

Chelsi Arias

Professor Lux

ENG 364

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In Fox – read ch. 4, “The Fragile Bond” (93-146). Do exercises 1 and 2 on page 107 (you may substitute exercises 1 and 2 on pages 98-99 if they pertain and you prefer them). Do the exercise on “Special Objects and Places of Childhood” (124), as well.

1. (a) Make a list of what you wanted in a relationship with your parent(s) but didn't get.

Looking back at my childhood and the way I had to live my life because of my parents I realize I have thought and felt differently about them over the years. My mother raised my siblings and I by herself for most of my life and being the oldest sister, I felt I had a lot of responsibilities. This affected me a lot and I wish that my mother would have tried to be more responsible. For most of my life people would make me feel bad about not being like others my age but having to help raise my siblings made me have to grow up faster than I should have and miss out on things. I wish I would've had stability in my life, I have never felt that I could count on my parents financially even as a child because I knew the struggles we had. I wish my father would have been in my life more, most of my life I have only seen him once a week and only for a few hours, our relationship wasn't very profound. I lived with my mother but it felt like she was absent most of my life, it felt like her mind was somewhere else and whenever I would try to voice my feelings she would make me feel like an awful person for feeling that way. I wanted trust, comfort, stability, unconditional love, friendship, etc.

(b) Make another list of what you have come to feel is valuable that you received from them. Be particular. Take the most potent things from both lists and shape them into a poem.

I feel like I have learned to be independent, and grateful from my parents. I don't care for luxurious things; I am content with having just basic necessities and I don't waste my time obsessing over materialistic goals/things and just want to be a help wherever I can be.

I don't like to complain,

Because I know I could be a pain.

I am grateful for what you've given me,

Even if at the time I couldn't see.

We were never wealthy,

But you made sure I was always healthy.

Although life was hard there's nothing I would change,

No thing I would like to rearrange.

Because you are the reason for who I am today,

And for that I say thank you for making me this way.

2. Think about your parent(s) and what their lives were/are like. What are the particulars of their individual and family history that seem most significant? Let the specific images that come up help you create a poem which deals with accepting your parent(s) for the real persons they are/were.

I have learned to let go of the negative thoughts of my childhood,

Because I realize that what I feel you might have felt too.

Because you are not only my mother and my father,

But mom you're a daughter, a sister,

And dad you're a son and a brother.

Thinking of what you have experienced in life makes me feel guilty for ever complaining,

Just know that everything you've lived and done isn't in vain.

Your struggles lead you to where you are today,

And because of them I get to say,

I am glad to have had you as my parents,

It is clear that you were God sent.

You overcame your hardships and made a decision to migrate,

And out of all of the places and all of the people you could have been with you met each other.

So many factors that could have lead to a different outcome but our outcome was God's perfect plan.

Works Cited

Fox, John. "The Fragile Bond" *Poetic Medicine: The Healing Art of Poem-Making*, Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, 1997, pp. 93-146.