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Class

Date

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The Impact of April Raintree's Past Experiences

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*italics* One's experiences as a child impact the choices they make when they grow up. In the novel April

Raintree by Beatrice Culleton, it explains the life of two sisters who were taken into foster care when they were young. Both sisters, Cheryl and April, take on completely different lifestyles when it comes to their childhood. Their childhood then affects the decisions they choose to make when they become adults. Cheryl is able to except the way she grew up, but April is not. As a child April lives with a really good foster home, she then lives with a really mean foster home, and April's younger sister Cheryl dies.

April was positively affected when she was young by living in a good foster home. When April was young ~~her sister and her~~ <sup>she and her sister</sup> were taken from their parents because they were bad care givers. They would often have lots of people over and they would drink a lot. April and Cheryl did not live in a kid safe environment and were not getting the proper care. They were placed in separate foster homes. April's first foster home was with the Dions and they made April feel very safe. The Dions treated April like she was a part of their family and made her feel very welcomed. Being in a good first foster home positively impacted April and made her feel safe and cared for. In the book Mrs. Dion said, "for now just keep loving them and praying for them. And try to be happy with us. We love you very much April." (Culleton 26) This made April feel like someone cared for her and believed in her. April had a good experience at her home with the Dions. The Dions included April in what they did as a family and never made her feel left out. This left a very positive impact on April because she thought that she would be safe with them for a while. The Dion's made April feel very accepted. April says, "Ms. Dion hugged me to her and rocked me back and forth." (Culleton 25) That formed a really good relationship between April and the Dion's. April living with the Dions was a positive experience but living with the DesRosiers was the complete opposite.

April was placed in a new foster home with the racist and rude DesRosiers. April was placed with the DesRosiers after Ms. Dion got sick so they could not take care of April anymore. April was not

April lives with a really good foster home, she then lives in a mean racist foster home, and April's younger sister Cheryl dies. The time April spent with the Dions helped her feel safe and accepted. April spending time with the DesRosiers showed her how rude and prejudice people can be. Cheryl dying was the last big negative impact on April's life. With such a rough past and childhood, it may seem hard to succeed, but hopefully April can overcome these experiences and grow from them.

Works Cited

Culleton, Beatrice. *April Raintree*. Pemmican Publications, 1984.