The people who you interact with in your life influences who you become. In the story “The Metaphor” by Budge Wilson, Charlotte a student enjoys the teachings of Miss Hancock her english teacher. One day, Miss Hancock tells the class about metaphors and this prompts her to write one about her mother, who is not very warm towards her family. Miss Hancock is faced with the fact that other individuals often overlook her. The way that one is perceived can both positively and negatively affect the way that others view them as an individual.

Charlotte admires the qualities of Ms. Hancock as well as looks up to her. Miss Hancock is a very kind and caring person. Furthermore, Ms Hancock cares about the wellbeing of her students including Charlotte. Which describes her as being a very forgiving and understanding individual. “I could tell that she was feeling concerned and kind, not nosy,” (Pg. 69) but unfortunately she is often overlooked because of the way that she dresses "Her head was covered with a profusion of small busy curls, which were brightly, aggressively, golden." (Pg.66) Charlotte notices and describes Ms Hancock's outer appearance which she is very fond of. However, Charlotte's mother is very snarky, cold and she hates flashiness. Charlotte’s mother also hates drama like the characteristics Miss Hancock has. These characteristics are shown throughout the story."…There are no comfortable Chairs in the lobby” this was said in one of Charlotte’s metaphors about her mother. This shows how cold her mother is because Charlotte trying to get a message across, that it is not pleasant to be around her mother.

Miss Hancock and Charlotte’s mother are completely different people. Miss Hancock is an unmarried woman who encourages Charlotte to be expressive. Charlotte’s mother is the complete opposite. She did not care much for Charlotte's enthusiasm for literature. She would not tolerate Charlotte expressing her imagination if it included making a mess. "A toy ceased to be a toy once it left the toy cupboard" (p 65). It seemed as if Charlotte’s mother cared more about herself than her daughter where as Ms Hancock pushed Charlotte to be the best she could possibly be. Ms Hancock also encouraged Charlotte to ignore the way her mother treats her. Eventually Charlotte learnt to cope with her mother’s attitude.
At home, Charlotte’s mother kept herself serene and structured. She also maintained a disciplined household. Charlotte’s home seemed very quiet, “My friends marvelled when they came to visit, which was not often… Such a peaceful house,’ my friends would say.” Charlotte and her father don’t even bother to argue with her mother due to her emotionless nature. Where as Ms Hancock provided a classroom that allows imagination and creativity to flourish. Through lively story-telling and discussions, the class, “Gathered force, filling up with a creative confidence that was heady stuff.” Miss Hancock was able to promote a happy and loving environment where Charlotte was about to forget about her hard life at home.

Ones life can be greatly affected by the way they are viewed by others. The more that one gets to know person, the more one begins to appreciate them as an individual. Throughout the story, Miss Hancock was continually judged, and her life was affected because of this. I believe that it is a good thing that Charlotte’s mother and Ms Hancock had completely different personalities. It allowed Charlotte to be influenced by them equally and learn that she is capable of anything she sets her mind to.