

Quote	Reflection
<p>p. 159            Story about abuse above the quote....</p>	<p>CRAZY!!! I am speechless. I can not believe the horrific things this person did to his child. What kills me the most is that a teacher might actually think the student is not smart, but it is actually that they are being treated so horribly! Teachers need to be aware of their students and encouraged to form meaningful bonds with their students but just worry if they pass a test. How might this child's have been different if she had been able to make that connection with her teacher? It breaks my heart when I know something is going on with one of my children. And sense the laws are so ridiculous, it is almost impossible to take any kind of action to protect the child. Really makes you wonder about humanity.</p>
<p>p. 159            "The ever-present fear of such volcanic eruptions and catastrophic events leaves children speechless and numbed, unwilling to develop their capacities for hearing and knowing."</p>	<p>Well HELL yeah!! I am mean shit if BOTH of my parents where doing such horrible things to me I would become invisible. She had to leave her physical body for self preservation. One has to escape the awful reality of their life in order to keep living. It is amazing that she did not just dye, I am sure that her heart broke! Horrible that anyone, let alone a child would have to live like that. I suffered MINOR abuse at the hands of my step-mother. I can not imagine. I remember going to my "special" place. I would look out the window (after it was over), I questioned why me, what did I do to deserve this, it was horrible. I would escape the world, I would go on such crying/emotional jags that I could get myself to be in another place. My comfort in those bad times was my mind, imagination and that fact I knew my mother loved me even though I was forced to be separated from her. I knew how it was suppose to be, it was just a matter of me getting back to America to be with my mom. My step-mother would try to poison my mind of my mother, say nasty things about her. But I knew in my heart that my step-mother was a sick/evil person! I just can not imagine what I would have done if I did not have that piece of hope. Actually I know what I would have done I would have probably killed myself. I thought about it several times during those years, but was never successful.            That child must have really suffered!</p>
<p>p. 160            "The children tend to be action-oriented, with little insight into their own behaviors or motivations. Since they do not expect to be heard, and if heard they expect no response, the volume of their voices is more important than the content."</p>	<p>I completely heard this statement when I read it! I have a child in my class that I have wondered how the home environment is. He is extremely loud. It is as if he is competing for attention or to be heard. When he is engaged in conversation (which most always is teacher directed) with his peers, I usually mediate the conversation. The conversations that are not adult mediated are usually of him talking to himself or him answering simple questions asked by peers. There are other concerns with his play. When he is observed playing with dolls or little plastic people, the play is frequently violent, involves hitting, "beatin' them", "smackin'" and usually very gender orientated. It is very interesting because I have meet with mom several times and actually had one of her other children 3 years ago, she swears he does not do that at home. But I have learned by this book that being ignored or told to keep his mouth shut is just much of a detriment then actually physically hitting him. He is a sweetie. He has attachment issues, in that he physically pinches and hits</p>

	volunteers and other teachers are there. It appears to me that he does it in order to get the “new” persons attention and/or to gauge how they will respond to him.
<p>p. 160        “On the whole, however, when poor families fail their children the society provides precious little help; while children of privilege are more likely to find rich sources of sustenance to promote their development elsewhere.”</p>	<p>Shit “precious little help”! More like NO help in my experience. The mode of operation that I have experienced has been to “wait and see”, encourage the parents to go to parenting classes at the multicultural center and they tell me to talk to the child about how he/she can remain “safe” when at home. I mean WHAT???. Sometimes I want to just say “are you kidding me!”</p> <p>I know for me, my schools, teachers, family and friends played a huge roll in my development. I was able to escape my home environment to people I knew and became my family. Plus I had spent the first 8 years of my life in very loving and emotionally giving environment!</p> <p>But many of my children have no other place to develop. Except maybe school, with teachers. The animal connection is a great one! I see this with my students. I have a 1 year old Italian Greyhound, Gina, she is my baby! And my students know her very well. She comes to school and spends the day with them. Her first full day with me last year was spent at school with the kids because I could not take off work. The kids LOVE her! It has lead to some of them creating pets at home. Parents say they talk about Gina all the time. She is able to offer unconditional love and she is very happy and friendly (and she is small, like them). It is great to see how they will lye down and encourage her to come and sleep with them. Gina reads books and everything. I think it is a great way to encourage talking and discussion about something they truly enjoy!</p>
<p>p. 162        “You can’t really move on in your life until you’ve accepted certain things about your parents and have integrated them and then started moving on. It is the only way you can face the world and walk into it with an open heart and an open mind.”</p>	<p>I completely agree with this statement! I have spent many hours on the couch with my therapist in order to work through my conflicts with my father. My advice to others that have issues with their parents is that they have to come to accept their parents for who they are and the choices they made in the past. If it is possible I encourage them to develop an adult relationship with their parents. I think trying to start over again as adults can help to shift the power dynamic in the relationship. This is very difficult because as I have experienced my relationship with my father, there will always be an unequal power dynamic with parents that leads to oppression and not seeing the situation from the “child’s” point of view. I had to come to a point with my father in which I try to take back the control over my life in order to be happy and not always be emotionally so constricted by the negative emotions and attitude. It is a constant struggle and one that frequently requires me to remind him that I am an adult and have shown that I can make good choices on my own. I find that parents try to do the best they can do. And are unfortunately unable to see how their choices might have negative long term effects on their children.</p>
<p>p. 163        “She did not realize that it was hard for the children to understand what was wanted of them if they were not told.”</p>	<p>I run into this issue when working with parents to understand why their child might not be developing or “listening” to them. Frequently parents think that children should understand what the parents expectations are, which is impossible. Parents, in my experience, are very surprised to see how their child responds very quickly and positively when they are talked to, given clear exceptions and limits. Children do not have the logical abilities to “know” what the adults in their</p>

	lives want from them.
p.163 “Mothers who have so little sense of their own minds and voices are unable to imagine such capacities in their children.”	How can one be expected to hear their children when they do not even hear themselves? This is why I think it is so important to help mothers feel empowered, so they can empower their own children in turn. I have a child now who’s mother has some very serious issues, it is very sad to see that she is completely unaware of her son’s capacity to think and analysis situations. He is extremely resilient and resourceful. School is what gives him a place to be heard. He is going to Kindergarten next year at a school out of my area. I am very concerned about this little boy. I met his teacher and have arranged to be there on his first day of school. I hope that she is able to continue loving and supporting him, so that he can develop. Myself and other staff have worked and continue working to build mom up so that she can hear her own voice so that she can hear her children’s voices. It is very difficult when a woman has only had negative feedback her entire life.
p. 164 ...why kids smacked for “back talking”...Such a mother finds the curious, thinking child’s questions stressful, since she (the mother) does not yet see herself as an authority who has anything to say or teach.	Completely. Many adults have issues with their children “showing” them up. The answer to such gregarious children is often to shut them up, instead of hearing them and encouraging them to question the world in which they live. One can not answer questions that she has not delt with/answered her self. I think this is where the idea of encouraging mothers to see themselves as childcare experts. I see this is as a great place to meet women at, a place to show they have been successful at. We have to find a common and strength place to build from in order to empower them, in their personal and parental lives.
p. 168 “...these women tried to wrest control for their own lives out of the hands of their parents or other authorities.”	When my father finally decided to move back to the USA I knew I would get away from him and my step-mother. I had tried several times in the past to runaway but since we were in the Middle East I was not successful. After we got to California I ran away twice. My father finally let me visit my mother in VA. When I got off the plan and saw my mom, I broke down (I had not been alone with her in almost 5 years) and begged her to never make me go back. I knew very well that I would never be able to have a “father-daughter” relationship with my dad after I made that decision. I had to get control of my life out of his hands, I just could not go back to being with him. The control/oppression, abuse and emotional abuse with my step-mother was more than I could handle.
p. 169 “With an “inner gut” subjectivists can imagine themselves having some sort of a voice and a right to speak out-even against authorities.”	I see the various “stages” as being fluid. Depending on life situations and circumstances we move between the stages. I can remember twice in my life that the inner voice was what kept me alive and able to speak up. Not only my separation from my father and his family but also in the Peace Corps in West Africa. I was placed in a fairly isolated part of the country. I was being sexually harassed on a daily bases by my Guinean bolls the head of the health center. After being afraid every nigh and completely incapable of doing my job I decided to go back to the capital and talk to the Peace Corps supervisors. The voice spoke to me loud and clear. I knew I could not continue living under such conditions.

<p>p. 169          "...the subjectivists are overtaken by fury if wronged by their parent."</p>	<p>Much of this book spoke to me because I can remember times in my life that quotes like this talk to me. For example when my father was pissed at some decision I had made that he did not agree with I would become enraged. I tended to strike back to my mother (who I lived with). I also made some very careless choices in my life. In retrospect I see some of my actions where done in order to act out against my parents especially my dad plus in some level punish my mother for what I thought was her choice to leave me in the Middle East. When my father disowned me that was a point in my relationship with him that I really do not know if I can ever really "forgive" him for it. My father had told my extended family that I had died in a car accident. The only way I found out was that my cousin had called my mom to pay his condolences. My decision to want to make my own choices and live a life of my choice was so horrible that he would rather wish me dead? WOW! To day even though we have developed a small relationship, I continue to always know in the back of my mind that I might happen again. I am sure that I will one day again make a choice he is not okay with. I mean dag he does not know I would like to have a child by adoption or IVF if I do not find a partner. I am sure I will be disowned for that☺ The emotions and feelings of always having that grain of sand in my heart and weight on choices I make, does not usually bother me but when it does I thank God I have a mother and family that extremely supportive and proud of me, and that I know they WILL always be there! Without that support could I or would I have been able to break free of the control and manipulation?</p>
<p>p. 180          "Teaching children and fathers to talk with each other directly might go a long way toward reducing the amount and intensity of such estrangements."</p>	<p>So true!!! Only within the last four years have my father and I quasi-learned how to communicate. And even now that communication is often very one sided. The fact that I am usually mature and strong enough to stand up to him. Many times I can tell him my feelings but it is the emotional guilt and shame that tares me up afterwards. These feelings use to last for weeks and lead to a bad cycle. Fortunately now it only takes me off track for a few days. The cultural differences and how I am viewed by him are the reoccurring obstacles between us. Me being strong, independent person is not what he sees and honors. Instead for him he sees me as old, too independent, stubborn (because I will not except an arranged marriage), unmarried, running out of time to have kids and doomed to be a spinster. How can two parties have a meaningful and respectful relationship when there is such a HUGE difference between the way he sees me and how I see myself? I mean of course there is also the issue that every time he tries to push his definition, I refuse even harder and stand even stronger on my own definition. He thinks he is weakening me, but little does he know he is reinforcing my resolve!</p>