**The Split Cherry Tree – Class Discussion Notes**

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**What do we learn from the first scene?**

1) Pa hits his children to educate them.

2) It's a poor family.

3) Dave is the first in this family to go to high school.

**P.39**

Line 18: The conflict- Dave must to the punishment and he expects a problem with his father.

**P.40**

y-g-15 The farm chores

**P.41**

15,17 - Pa's old fashioned view of education. He can't understand a school trip.

27-30 – Pa is insulted by the discrimination against poor people.

**P.42**

line 6-8: To add insult to injury – להוסיף חטא על פשע

line 9-10: The climax begins. Luster Plans to take the gun to school.

Line 19-22: Dave wants to bridge the gap between Pa and the prof.

**P.42**

6-12 – The prof doesn't know much about the lives of the students , who have a lot of chores at home when they return from school.

**Page 47:**

1. Dave glad that they are going early because Dave is ashamed and he’s more worried about what his friends think than his father kills his teacher.

2. Dave hope was that pa will find out professor Herbert is a good man and change his mind about shooting him or start to fight with him.

lines1-10-morning on the farm.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | chore (=משימה) |
| father | build a fire in the store and in the fire place |
| Dave | feed and milk the cows |
| mother | make breakfast |

**Nature and its effect on the characters:**

1. First we have the frost which represents the cold and the fear of Dave from the situation with his father and the teacher.
2. Then we have the sun which melts the frost a symbol of hope with the relation and between them.
3. The mud represents the stickiness of the situation. Once it dries it’s easy to walk on it.

           There is hope.

Dave is ashamed and he’s more worried about what his friends think his father killing his teacher.

Typical of teenagers.

**Page 48:**

1.Pa puts the gun on the seat next to Prof.H and the purpose is:

a.To establish who is the strong one here

B.To threatens the teacher.

c establish territory.

2. The prof’s physical reaction is opening his eyes a sign of fear and surprise, his face gets red a sign of fear embarrassment.

Pa’s complaints

1.Dave is the only one out of 11 children . In his family  to go to school.

2.Pa expects a ‘’normal’’ education. and not ‘’waste time’’ on field trips.

3.the money he had to pay for the broken tree is hard for a poor family like his.

**The rise of tension**

1.Pa comes in with the gun

2.Prof asks why he brought the gun

3.Pa says the gun can kill a school teacher

4.’’I wouldn't need it’’ pa

5.I can kill you with my fist

**Line 23:**

Pa is like God in Dare's eyes.

He decided everything including who lives and dies.

That’s why he uses the word "mighty".

**Page 49- why is Pa so upset? :**

1)He doesn’t approve of the new way of studying with field trips because he's used to the old fashioned way (books ,etc).

2) The new way= the trip caused the tree to break.

3) The teacher made the students pay for the tree.

4)Dave didn’t have the money.

5)The teacher made him stay after school to pay for the tree.

6)Dave was late home.

7)Pa had to do his (Dave's) chores.

Pa is insulted by the discrimination against him because of his poverty.

**Page 48:**

1) professor's Herbert reaction is opening his eyes- a sign of fear and surprise, his face gets red a sign of fear and embarrassment.

2) Pa doesn’t need his gun because his maul could do professor's Herbert up in a few minutes.

**Page 49:**

1. Dave was afraid of Pa's reaction, he thought Pa was going to hit Professor Herbert every minute.

**Page 49 lines 11-13:**

Pa exaggerates his description of the school trip incident :

1)"Swarm"- a large group of dangerous insects.

2)"Pillage"-destroy and attack innocents during a war.

3) "Th' whole district – a large area including several cities\villages.

**Lines 14-21:** Professor Herbert explains the idea behind the school trip and the punishment.

**Lines 22-25**: Pa's way of education.

**Lines 30-34**: The tension drops when Pa puts his gun in his holster.

**Page 50:**

**Lines 1-7:**

The professor tells Pa about what they learn in biology.

**Line 9**: Pa tells the Professor to call him by his first name as a sign of friendliness.

**Line 11-12**: Pa tells the Professor he doesn’t believe in germs.

**Line 29**- Pa realized that school has changed because the world has changed.

When he was in school they only learned the basic skills-reading, writing and math.

**Lines 30-32**: Dave is the new generation. He know's things his Pa doesn’t.

**Page 51:**

**Lines 1-2**: Pa feels excited about learning new things.

**Lines 5-6**: Dave is worried that Pa will get arrested but we know the prop won't do it because he has changed Pa and poses no threat now.

**Page 53:**

**Lines 5-12**: Pa's physical description reflects his lifestyle- rurel , have working farmer.

**Page 54:**

**Line 19**: Pa realize he's been wrong to consider violence as a solution to this conflict.

**Lines 26-34**: we see Pa's view on animals:

1.A soft side of Pa- he feels sorry for the snake because he helps out on the farm – kills the mice.

2. Pa wont beat farm animals because they cant defend themselves.

Pa has two opposite sides:

He's kind to animals but cruel to his children.

**Line 31**: Pa has a double standard towards violence:

On the one hand he beats his children in order to educate them. On the other hand , he doesn’t beat up farm animals because they can't defend themselves and they are helpful.

**Page 55:**

**Lines 10-11**: The tree metaphor :

Pa is like a brown leaf on a treetop filled with green leaves. The green leaves represent the children – the next generation . the brown leaf represent Pa old and ald fashioned.

**Line 19-24** : Pa understand that school has changed from his day, he wants something better for his children. He and his family are just honest people and they pay their debts.

Prof. it is willing to let them go home but Pa insists that they do the punishment together.

**Lines 32-35**: Pa has always been busy working hard to provide for his family and he paid the price he is ignorant.

**Page 56**

Lines 4-5: Traditional work division: The mom is in charge of the house chores (cleaning, preparing meals). The father is in charge of the farm chores.

**Lines 5-8**: Pa says he can't sweep well but he still does it because he had been wrong about school. Now he knows that school is important.

**Lines 16-21**: pa gives Dave his list of values:

1. Be a family man.

2. Be honest.

3. Pay your debts.

4. Be just.

5. Know the right from wrong.

6. Be open to change if you see through it.

7. Be kind to animal (to helpful and helpless ones)

**Lines 15-21**: pa sums up the massage that of all these values:

A decent man comes out of them.

Dave will have softer hands better then cloth cleaner. A result of education, he won't need to work in manual labor.

**The end of the story:**

The story ends on a positive note. Pa and Dave walk home slowly together. Pa realizes he has learned an important lesson today and got closer to his son. He tells mom all about his day and lesson.

**The resolution:**

**12-14:** blue

Through respect and honestly Professor Herbert diffuse the situation and won Luster over.

**The Message:**

1. The list of values at the end. (p.56 lines 18-21)
2. Education-Pa realizes that he's ignorant and that's why he's had a hard life.  
   He knows that Dave will have softer hands and cleaner cloths because he's smart and educated and won't need to do hard manual labor.
3. The education of system-learning by doing/experiments is what started the story and at first Pa doesn't approve. After he experiences seeing germs first hand he realizes it's a better system
4. Spare the rod and spoil the child – this is the motto of Pa in the beginning. A firm hand, beating a child who has done wrong in order to educate him.  
   The Professor's motto is learn from your mistakes by making up for them.  
   There is proportion between crime and punishment it's an educational punishment.

**Stages of the story:**

1. Exposition
2. Complication
3. Climax
4. Solution/Resolution
5. Exposition- introduction of the characters, time, place – time: 1930's, place: a rural farm in Kentucky, U.S.A.
6. Complication – Dave breaks the tree and gets punished. Pa gets insulted and decides to go to school.
7. Climax – Pa arrives at school with the gun to confront Professor Herbert.
8. The resolution – Pa and the Professor opened up and respected each other because the Professor enabled Pa to enter his world and experience education.

**The title – The split - Cherry Tree**

1. The splitting of the tree was the trigger to all the events in the story
2. Metaphorically – the cherry tree represents Pa's old fashioned view which broke and instead he embraced the new world, the education and progress.
3. It could also symbolize Pa and Dave's relationship that experienced a break but then was healed.
4. At the end Pa respects Dave because he realizes his educational level – which is much higher than his.
5. The cherry – "Cherry on top" – Dave is the only one who way sent to school and therefore the only one who will have a future.

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**Find 5 father and son quotes. Copy them and write the connection to the story:**

1)I believe that what we become depends on what any fathers teach us at add moments, when they aren’t trying to teach us we are formed by little scraps of wisdom – we can see in the story that pa without notice teach Dave how man need to behave in honesty and pay depts.

2)I'm so proud of you that it makes me proud of me. I hope you know that. In the story told us that Dave is the only one of two children in the family who goes to school this means that this father is proud of him and think that he is the \*(I didn’t understand the handwriting).

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**P.62 :**

The teachers character-prof. Herbert

Prof. H represents the new type of education, the progress and learning by doing. The present generation replacing the old=father.

The differences:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prof.H | Father |
| -New generation  -Highly educated  -Elegant, formal, neat  -Calm  -Is a biology teacher who embraces change  -Uses knowledge, curiosity, charm, confidence, communication. Tries to calm him down | -Old generation  -Primitive and ignorant  -Simple, working, clothes dirty worn out  -Violent, hot tempered  -Doesn’t like change  -Uses a gun, fear to impose his view |

The similarities:

* They both educate but each in his own way.
* They both care about Dave.

The message – understanding and communication are achieved and modernism overcomes traditionalism.

Dave: Dave is a farmer's son. He bridges the gap between the two worlds represented by the old fashioned father stuck in his old ways and can't understand the change, and the Professor – the modern world.

Dave stars and ends his long day doing chores in the farm. Dave never lies to his father.

He is proud of his family but ashamed of his father when he uses the gun. He identifies with most of his values but doesn’t like how he feels compassion for animals but not for his own children.

At the end of the story he feels proud that he opened up to change.