The short story, “Thank You M’am” by Langston Hughes and the poem “Oranges” by Gary Soto both involve characters who learned from their experiences. Roger from “Thank you, M’am” and the narrator from “Oranges” both learned through their interactions with more empathetic characters in their stories.

Firstly, in the story, “Thank you M’am,” Roger tried to steal a pocketbook from a lady, and ended up tripping. Instead of turning him into the police, Mrs. Jones took him to her home to make him feel more confident by letting him wash his face and serving him a hot meal. After a short visit, Mrs. Jones decided to give Roger $10 to buy a pair of suede shoes. Roger learned to be more trustworthy and more compassionate because of Mrs. Jones’s empathy toward him.

In the poem “Oranges” the narrator in the poem was taking a girl to the drugstore and had told her that she could buy anything. While at the drug store, the narrator not wanting to be embarrassed didn’t give his date a spending limit. As a result, she chose a chocolate bar that cost more than he had. The boy, hopefully, placed the expensive chocolate on the counter with the little money he had and an orange. The cashier showed empathy by accepting the offer of 5¢ and an orange. The narrator was full of relief and eternally grateful to the cashier who didn’t reveal that he didn’t have enough. In the end, the narrator learned that showing empathy to others can be charitable.

The characters from the two texts had help from very kind people who showed empathy toward them and how they had changed the characters life or point of view.