Conflict/Theme Theory Assignment

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Representation and Identity in the movie “Hair Love”

The short film hair love follows the story of a little girl who is the protagonist. In the film she struggles with her hair which is the main conflict of the story. The story starts with the girl getting ready for a special day that the audience is unaware of. She begins to get ready but realizes that she has to do her hair. She decides to watch a hair tutorial and it is at this point that the audience is introduced to a channel called “Hair love” that focuses on type 4 kinky hair like hers. In directly we’re introduced to a second character through the videos who we will later get to know is the protagonist’s mother. During this scene the little girl is seen swiping through different hair styles she can try to do and it is at this point that we see that the little girl although is struggling to do her hair, has options and a positive representation for hair like hers. As the girl finally chooses a hairstyle, she is sent back to a special moment with her mother and this moment brings in a quote that is crucial to the story line which is that “with a little bit of work and a whole lot of love” anything is possible. Unfortunately, the girl fails to do her hair on her own and chooses to get help from her father. Unlike the persistent and hopeful protagonist of the story the father seems immediately threatened by the monstrous curls in front of him and we see a whole battle scene between the father and the little girl’s hair. Thus, continuing the conflict surrounding the girl’s hair. The father decides to give up and covers the protagonist’s hair with a beanie which makes the little girl cry. Expecting that the protagonist would give up we hear the little girl play her mother’s hair videos and it is at this part we see that the hair is not just a conflict, but it is something special for the mother and the girl. It’s a symbol of their bond and love. This motivates the girl’s father to do her hair once more but this time with more care and love for it. This resolves the conflict, and the girl’s hair is done. Just as the story is close to the end we see that the father and little girl have planned to go somewhere special and that is to visit the mother at the hospital. Unlike the hair tutorial videos, where the mother had hair we see that now she’s in a wheelchair with no hair. It is here that the conflict changes or moves from the little girl to the mother. And just as the mother was the protagonist’s push to love and care for her hair. The little girl becomes just that for the mother and let’s her see the beauty in her mother’s baldness. We see that the little girl becomes a solution just as the mother was. In conclusion the story teaches the meaning of love and how representation is important. This is because if the girl did not have her mother’s videos, she wouldn’t know the importance of loving her own hair.