

Developmental Outcome of Ansiedad in Girl in Progress

Student Name

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*Girl in Progress* is an American film that was directed by Patricia Riggen having been adopted from Hiram Martinez's Screenplay. The film tells the story of a single mother who goes by the name Grace and who is bringing up a thirteen year old girl by the name Ansiedad. In the film, Grace appears as a mother who is juggling between work, paying her bills and her relationships with different men. She is too busy with her own life and struggles that she does not have any time for her daughter. Ansiedad, on the other hand, comes out as a teenage girl who feels neglected by her own mother and desperately tries to win attention from her mother. Grace who got pregnant for Ansiedad when she was seventeen years old did not have a good upbringing herself as she was kicked out of their house by her mother when upon becoming pregnant (Fiedler & Odell, 2012, 0:15:23). The film is a twisted story that shows a complex relationship between a mother and a child who are both struggling to live their lives. One of the issues that can raise discussions is Ansiedad's morality as depicted in this film. The following paper critically analyzes her moral character looking into different ways in which development of her moral character would be explained.

At the beginning, Ansiedad appears as a naturally good and obedient girl who loves her mother and would wish to have a good life with her. She would be considered to have good moral character in the beginning. However, as days go by, she develops unacceptable moral behaviors. Looking into the life of Ansiedad and how she changed from a good girl to a bad girl who later on messes with her own life, one might wonder who exactly would be blamed between herself and her mother. However, this is not an easy question as both sides look equally culpable. Ansiedad is a teenager who for sure needs the love and attention of her mother. She feels that her

mother has neglected her and thus, has to take care of herself and sometimes even take care of her mother. When Ansiedad's teacher introduces the coming of age stories and Ansiedad decides to create her own story and make it happen, there is no one to tell her that whatever she is doing is not good and might destroy her life (Fiedler & Odell, 2012, 0:32:44). Her mother who should have played this role is nowhere to be found. Ansiedad comes out as a young teenager who has to teach herself what to do and this is not easy at all.

When Ansiedad decides to shorten her route to adulthood by creating her own coming of age story and making it happen, it is because she wanted to leave childhood, become an adult and start taking care of herself. She is ready to engage in all manners of bad moral behavior including alcoholism, use of drugs and engaging in sex recklessly (Fiedler & Odell, 2012, 0:43:32). Looking into it critically, someone would say that Ansiedad does not seem to be deliberately making all the wrong choices. She is driven by the desire to become an adult quickly and to show her mother and the world that she can also take care of herself. It is also clear that the teenage girl has not had a good role model of a mother. Her mother has been moving all over the country with her engaging in romantic endeavors with different men. One would also say that Ansiedad had her mother to emulate when she engaged in morally wrong activities. Her mother would therefore be blamed as her daughter seemed to be following her footsteps.

On the other hand, Grace may not be blamed for all the morally things that her daughter did. First, she herself did not have a good upbringing. Her mother kicked her out when she became pregnant at the age of seventeen and she had to go and start her own life (Fiedler & Odell, 2012, 0:25:23). Looking into this, one would say that Ansiedad's mother did not have anyone to teach her good morals and this contributed to her having a bad moral character. In

addition to this, if she herself was not taught by anyone on how to bring up a daughter, it is not expected that she knows how to do it. Another argument why Grace may not be entirely blamed for her daughter's bad morals is that she herself was neglected by her own mother when she was seventeen years old. She did not have someone close to her to tell her that mothers need to be close to their teenage daughters. It would therefore be argued that Grace was also following the footsteps of her mother when she neglected her daughter Ansiedad.

Looking into the story of Grace and her daughter Ansiedad, one gets a picture of a complex relationship between a daughter and a mother. The teenager daughter grows from one with a good moral character to one with a bad character and ends up messing her own life. In this twisted story, the mother may or may not be blamed for her daughter's bad moral outcomes and both sides of the argument seem to be equally weighty. The conclusion on whether the mother is entirely to blame for the outcome or not is entirely dependent on the viewer and how they interpret the story.

Reference

Fiedler, J. & Odell, B. (Producers), & Rigen, P. (Director). (2012). *Girl in progress*

[Motion picture]. United States: Lionsgate.