The Enemy

*Plot summary*

At the beginning of the story the boy is narrating the story of his life and why he thought he mother was his enemy. In the first half of the story he talks how his father thought him how to be a better person before he died. He talks about the anger his mother felt for his father because he gave more love to him and shared more special moments with him. In the second part he tells us how his father died and that they had to move to another town. In the town his mother didn't worried for him and let him do what ever he wanted but there were always serious consequences. His mother always hit him and made him suffer. But it was then when he was close to death, and he saw his mother in tears when he realized that she wasn't his enemy, but the person that loved him the most. Yet he didn't feel compassion for her.

*Themes*

**Fear** –

* The mother is afraid to remain in the house because of the men outside intimidating them.
* The boy is afraid of his mother. We learn this because he hides the fact that he can’t tie his shoelaces from her.

**Child Abuse & Violence** –

* The mother’s treatment of her son. Her use of violence as a way of controlling him.
* Violence as a key way of maintaining control in this society is one of the themes of the story.
  + The workers intimidating the boy’s father.
  + The boy’s father beating the workers.
  + The father’s beating their son’s.

**Pride** –

* The father remaining in the home even though he is in danger.

**Revenge –**

* The men’s possible revenge against the narrator’s father.

**Love** –

* The story explores a different type of love. The mother loves her child even though on the surface it is unclear that she feels this way. She love’s him bud doesn’t show it.

*“And here is*love like*a tinsmith's*scoop*sunk*past its gleam*in*the*meal-bin.”*

Seamus Heaney.

*Characters*

**Boy/Narrator:**

He sees his mother as the enemy. Sometimes lets his emotions get the better of him and gets ostracised because of it. He is quite emotionless in how he speaks about his past. He is strong-willed – decides to stay with his father instead of going with his mother.

**Mother** –

She loves her son though the way that she expresses this love means that her son doesn’t realise it. She is also violent. She clearly doesn’t love her husband either possibly because of his decision to remain in the house despite the danger.

**Father** –

He is a proud man that does not allow himself to be intimidated by others. However, as the story progresses his pride gets the better of him and he is remains in the house even though he is in danger. He loves his son and is eager to teach him what he knows. He is also spiritual.

**Links**

<http://prezi.com/ra7fwr_e57gx/the-enemy-written-by-v-s-naipaul/>

<http://prezi.com/qtcq-y43iqpq/the-enemy-vs-naipaul/>

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