

Title: *Raymond's Run*

Text type: short story

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Raymond's Run is a short story about a young girl named Hazel Elizabeth Deborah Parker and her brother Raymond. She is six years old and takes running very seriously. She is prided on being the fastest runner and is very confident about every race she does. As worded in the story "Raymond is not quite right" meaning he suffers from some sort of disorder. Hazel is very quick off the bat to describe her family, her street and her life. One thing she goes into much detail about is her family and their jobs around the house. Her mum does the housework, her brother run errands and her father does every bit in between. She does admit in description of her families jobs that she does not do much other than look after Raymond.

- ① This story is built around **strong character development**, although this is a short story Hazel grows and develops a lot from beginning to end. In the beginning Hazel talks about girls that pick on her and her brother, "smart mouths", causing her to form a strong dislike to them.
- ② This is relatable in itself as I am very quick to form my own opinions about someone without properly getting to know them, which Hazel does in the beginning. You can see she has very strong opinions especially towards the maypole dance which is done at the fair along with the running race. Her mum really would like her to do the maypole dance and get dressed up, but Hazel has a very strong will against this. She refers to it as a rich girl activity and does not in any way want it to interfere with her running. I think this also relates strongly to me as my mum really wanted me to do ballet when I was younger but I always associated with "girly girls" and I wanted to steer clear of that image. Much like Hazel not wanting it to interfere with her running, when she says "I do not dance on my toes. I run. That is what I am all about". I did not want it take over my swimming as that was a very important to me.

This story is also more relatable to me on a more personal level as my sister has some struggles of her own and I have been put in situations where I have had to grow up and help out more towards her. When Hazel makes it to her running race she takes Raymond to the stands so he is out of her way to race. When the race is over she notices before anything

- ③ else that Raymond is running towards her. **In this moment she steps out of her own mind** and notices that Raymond actually also has a talent for running. She make links in her mind about how Raymond has always kept up with her, learnt her breathing exercises and is constantly training with her. She then doesn't care about what place she has come but she wants to train Raymond to take the same opportunities she has and run with them. She is jumping up and down up not because she has won but because she has new plans not for herself but for Raymond because "I've got a roomful of ribbons and medals and awards. But what has Raymond got to call his own?" **This makes connections with me as my younger sister has made many milestones, much the same as mine but I was too young and self absorbed to realize how much more of my support would have helped. But as I aged much**
- ④ **like her character development through the story, I take a step out of my own head. Making me help out more and more so she can reach the goals she wants to achieve.**

- ⑤ **I think the way this story is told through Hazel's eyes it makes for a closer connection to her**

- ⑥ **character. This story is written where it can be linked in to many more situations. This story**

grows with you as you read and makes you form your own opinions to your own aspect in life. Overall I really enjoyed this story as it took me out of my own head and made me think more positively. It was also very interesting to see the similarities Hazel and I both shared at the same age.