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ENG20F

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Harbinger Relationship Influences

Relationships are a key part of ones success in everyday life, as opinions, actions, and experiences will help build and create personal memoirs. For Harbinger or Harry Jones the main character of the novel *The Scar Boys*, by Len Vlahos, the relationships with the biggest impact on him would be with his father and best friend Johnny.

Neither Johnny nor Harry's dad thought about how their actions would affect Harry. Because Johnny was conceited and formed the band he got to pull the strings and didn't take into consideration how everyone else felt. One executive decision Johnny made was to have himself and Cheyenne do an interview for the band because there was not enough room for the full band, Harry was not thrilled with this because Johnny and Cheyenne were growing to become very close and it made Harry uncomfortably worried that Johnny would break the promise they made when Cheyenne joined the band that they could not "ever date this girl, kiss this girl, or sleep with this girl." (Vlahos, 67). After Harry's accident Harry's mom focused a lot of her attention on Harry and making sure Harry had the attention he needed, but by focusing her attention to Harry, this became very hard for Harry's dad to hold in the emotions of not having his wife pay attention to their relationship. These emotions built up and the first time they had a chance to slip out they did and he told Harry, "This is all your fault, everything is your fault! Just get away you god damn freak!" (Vlahos, 109). This left a mark on Harry as he was already having self-esteem issues and this took away even more of his confidence.

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Harry's dad was never the male role model that Harry needed while Harry was young. Harry's dad was a busy man who worked as a legislative liaison, the position required Harry's dad to work far away from home "in Albany, three hours away" (Vlahos, 107). Harry's Dad was home "on weekends, at Christmas, during the summer vacation, and most other times the legislature was out of session" (Vlahos, 107) and when he was home it only made things worse because they wouldn't spend quality time together but he would hear his parents argue about how their "life had come to a standstill" (Vlahos, 105). This was hard for Harry to hear and he would often "just pretend like it never happened" (Vlahos, 112). Even though Harry's dad took away so much from Harry, Johnny was Harry's key to find what his dad took away. ✓

Johnny gave Harry back a lot of the self-confidence in many ways throughout the book. Johnny was capable of realizing that Harry was enervated and helped Harry break out of his "envelope, sealed with no way in or out" (Vlahos, 38) by inviting him to start a band. This band Harry would later find as "a sanctuary, a safe place to hide, a place where scars didn't matter, they didn't exist" (Vlahos, 74). Johnny also had had the courage to try and convince and sometimes force Harry into trying things he would not have otherwise. Even though Halloween night did not work out as planned, Johnny got Harry to go out for Halloween compared to his "annual October 31 sobfest" (Vlahos, 33). Concluding sentence?

Johnny and Harry's dad are both people who impacted Harry in bad ways, but Harry realized that Johnny is not a bad guy because he gave him the band that gives him confidence and he can use that confidence to go out into the world and not be scared because of his scars.

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Works Cited

Vlahos, Len. The Scar Boys. Egmont, 2014.



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