quote that shows it below:

“You know if you don’t want to do this, you don’t have to. But we spoke to the principal there and told him about you and he really wants to meet you.”

“What did you tell him about me?”

“How funny you are, and how kind and smart. When I told him you read *Dragon Rider* when you were six, he was like, ‘Wow, I have to meet this kid.’ ”

“Did you tell him anything else?” I said.

Mom smiled at me. Her smiled kind of hugged me.

“I told him about all your surgeries, and how brave you are,” She said.

“She knows what I look like?” I asked.

“Well, we brought pictures from last summer in Montauk,” Dad said. “We showed him pictures of whole family. And the great shot of you holding that flounder of the boat!” (Palacio, 11)

As parents, August’s parents always make August laugh. This quotation shows it. “I smiled even though I didn’t want to let them see me smile. Dad was one person in the world who could make me laugh no matter how much I didn’t want to laugh. Dad always everyone laugh.” (Palacio, 13)

From the quotation above that shows August's parents always can be calming down August in facing his feeling sadness. They can manage difficult situation become easy situation.

Parenting

Parenting is the raising of a child by its parents or the act or process of becoming a parent (Merriam-Webster Dictionary)

"Parenting behaviors, taking into account all aspects of a child's social, emotional, physical, moral, spiritual, and educational development, are influenced not only by the culture in which the parent belongs but also by the individual family structure and the community in which the family lives." (Encyclopedia of Educational Psychology, 757)

In the novel, parenting included complying the necessities, being a role model, and giving motivation.

Complying the necessities

Parents must comply with the child's necessities. It is the responsibility as parents. The child's necessities are care, material, education. "Mom had packed me a cheese sandwich, graham crackers, and juice box," (Palacio, 49). This quotation shows August's parents comply their boy's material

August's parents revealed their attention for August with ask him about the day in school and how is his feeling in his school.

Mom waited for me to say something else, but I just didn't feel like talking.

"So it went okay?" said Mom. I could tell she had a million questions she wanted to ask me. "Everyone was nice? Did you like your teachers?"

"Yeah."

"How about those kids you met last week? Were they nice?"

"Fine, fine. Jack hung out with me a lot."

"That so great, sweetie. What about that boy Julian?"

When August was feeling sadness, it because her friends bullying, August's parents take care him. His mother quickly comes to school to meet him.

Then I went to the nurse office and told her I had a stomach ache, which was true, because I felt like I'd been kicked in the gut. Nurse Molly called Mom and had me lie down on the sofa next to her desk. Fifteen minutes later, Mom was at the door..

"Sweetness," she said, coming over to hug me. (Palacio, 79)

The quotation above shows August's parents role to comply their boy's necessities especially care him. As parents, they have the activities in home, but they choose to leave other bustle for coming to school because of August.

Being a role model

Parents are their children's strongest role model and greatest influence. Children always adopt parent's values and types of behavior. (Kasapi, 2013) Children that grow up in communities with a collaborative orientation to social interaction. Children need the experiences of success, appreciation and encouragement, but equally important is that they have distinct and safe limits. (Rantala, Maatta, 2011.)

In the novel, August's parents are being a role model in social interaction. August's father is a person who is friendly. In addition everyone is nice to talking with him. It shows in this quotes bellow.

I heard Dad's voice up ahead and looked up. He was telling everyone a funny story as they walked down Amesfort avenue,. The grown-ups were all laughing too. It was like Mom always said: Dad could be a comedian. (Palacio, 309)

Another role model that Palacio revealed in the novel is August's parents being a strong person. When the first time August's mother see August's face, she did not see the lack but she saw and said the beauty in the situation. She is positive thinking until being a strong person. It is explained in quotes bellow.

But she says when she looked down into my tiny mushed-up face for the first time, all she could see was how pretty my eyes were.

Mom is beautiful, by the way. And Dad is handsome. Via is pretty. In case you are wondering. (Palacio, 7)

As parents, for accepting the condition like as August's parents is not easy. But, what do August's parents do, it is being a role model for their children especially August.

Giving motivation

Motivation refers to "the reasons underlying behavior" (Guay, 2010:712). August's parents give motivation to their boy, August, so that he want to enter the school. The quotation below shows it.

"Auggie, you know, you should go to that school just so you can hear his named said over the loudspeaker!" Dad said excitedly. "Can you imagine how funny that would be? Hello, hello? Paging Mr. Tushman!" He was using a fake high, old-lady voice. "Hi, Mr. Tushman! I see you're running a little behind today! Did your car rear-ended again? What a bum rap!" (Palacio, 13)

August's parents also give motivation to August in order to learn play music in the school. "August, you've been wanting to learn to play the drums," Mom said, trying to get me to look at her. (Palacio, 23) From the quotation shows August's parents encourage August to school real to get learning real. They give the motivations to August in order to be a clever child.

Educating

"Parents and families, who had been the center of their children's education, became increasingly peripheral to the conception of education in the newly emerging public schools and school practices." (Komenaung et al, 2021) Educational level of children in the family depends more on the level of the parent's education, so this factor strongly affects family relationships and the successful development of children. (Matilov, Naum. 2002) Parents are the prime educators until the child attends nursery or starts school and remain a major influence on their children's learning through school and beyond. (Beqja, Hamit, 2002) However, if parents are a positive influence in their children's everyday lives,

and most importantly in their everyday education, the future it will be more beautiful and more successful. (Sigar et al, 2020) In the novel that occur two educators to educate August at home. Such as: the mother and father.

The mother as an educator

Mother is the first and the best teacher. The family enables children protection in that suggestively that makes parents responsible for their developing and to make their children grow into a total personality. (Good, 1988) In Wonder, August parents in educating their child, August, especially in this case August's mother do not want to ignore August being a stupid or not get the education. August's mother has initiative to home school August because the condition impossible for August to going to school real. It is explained in quotation below:

"Mom home schools me. She uses to be a children's book illustrator. She draws really great fairies and mermaids. Her boy stuff isn't so hot, though. She once tried to draw me a Darth Vader, but it ended up looking like some weird mushroom-shaped robot. I haven't seen her draw anything in a long time. I think she is too busy taking care of me and Via." (Palacio, 4) From the quotation Palacio revealed August's parents especially his mother educated August at home before he is ready to going to school. They also educate August with resolute include ethic in conversation. It shows in this quote: "Auggie, sweetie, don't interrupt," said Mom. (Palacio, 20) As mother, she is being gentle in teaching her child.

The father as an educator

The father in a family is a very important factor, concerning the organization of a nice and appropriately functional development of a house hold, with a specific accent on the children. This person is extremely important factor in the organization of the family life as a whole, which are the basic ground towards a happily and joyful family for all the members of a respective family. (Claudia, Eberhard Muhlan. 2008)

In Wonder, August's father has the different way to teach August in order that he must be confidently. It is with hiding the helmet that August always wears when he went everywhere. August's father does it for building her boy's confidence. It shows in their conversation below:

"Auggie, I couldn't stand seeing that thing cover your face anymore," he said clumsily.

"Dad, I love the helmet! It meant a lot to me! I was bummed beyond believe when it got lost-don't you remember?"

"Of course I remember, Auggie," he said softly. "Ohh, Auggie, don't be mad. I'm sorry. I just couldn't stand seeing you were that thing on your head anymore, you know? I didn't think it was good for you." He was trying to look me in the eye, but I wouldn't look at him.

"Come on, Auggie, please try to understand," he continued, putting his hand under my chin and tilting my face toward him. "You were wearing the helmet all the time. And the real, real, real truth is: I missed seeing your face, Auggie. I know you don't always love it, but you have to understand ... I love it. I love this face of yours, Auggie, completely and passionately. And it kind of broke my heart that you were always covering it up."

He was squinting at me like he really wanted me to understand. (Palacio, 291)

From the quotation above, Palacio revealed the role of August's parents in educating August. Father is an educator in developing character. From not confident to be a confident person

The Impacts of Parents' Role

In Wonder, parents' role had some impacts for children development, such as: being a courageous person; becoming a clever child; and being a good person.

Being a courageous person

Courage is mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty (Merriam-Webster Dictionary) In the novel that occurred August is being a courageous person. It shows when Jack knows the ropes of going

to school, and has just told August that he needs to start talking. So August musters up some courage, and pushes back against Julian's boorish behavior. This quotation below shows it.

We were all quiet for a second, all of us just kind of nodding, looking at the floor. Then I look up at Julian.

"The word's 'supposedly, 'by the way,'" I said

"What are you talking about?"

"You said 'supposably' before," I said. (Palacio, 30)

August is not unfazed, but he sure is not going to let Julian's unkindness stop him from taking this next big step in his life. His parent is rattled, while August is resolute.

"I'm sorry, Auggie," she said quietly. Her cheeks were bright red.

"No, it's okay, Mom, really."

"You don't have to go to school if you don't want, sweetie."

"I want to," I said.

"Auggie ..."

"Really, Mom. I want to." And I wasn't lying. (Palacio, 34)

When Auggie decide to leave his stuffed animal at home instead of bringing it to the fifth grade nature retreat, he is acknowledging that he is brave enough to sleep away from home without a crutch. This quotation below explains it.

I took Baboo back to my room, and I laid him in my bed and taped the little note to Mom on his chest. And then I covered him to my blanket so Mom would find him later. The not read:

Dear Mom, I won't to need Baboo, but if you miss me, you can cuddle with him yourself. Xo Auggie (Palacio, 256)

From the quotation above, Palacio shows August become a courageous person. He is able to handle his self and his difficulties.

Becoming a clever child

Cleverness is the quality of being clever, intelligence or shrewdness (Oxford Dictionary). In the novel, that occurred August becoming a clever child. It shows when August followed the test to enter the school, he success to do it. Although since that he only home schools from his mother.

"It's very hard school to get into. There's a whole admissions process. I didn't see the point in telling you and having you get all worked up about it unnecessarily." (Palacio, 11) The quotation shows that impact of the role of August's parents is being August clever.

Being a good person

Good definition according to Merriam-webster Dictionary is of a favorable character of tendency (Talumepa et al, 2022). In the novel that occurred August is being a good person. It is show from the speech or express of some people are characters in the novel such as: Mr. Tushman and August's parents.

Mr. Tushman's speech at the fifth grade graduation is about the importance of showing kindness in all areas of life. Beecher Prep has come a long way in terms of kindness since August started there at the beginning of the year. The quotation bellow that shows it.

If every single person in this room made it a rule that whatever you are, whenever you can, you will try to act a little kinder than is necessary-the world really would be a better place. (Palacio, 301)

Mr. Tushman state he is proud to August since August started to school, he is a principal in the school. He speech her proud when he decide to give award. This quotation bellow that shows it.

" 'He is greatest,' " he finally continued, " 'whose strength carries up the most hearts by the attraction of his own.' Without further ado, this year I'm very proud to award the Henry Ward Beecher Medal to the student whose quiet strength has carried up the most hearts.

"So will August Pullman please come up here to receive this award?" (Palacio, 304)

August's parents also revealed their pride and happiness because they see their boy being a good man.

"Thank you, Auggie," she answered softly.

"For what?"

"For everything you've given us," she said. "For coming into our lives. For being you."

She bent down and whispered in my ear. "You really are a wonder, Auggie. You are a wonder."

Through the quotation above that shows the impact of parents' role is being a good person. August's parents expressing a happy feeling, proud to their boy, August, because with a physical defect is his face, he managed to get through the difficulty in social interaction with other people included his friends in his school. But in this case, August's parents improved that their boy truly is a wonder like their speech.

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