

Working Outline

Preliminary title of work: A little more struggle, A little more independence

I. Intro

- a. TAG
- b. Coming of Age = maturing into a self-assured, independent individual who is confident in oneself and one's beliefs
- c. Francie's life struggles have forced her to embrace difficulties, think independently and make her own decisions, whereas the support Taylor has received results in her being codependent and reliant on others.
- d. THESIS: While both girls undoubtedly grow and mature, it is France who serves as the quintessential example of what it means to come of age.

II. Topic: Francie (struggles -> growth and independence)

a. Struggles she faces

- Coming from an uneducated family
 1. becoming educated, going to high school/college - "I can't teach her anymore than I, myself, know and I know so little" (81).
- Living in the slums of Brooklyn (poor)
 1. dirty - (doctor)
 2. treated differently at school - (wets pants)(Mary doll)
- Father dies & mother not very affectionate
 1. what is beauty? truth? "Drunkenness is neither truth nor beauty" (321).
- Must leave school to work and earn money for family
 1. "Fright grew in Francie. Maybe it would be so that she'd never get into high school; maybe she'd never have more education than she had at that moment" (364).
- Lonely
 1. "Truth and fancy were so mixed up in mind - as they are in the mind of every lonely child" (199).

b. Grows and matures

- Develops a concept of reality
 1. "The something which had been a future was now a present and would become a past....Everything was changing.....She was the one that was changing....Growing up spoiled a lot of things" (217).
- Understands the need to support her family (gets a job, etc)
- Becomes aware of the worlds beyond her own (new school, job in the city) – creates dreams
 1. "To her, the stupendous stench suggested far-sailing adventure and she was pleased with the smell" (20).

2. "It was good that she got herself into this other school. It showed her that there were other worlds beside the world she had been born into and that these worlds were not unattainable" (176).

c. Independence

- Always being lonely forced Francie to think, act, and play on her own
- Makes the decision that she will go to college no matter what (really, she makes decisions about everything without regard to what others think)

III. Topic: Taylor (support -> growth but also codependence)

a. Support she receives

- Has always been reassured by her mother
 1. "Nevertheless, Mama's important influence on making Taylor a strong, independent woman is clear. Mama always encouraged her and acted as if her every accomplishment were wonderful" (DeMarr 3)
- People in her life (Mattie, Lou Ann, Estevan, Turtle) give her strength and confidence when making decisions
 1. "The give-and-take, the love and affection and support, allows, encourages, [Taylor] to flourish" (Fitzgerald 65).
 2. Rhizobia
- Becomes part of a "family" (Lou Ann..)
 1. "It is a community of mutual support and interdependence.." (Kelley 102).

b. Grows and matures

- Loses her naïve and know-it-all attitude
- Accepts the responsibility of being a mother (makes a HUGE decision, but not without help from others)

c. Codependence

- At one point she feels lost in a world which seems to her as being messed up – she requires a pep talk (Estevan) to give her the strength she needs
- She did not make her final decision regarding Turtle on her own - advice from Mattie and Lou Ann affected the outcome very much so

IV.Topic: Francie = better example of C of A

a. She has matured into an independent and confident individual

- Able to make decisions on her own
 1. switches schools
 2. goes to work in the city
 3. gets into college
- Will not let anyone tell her she can't
 1. fights for what she deserves - "And I'm pleased that you can and will fight for what you should have" (387).
- Strong and courageous
- Has faith that she can achieve her dreams

1. "My grandparents never knew how to read or write.....But I, M. Frances K. Nolan, am now in college" (430).

V. Conclusion

- a. Briefly summarize major points
- b. Explain connection to the larger lesson or meaning of the work