

Matthew Bellavia
Ankit Gubiligari
Archit Gubiligari
Darsh Desai
Vivek Natarajan

Paper 1

Thesis: Within the texts, *My girls and me*, and *Are you Trying to Rob Your Kids?*, the juxtaposition between the figurative and literal usage of the motif of money depicts two different ways of fathering a child, highlighting the consequences of certain parenting methods focused on money and not time or genuine care.

- I. **BT1:** “*My girls and me*” focuses more dominantly on the material aspect of the motif of money, while “*Are you Trying to Rob Your Kids?*” takes a figurative approach to representing a father’s emotional bond with his child.
 - A. **Evidence:** “As a doting father, Bernie Ecclestone supplied his elder daughter with the money to fund the recent purchase of her £45m London House” (Williams).
 - i. **Analysis:** The first article mentions extensively how the father, Bernie Ecclestone, spoiled his children with his status as a world billionaire, illustrating the difference between a physical versus emotional bond with your children.
 - ii. **Analysis:** Williams uses the motif of money with the phrase “£45m London House” to emphasize the arrogant nature of the man’s children as he feeds them material currency.
 - B. **Evidence:** “For example, I talk about how important it is to “invest” in your child’s life...” (Fatherhood Admin)
 - i. **Analysis:** In contrast, the second article advises fathers to invest in their children’s lives with their time and nurturing support, rather than providing them with a dependent relationship.
 - ii. **Analysis:** This author uses financial lingo as a tool of symbolism for the audience to understand to relate how they can’t withdraw from their bank account if they don’t deposit in the first place and same thing happens in a father daughter relationship. The audience for the first article is directed towards the higher class while the audience for the fatherhood admin article is directed more towards the middle/lower class families.
- II. **BT2:** In “*My girls and me*”, Williams portrays the hazardous effects that material items can have on a son or daughter’s mindset while “*Are you Trying to Rob*

Your Kids” argues that a parent must invest in a child in order to help them prosper in the future.

- A. Evidence:** “This is a girl with 200 Hermes handbags and turntable set into her front drive, to save her the trouble of doing a three-point turn in her Ferrari” (Williams).
 - i. Analysis:** The fact that Tamara has 200 different Hermes handbags, which are a designer brand boasting unimaginable prices, and a turntable set in her front drive does not allow Tamara to experience life without these commodities.
 - ii. Analysis:** As a result, Tamara becomes accustomed to an easy life which restricts her from learning new things through struggling through obstacles.
 - B. Evidence:** “...I talk about...how critical it is for dads to make regular, substantial, and consistent “deposits” in their children’s relationship “bank accounts” (Fatherhood Admin).
 - i. Analysis:** Using an analogy to relate a child’s relationship with a parent into bank references, Fatherhood Admin is allowed to speak to the readers a level that is beyond literal.
 - ii. Analysis:** This new level allows people to think about the issue of child relationships with a parent in a greater respect because it appeals to a whole other audience.
- III. BT3:** While taking on a metaphorical representation of money, “*Are you Trying to Rob Your Kids?*” critiques parents for not spending enough time with their kids, while “*My Girls and Me?*” demonstrates how giving money does not ensure a good relationship with kids.
- A. Evidence:** “How can you expect to withdraw funds that you didn’t deposit?” (Fatherhood Admin).
 - i. Analysis:** The funds and deposits are time and dedication spent with your kids.
 - ii. Analysis:** The Father in this story did not care about his children when they were younger, and now has a poor relationship with his daughter in return.
 - iii.** The author is using the analogy of a bank to warn all parents to spend time with their children.
 - B. Evidence:** “The idea was that they’d buy super-quality property, property that would be long-term, for their kids and everything else. Didn’t happen. They haven’t done that. So they’ve had access to money which they’ve spent” (Williams).

- i. **Analysis:** Ecclestone is frustrated with his family who is not spending his money the way he intended them too.
 - ii. **Analysis:** Just because he's given them more money than ever necessary to live with, they still have a strained relationship among themselves, showing that money is not the most important part of a parent-child relationship.
- IV. **BT4:** In addition to highlighting different critiques of parenting, both articles also share subtle sexist attitudes towards the daughters, although this is much more pronounced in *My girls and Me*.
 - A. **Evidence:** "But, you know, she'll be in the kitchen like everyone else ... I suppose it's because ... how many other girls her age would do the same if they could."
 - i. **Analysis:** Bernie Ecclestone nonchalantly drops a generalization of women, asserting that a woman's place is that of a housewife, and not following her work.
 - ii. **Analysis:** He says "everyone else", when really he means "all other women". By refraining from explicitly stating his discriminatory attitude, he tries to reduce the impact of his statement on the reader, and make it seem joke-like and lighthearted.
 - B. **Evidence:** "Well that just doesn't seem fair! I clearly have an account. And, well, I need to make a withdrawal. Can't you make an exception? After all, I am dad" ("Are You Trying to Rob Your Kid").
 - i. **Analysis:** The author alludes to the absurdity of father's to get upset when they expect from their daughter when they have not given in the first place, or "invest" as the article states
 - ii. **Analysis:** Author brings up example of wife continuously depositing into daughter's bank account and then father just expecting to ride on that deposit to attack the current stereotype that it's only the mother's job to build that relationship with kids and not a job of the father