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Temple Grandin

There are multiple characters who influence Temple in a way to help facilitate a life for her and help her to get along in the world around her. The two most important people in Temples developing are Eustacia (her mother) and Alice (her blind roommate). If there was some easy way of taking autism and teaching it as a class to help us understand different types of people like Temple we could see the world she sees through her eyes.

Temples second roommate Alice was a very important person in Temples world. Alice had a very outward disability (she was blind). As they grew as friends, starting the first time when Temple explained her machine and what she used it for; they found that each experienced the world in a very unique way. The common language they shared was that of a different look on life than that of most others. Alice used a walking stick which was an apparatus to help her operate in the world and function in it like everyone else, Temple had her machine which was her apparatus that was used to help her function in the world more like the majority. This bonded them not only in friendship but also in trials. Alice needed a hand to go see a movie Temple had invited her to come see, but Temple was deathly afraid to touch anyone even her own mother. Temple saw that Alice was asking for her to touch her to help her fit into this situation. Temple took that challenges not to help herself out but to help Alice (just the same as Temple's squeeze machine helps her calm down). Back the other way Temple was in dire need of some appreciation for her hard work to become note worthy by some factory workers in the field she was working in. She felt like no one besides Alice would understand the

magnitude of what she had done. Even though Alice is blind Temple brings her to the job site where Temple has been working. This brings some closure and a valid opinion to Temples mind. Helping her feel accomplished in her hard work for the past years.

Now Temple would be institutionalized if it were not for her mother Eustacia who never gave up on her and fought the system to get Temple the help she needed. Eustacia Went to a doctor when Temple was 3 years old and was very concerned why Temple had not started talking or was not developing right. The doctor gave his recommendation that Temple be institutionalized for her autism. That doctor was explaining to her that the cause for Temples autism was due to the mothers lack of love and care to her in the most crucial developing time of infancy. Eustacia was sure that this was not true despite what the doctor told her; she had raised her first child in the same way and had turned out fine. We now know that this would have not been the case for Temple developing autism. As stated in the CDC's article under Causes and Risk Factors its states, "We know that the once common belief that poor parenting practices cause ASDs (Autism spectrum disorders) is not true." The relationship between Temple and her mother grow not to the naked eye to a normal person who might see this relationship as cold and empty. But when A friend of Temple dies and can see that it has effected her mother as well Temple lets her mother hug her which is another big step for Temple trying to let others know "I don't like touch but you need it and I will allow it to help you out".

Between Alice and Eustacia Temple has her backup squad and has been integrated into society more so than many other autistic children of that time. Thanks to these two people in Temple's life she has found purpose and direction. This was a great voyage and only persistence and acceptance for who Temple really is got them through the walls of bigotry.