Home Child - Notes

**Setting**: August 1914, on a farm in Ontario; World War I is just starting in Europe; and the Wilson family are just getting their Home Child from Britain

**Conflicts:** refer to struggles between opposing forces

**Internal Conflict**: a conflict a person has within him/herself

**External Conflict**: a conflict outside of the person (person v. nature; person v. animal, person v. society)

**Interpersonal**: a conflict between two or more people

**Main Characters**:

Arthur: the Home Child

Sadie: main character

Laura: eldest sister

Amy: Younger sister

Lizzie: Baby sister

Mrs. Aggie Wilson (Momma): Sadie’s mom

Mrs. Wilson (Grandma) Mr. Wilson’s mother

Mr. Wilson: Sadie’s father

**Conflicts**:

Chapter 1

**Internal:**

Amy was supposed to get the eggs from the chicken coop, but she was scared of the hen. She cried because she knew Mama would be mad. Sadie offered to help and shooed the hen into the yard. Amy was still scared so Sadie gathered the eggs in her apron.

**External:**

One of the calves died being born. Papa was unable to save it, but he did save the mother.

**Interpersonal:**

Sadie and her mother. Sadie wanted to go to town with her father, but Mama wanted her to stay home and help with chores. Grandma stepped in and confirmed that Papa told Sadie she could go. Mama in frustration said, “GO!”

Sadie’s mom and dad disagreed about whether to get a home child or not. Papa wanted a boy’s help on the farm, but mama said she did not want one saying Canada was just taking Britain’s problems.

Chapter 2

**Internal:**

Dad had referred to Lizzie as “another girl” indicating in Sadie’s mind that he was unhappy that all his children were daughters instead of strong boys who could work his farm. Sadie felt that she was not much use to her father.

**External**:

Sadie gawked at the crowded nature of town and the telephone lines. She lived on a rural farm and was not used to modern conveniences of the City.

Soldiers going to World War I

**Interpersonal**

A stranger referred to Sadie as “a stout country girl” when she ran into him in the City, making her feel awkward.

Father referred to Arthur as “boy” and called him “pretty small for his age”. When Arthur said he was named after a king, Father laughed mockingly, “Well only pigs and cows and chickens on our farm. Fine surroundings for royalty.”

Chapter 3

**Interpersonal:**

Grandma stood up to Mr. Wilson when he told Arthur he would show him how to put the animals away for the night. She told Mr. Wilson to give Arthur a break b/c he just travelled so far. Mr. Wilson gave in and told Arthur he can start work tomorrow.

Chapter 4

**Internal:**

Sadie had internal conflict when she went snooping in Arthur’s room and found his satchel and brown bag. She wanted to look in his satchel to see if there was anything exciting there from England BUT she could get caught looking through his things and then she would be in trouble. Sadie’s curiosity got the better of her and she looked. She found a picture of Arthur and his mother. While she was looking at it, Grandma caught her and scolded her.

When Arthur threatened to eat Sadie, she initially was a bit scared because she was not sure whether Arthur was good or bad as others had assumed. But when Sadie saw how gently he handled the kitten, she realized the others were wrong and in fact Arthur was not a bad person.

**Interpersonal:**

Mama and Sadie had an interpersonal conflict when Sadie complained about always having to do chores. Mama told her to get over it because she will always have to do them when she gets married. Sadie responded that maybe she wouldn’t get married.

**External:**

Arthur experienced external conflict when he was trying to move the cows. Never having seen cows before, Arthur was afraid they would chase and bite him. This caused him to run away and Sadie’s seeing and hearing this, caused her to chase after Arthur. When he told his fear, Sadie explained that cows wouldn’t do this. She told him to lead one cow and the others would follow.

Chapter 5

**Internal:**

Sadie has an internal conflict when Grandma sent her up for the liniment so Sadie knew Mama and Grandma wanted to talk without her present. Listening at the stovepipe, Sadie realized the secret was about to come out. Part of her wanted to know, but part of her realized that if the secret is known it cannot be “unknown” Sometimes it is best not to know. Curiosity got the better of her so she did eavesdrop.

**Interpersonal:**

Grandma told Mr. Wilson that Arthur was exhausted from working on the farm. Mr. Wilson responded by saying “that he will toughen up soon enough” and “he worked harder when he was Arthur’s age”. However, Grandma felt bad for Arthur and exclaimed that “he takes better care of the horses than that boy”. This conflict was not resolved since Mr. Wilson did not cut back on Arthur’s workload or give him a break to rest.

Sadie had an interpersonal conflict with Mama. Sadie had left Lizzie unattended, didn’t hoe the garden and allowed the milk to curdle because she forgot to churn it. This made Mama mad and she slapped Sadie across the face and set her to work.

**External:**

Arthur was so physically exhausted and tired from working long hours on the farm that he was forcing his eyes open, and shuffling his feet across the floor just like Grandma. Arthur was not getting proper sleep, and rest and was working such long hours that he was worn down. Sadie felt really bad for Arthur.

None of these conflicts were resolved in this chapter.

Chapter 6

**Internal:**

Sadie told Laura there was a spider walking up her back. Laura didn’t believe her, but Sadie insisted and explained how it was black and hairy. Amy reassured her, and said there was not a spider on Laura’s back.

Also, Sadie glanced at the stovepipe hole in Grandma’s room and shuttered away, because she did not want to hear any more secrets. She still felt uncomfortable around her mother. This conflict was not resolved because Sadie was frightened her mother would find out that she knew about the secret.

**Interpersonal:**

Between Arthur and Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson asked Arthur whether he could read and write, to which he responded that he liked books and promised his mother he would get an education. However, Mr. Wilson was worried and feared Arthur would not keep up with his chores around the house. He said he “guessed he could spare him for school mid-October” which did not sound convincing.

Chapter 7

**Internal:**

When Arthur was reading aloud in class, Sadie was upset when Edith said, “doesn’t he talk funny”. She faced a decision to either agree with Edith so she fit in with her friend circle, or stand up for Arthur and be his only friend. She let out a small chuckle through pursed lips when Edith made this comment, to gain acceptance. However she felt bad for Arthur and was disappointed in herself for going against the friendship she had with Arthur.

**Interpersonal:**

There was a conflict between Sadie and Laura over who would walk with Amy. It was resolved when Arthur offered to walk with Amy; he exclaimed that he did not often get the hold the hand of a beautiful lady. Amy was flattered by Arthur’s comment and Sadie also liked the way Arthur spoke to her.

**External:**

When Arthur was reading before the class, the class burst into laughter at his accent and how he spoke. Arthur’s face turned beet red, although he continued to finish reading. It was clear he was embarrassed because the students were making fun and even Mr. Dawson told him to lose his accent and speak proper. It was the whole class against Arthur; he felt excluded from the class. This conflict was not resolved, as Mr. Dawson did not support or pick up for Arthur, and treated him differently as an outsider.

Sadie and Arthur were looking at the hoarfrost, and Sadie admired its beauty. However, Arthur said it is too bad it was so cold outside, wearing only a thin jacket. Arthur had to face the cold without adequate clothing.

Chapter 8

**Interpersonal:**

Mama accused Arthur of stealing. Arthur said he didn’t take the money. Mama said she didn’t think he should go to church so Papa told Arthur to stay home. The money was still missing though.

When Edith saw Sadie with the straw on her back she said slyly, “Does your Home boy stay in the barn?” Laura got made at her for implying that Sadie had something to do with the home boy. Edith responded that Sadie was so big and ugly that not even the home boy would want anything to do with her. Laura got really mad at this and defended Sadie saying if Edith told anyone she would say it was Edith who liked the home boy. Edith responded by gasping and storming off.

**Internal:**

Sadie has an internal conflict. When Arthur asked her if she thought he stole the money, Sadie was not sure. One part of her believed Arthur was innocent yet another part of her asked could he want to be free so badly he would steal for it. This conflict is not resolved at this point. We know this because Sadie asks the dog whether he thinks Arthur stole the money.

Chapter 9

**Internal:**

Sadie had an internal conflict when Grandma told her to put the sick stone on the stove for Arthur. Sadie was nervous Mama would get mad at her for this. But when Mama did not say anything Sadie followed Grandma’s instructions

Sadie had been having an internal conflict because she felt guilty for laughing at Arthur and ignoring him. But when Arthur smiled at her she realized that not only did he forgive her but that he never blamed her

**Interpersonal:**

There was an interpersonal conflict between Arthur and the Thompson boys’ gang. Arthur was huddled outside alone in the cold when the gang approached him, called him names, and finally started fighting with him. Mr. Dawson saw from the window but didn’t do anything. Mr. Wilson arrived and broke up the fight saying, “ need all you take on one boy?”

Mama and Grandma had an argument. When Mama noticed Sadie and Arthur smiling at each, other she told Arthur to go get wood for the fire. After Arthur left Grandma said “we didn’t need wood”. Mama said, “I’ll run my own household”. Grandma then accused her of forgetting her own past and being too uppity now. Mr. Wilson went to help Arthur. Sadie slipped away and Grandma and Mama continued on in silence.

**External:**

Arthur and his illness/the cold. Arthur was always cold and his nose was running and he looked miserable. Grandma said he’s sick and offered him the sick stone. Otherwise unresolved.

Chapter 10

**Interpersonal:**

There was an interpersonal conflict between Sadie and her mother. When Mr. Wilson’s watch went missing Mama insisted that they search Arthur’s room. When Sadie said Amy saw James Thompson in the parlour, Mrs. Wilson got mad and asked Sadie why she would take the side of a home boy rather than her own family. Sadie replied, “Just because he’s an orphan doesn’t mean he’s a thief. You’re an orphan and you don’t steal.” Mama didn’t say anything but looked distressed.

**Interpersonal:**

Sadie and Laura had an interpersonal conflict. Sadie was making fun of how Laura acted around James Thompson. She called him a pig. Laura got mad and said she did all the work because Sadie was irresponsible. Laura then broke into tears and ran upstairs.

The earlier internal conflict Sadie had as to whether Arthur is a thief was resolved when Sadie realized that he was innocent and mama was wrong about Arthur.

**External:**

Arthur struggled with the external conflict of the terrible cold. When the others finish up cutting the wood they left the remaining load for Arthur to stack on his own.

Chapter 11

**Internal:**

Arthur had an internal conflict. He hated being in Canada and when Mama threatened to search his room because she thought he was a thief, Arthur decided he wanted to return to England to find out how his mother was, but he knew he could go to jail, so he planned to join the Army to go home and find out about his mother. Grandma stopped him by suggesting he wait and she would write the home to find out about his mother.

Chapter 12

**Interpersonal:**

James Thompson vs the Wilson family. As the Wilson’s were returning from the concert, they caught James stealing their hens and realized he was the one who had had been stealing from them all along.

**Internal:**

Arthur was mad at everyone and wasn’t speaking to them since he found out his mother was dead. At first he refused to go to the concert, but later changed his mind and walked there to hear Sadie’s poem.

Sadie also has an internal conflict when she asked Grandma why Mama did not trust Arthur b/c he was an orphan when Mama was an orphan too. Grandma told her to talk to Mama about being an orphan, but Sadie felt unable to bring up the topic again.

Chapter 13

**External:**

Arthur looked hungry for people; he was lonely.

Sadie left the fat on the hot stove causing a fire; Arthur saved the house, Grandma and Lizzie.

**Internal:**

Sadie feels sad for Arthur since he has no one; His mama is dead and he has no family.

**Interpersonal:**

When Mama saw the fire she blamed Arthur saying, “it’s his fault.”

Chapter 14

**Internal:**

Sadie is relieved that she gets her stocking filled at Christmas as she thought she’d get nothing.

She thanks Mama for not sending her away.

Mama tells the family about her childhood.

**External:**

Freezing Canadian winters

**Interpersonal:**

Sadie sets an extra place and asks Mama whether Arthur can sit at the table with the family. Mama finally agrees. Conflict resolved.