Happy Student

March 10, 2013

English Per. 7

NBTT Character Analysis

Miss Narwin Makes a Point

In Avi’s novel Nothing but the Truth several characters play an important role in the plot. Miss Narwin is one of those characters. Miss Narwin reminds Phillip, as well as the reader, to tell the truth at all times. Her strongest qualities she possesses are respect, determination, and helpfulness; this is what helps her deliver this important theme.

In the story Miss Narwin shows many examples of respect. One example is when she has the same expectations for him as for everyone else even though he is not her favorite student by far. Also would be before he is sent to Dr. Palleni’s office she gives him plenty of warnings. A third could be that Miss Narwin respects him enough to talk to the Assistant Principal about the issue and suspension. Lastly, when Dr. Doane suggests that it would be best that she takes a break she respects that and listens to her.

Her quality of determination helps characterize Miss Narwin. For example, when she doesn’t feel like she connects with her students very strongly, she tries to get the summer grant that gives teachers some ideas and ways to connect with kids easier. Second, she wanted to get the story about suspension straight because it was mostly a lie. Another example is she wants to find out a way to connect to Philip. A final example to prove her determination is when she sends Philip to Dr. Palleni, for humming. He doesn’t listen to her, so she is determined to figure out the problem.

There are many ways that Miss Narwin is helpful. She tries to talk and connect with Philip more to see if she can possibly make things better between the two of them. She also tries talking the Assistant Principal out of suspension, “Did you have to suspend him? … I don’t want to give up on him yet...He’s a really nice boy” (80). She believes it will only make matters worse. In a letter written to her sister, Miss Narwin reveals, “Joe Palleni felt compelled to suspend him for a bit, something I never believe is productive” (83). As the novel unfolds she is helpful to everyone in the class grading the essays. She writes detailed comments for the students so they can become better writers. A concluding example would be when she talks to the newspaper. Telling them whole story they have been writing about a boy being suspended for patriotism was all a lie.

Miss Narwin makes an important point. Her point is to tell the truth at all times. She does this by showing her respect, determination, and helpfulness. Miss Narwin’s character and meaningful character traits in Avi’s novel, remind all of us to always tell the truth even if the consequences aren’t going to be what you want or think you deserve.