AN ANALYSIS OF IMPOLITENESS STRATEGIES IN BOYHOOD MOVIE TRANSCRIPT

A THESIS

Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Strata One (S1) Degree in English Letters Department

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ABSTRACT


This research is on pragmatics impoliteness of Boyhood movie. It is a qualitative research. The theory used in this research is Jonathan Culpeper’s impoliteness strategy, and additional theories, such as Brown and Levinson, Derek Bousfield, and Leech. The writer analyzes the impoliteness strategies used by selected characters - Mason Jr., Mason Sr., Samantha, and Olivia. Furthermore, the writer analyzes the relation between the chosen impoliteness strategy and power differences of the characters. The chosen strategies of the characters are different from the prescribed strategies in some cases. Mason Jr. and Samantha, the children, as powerless participants, used more positive impoliteness strategy. It is different with the notions given in pragmatics as they are expected to use politeness strategy. On the other hand, Olivia and Mason Sr., the parent, as the powerful participants, used the impoliteness less than the children even they performed some politeness utterances. This did not fit with the notion beforehand. It was found that both of the participants used impoliteness strategies in their utterances, although some of the notions and applied strategies were suitable to the theories. The children and the parent use more the function of impoliteness strategy to reach their aim. Therefore, the power differences did not influence their communication much. It influenced little in the movie. In conclusion, impoliteness strategy is a dynamic issue in interaction. It is dependent on the participant’s aim. Power differences is not the only factor influenced the verbal communication even though the participants’ power level differences are very noticeable.

Keywords: Impoliteness, Strategies, Power Difference.
APPROVEMENT

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The thesis entitled above has been defended before the Letters and Humanities Faculty’s Examination Committee on December 9th, 2016. It has already been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, December 9th, 2016

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the next.

Jakarta, December 9th, 2016
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Jakarta, December 9th, 2016

Dhorifah
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

People make interaction with each other in daily life to supply their needs. It relates to human position as a social creature. Language is an important element as the communication mediator system that used by everyone to make an interaction. In *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English* mentioned that language is “human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, feelings and desires by means of a system of sounds and sound symbols” (Hornby, Cowie and Gimson 472). Language is an arbitrary vocal symbol system used by members of language society to communicate and to interact with each other based on their culture (Dardjowidjojo 16). Thus, language is the important component in a communication system that is used by human.

The speakers meet the listeners to have any conversation in daily life. In the conversation, language phenomena possibly occur between one and others, such as implicature, overlap, backchannel, and impoliteness in speaking.

In scientific context, this impoliteness concept is in pragmatics and sociolinguistics scope. Pragmatics focuses on situation context known as speech situation context, while sociolinguistics focuses on social context known as cultural-social context. Rahardi quoted Locher that impoliteness study in language was developed by Culpeper in his writing, “Towards an Anatomy of
Impoliteness” which is published in Journal of Pragmatics, Lancaster University. Then, the research was continued by Bousfield, Terkourafi, and Locher and Watts. In his statement, Locher claimed that impoliteness in language is an attitude of someone who does a face-aggravate, either intentional or unintentional while Bousfield asserted that impoliteness means an attitude of someone who does face-threaten intentionally (58-60).

Rahardi also mentioned Culpeper’s point that impoliteness is “communicative behaviour intending to cause the face-loss of a target or perceived by the target to be so.” One of the categories of impoliteness happens when an intentional action makes someone ashamed (63). Culpeper also declared that impoliteness is “the use of strategies that are designed to have the opposite effect of social disruption”. It means that impoliteness is using a designed strategy to give an opposite effect called social mess (Impoliteness 350).

Impoliteness strategy is not mentioned yet in main pragmatics scope until now because the scope is just limited in seven studies; 1) speech acts, 2) cooperative principle, 3) implicature, 4) presupposition, 5) entailment, 6) deixis, 7) politeness phenomena (Rahardi 58). The research of the impoliteness strategy is still looked by one eye in pragmatics. Derek Bousfield in his book Impoliteness in Interaction remarked Locher and his early work that while politeness research interest was rising, their understanding about impoliteness also was increasing. He brought several linguists up who claimed that there was should be an equal research of politeness model as an example of interpersonal communication as structured as cooperative communication (Impoliteness 2).
The book written by Bousfield and Locher by the title *Impoliteness in Language*, was quite different from politeness study that developed by linguists beforehand (Rahardi 59). One of the works that generally become a main reference in politeness strategy is Brown-Levinson study in magnum opus by the title *Politeness: Some Universals in Language Usage* (Brown and C. Levinson 1).

Impoliteness strategy, which has five strategies, is introduced by Jonathan Culpeper. They are; 1) bald on record impoliteness, 2) positive impoliteness, 3) negative impoliteness, 4) sarcasm/ mock politeness, 5) withhold politeness (Towards 1557-8).

The phenomena of impoliteness strategy in language can happen not only in reality but also in works of art, for instance *Boyhood* movie. The movie, written and directed by Richard Linklater, was released in USA, 2014 (Hornaday). The shooting of the film spend for about twelve years, from 2002 to 2014, with the same artists (Hornaday). There were many characters in the movie, but this research will be limited in analyzing four characters only. It is because the selected characters appear most frequently in scenes of the movie. They are Mason Jr., Samantha, Olivia, and Mason Sr. Ellar Coltrane as Mason Jr. is the main character. He is a child six years old in the beginning of the movie. His mom, Olivia, is portrayed by Patricia Arquette, and his father, Mason Sr., is portrayed by Ethan Hawke. Samantha, his older sister, is portrayed by Lorelei Linklater (Dargis). As a child that lived with his mother and his sister, he demanded to use a proper language in speaking. Olivia, Samantha and another adult people around him would be more understand how to use language for
communicating with each other and they also had more power in choosing language to use than Mason had.

It is believed that using the theory that asserted by Culpeper can help to analyze the result of the interaction in this research. The theory asserted that speakers who have more dominant power tend to be impolite when they talk to their listeners who have lower social power (Wijayanto 117). It means that the inferior person will do the opposite one; using language politely to some persons that have strong social power when they have conversation. According to the theory, Mason Jr. will prefer to choose using polite language in conversation while Samantha, Mason Sr., and Olivia can use the impoliteness language when they communicate with Mason Jr.. In addition, Mason Jr. will also choose proper language to interact with his family to get his purpose in communication. However, will the dialogues in Boyhood have the same way as the theory that coined by Culpeper?

Mason Jr. had many answers for Olivia question properly and used appropriate language in this film when they have conversation. For instance:

Mason Jr. : Yeah.

or when she asked

Mason Jr. : Well, I think it must be if you flick a rock in the air just right, it will run into a wasp.
All of the dialogues above are in accordance with the Culpeper theory, but the dialogues in Boyhood did not finish yet.

In the movie, Olivia frequently spoke indirect speeches when she spoke to Mason Jr. for reaching her aim in communication. According to Yule, indirect speech is more polite than is direct speech (Pragmatics 56). It was looked when she wanted to admonish her son, Mason Jr., for doing his homework by saying:

[3] Mom: Hey, I had a good meeting with Miss Butler this time. I kinda liked her.

Mason Jr.: What did she say?

She told that she had met Miss Butler, Mason Jr.’s teacher, in a good meeting before actually she warned her son directly to do his homework.

It also happened when she had talked to Samantha and Mason Jr. that she had a plan to continue her study. She used indirect speech in conversation.

[4] Mom: I wanna talk to you about something, and you might not like this idea at first but… we’re moving to Houston”,

Mason Jr.: When?

It showed the audiences that Olivia used the polite strategy in language to tell her children. When she apologized to Mason because his hair cut off by his
stepfather without asking any permission at the first, she also spoke politely although her husband did the action.


Mom : I'm so sorry. I've been so busy with school....

It happened even Olivia had stronger power than Mason Jr. had. In the other hand, Mason Jr. in many settings precisely used impolite language, and he even mocked his listeners in the speech. It is described when he mocked Samantha.

[6] Dad : Eight or ten a game? That is awesome!

Samantha : Yeah!

Mason Jr. : Once she didn’t score any and she cried!

Furthermore, he ever called his stepfather, Bill, using taboo word when he had conversation with Olivia.

[7] Mason Jr. : Why’d you even marry him? He is such a jerk.

Mom : Well, Bill has his good qualities. You know, nobody's perfect. And now we have a family.

According to the reasons above, this movie is interesting to analyze because the children, who have lower power must choose a proper language in interaction with the adult persons as the representatives of the characters who have the stronger power, are not using proper language. What is stated by
Culpeper, the founder of anatomy of impoliteness strategy, are not all there in the movie transcript.

1.2 Research Focus

The research focuses on Jonathan Culpeper’s theory to analyse impoliteness strategies from four selected characters dialogue in Boyhood movie transcript. Culpeper’s theory is used to explain the strategies, the functions of impoliteness, and the relation between impoliteness and power differences.

1.3 Research Questions

According to the background, there are several questions that related to the research as:

1. What are the impoliteness strategies that used by the selected characters in Boyhood movie?

2. What are the functions of impoliteness strategies that chosen by the selected characters to speak in the movie dialogue?

3. How does power difference influence the selected characters in choosing impoliteness strategy in the film?

1.4 Research Significances

It is hoped that the research will be beneficial as theoretical development
for the students who concern in linguistic research especially in studying pragmatics that has impoliteness strategy scope to be developed more in the future. Furthermore, it will be beneficial for the societies in deciding for using impoliteness strategy when they interact between each other with various power differences.

1.5 Research Methodology

1.5.1 Research Objectives

According to the research questions, the objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the impoliteness strategies that used by the selected characters in Boyhood movie.

2. To discuss the function of impoliteness strategies that chosen by the selected characters to speak in the film dialogue.

3. To understand the way of power difference influences the selected characters in choosing impoliteness strategy in that film.

1.5.2 Research Method

This research used qualitative method. This method is research method that is not designed using statistical procedures. It tries to explore the meaning of phenomena and its relations with society in a real life context (Subroto 5-6).
The method is used in many social science and human science researches, and it is also used to understand phenomena, facts, realities, and another things that happen to human (Semiawan xiii-xviii). It has function as the analysis basic and problem solving for the data that are analyzed, such as content analysis, discourse analysis, and naturalistic research (Farkhan 2).

According to Subroto, the focus of this method is “understanding human behavior of research subjects and tends to collect data through continuous contact with people in settings where the people live” (6).

1.5.3 Technique of Data Collecting and Data Analysis

The research used bibliographical study (teknik pustaka). It means using written sources to get the data for research. In linguistic for instance, the data are taken from written sources that are limited to the importance of the intent and the purpose of the research (Subroto 42-3). According to Lincoln and Guba, this technique is also called document study (Lincoln and Guba 277).

For analyzing the data, this research used non-statistical analysis (Wasito 88). This method is used for qualitative research while quantitative is used statistical analysis. Moreover, the collected data is analyzed using impoliteness theory by Jonathan Culpeper.

The process of analysis is in some steps, i.e.: (a) identifying and analyzing the utterances of the characters based on Jonathan Culpeper’s theory (b) applying Culpeper’s theory for analyzing the data of this research (c) describing the chosen
impoliteness strategy, the function of impoliteness and the relation between impoliteness strategy and power difference.

1.5.4 Research Instrument

The research instrument of this research is data cards which are made to collect the data for analysing. This card is also used to collect the sources by taking some notes such as from books, newspaper, and websites to support this research. This card have a certain size depended on researcher need (Subroto 42-3).

1.5.5 Analysis Unit

The unit of analysis in this research is dialogues in Boyhood movie transcript. The dialogues come from four selected characters – Mason Jr., Mason Sr., Samantha, and Olivia.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Previous Research

Several articles from scientific journal have similar topic with this research. They are used as references on how to conduct research about impoliteness. Moreover, it also gives brainstorming to evolve this research.

Michael Haugh and Derek Bousfield’s work in *Journal of Pragmatics* (2012) entitled “Mock Impoliteness, Jocular Mockery, and Jocular Abuse in Australian and British English” stated that “interactional practices which occasion evaluations of mock impoliteness always remains open to evaluation as impolite by some participants, particularly the target or those participants who strongly identify with the target.” They claimed that jocular mockery and jocular abuse are part of mock impoliteness where the target can get face-damage by another participant.

Compared to this research, the article journal above only focuses on mock impoliteness while this research focuses on all of the impoliteness strategy - bald-on-record, positive, negative, withhold politeness, and mock politeness-. In the article also, Michael Haugh and Derek Bousfield also prefer to analyze English in Australian and Britain, but this research chooses to analyze English American that used by the characters in *Boyhood* movie. Furthermore, they make a comparison between two different topics –mockery and abuse in Britain-. On the other hand,
this research is more interested in describing the relation between impoliteness strategy and power differences.

Another journal article came from Jonathan Culpeper (2005) entitled “Impoliteness and Entertainment in the Television Quiz Show: The Weakest Link”. He stated that ‘impoliteness might be entertaining’. He talked about “the nature of exploitative chat and game show, and discussed the structure of the Weakest Link”. Furthermore, he proposed a new strategy of off-record impoliteness, definition of mimicry, and face categories adopted from Spencer-Oatey.

Compared to this research, this journal focuses on the relation between impoliteness and entertainment while this thesis chooses to examine the relation between impoliteness and power differences. When the journal gets the data from quiz show, the research get them from movie.

The next research came from Holger Limberg (2009). His article entitled “Impoliteness and Threat Responses”. In Limberg’s paper, he viewed impoliteness as an intentional form of face-aggravation. For the research field, he focused on aggravating form of social behavior and used “Discourse Completion Test” as the data. He observed responses to threats were elicited and subsequently categorized that to find out how addressees notice face-threatening act and whether their responses uttered any tendency about the outcome of a particular conflict situation. He used Brown and Levinson’s theory as a main reference.

Compared to this research, the article focuses on face-threatening act while this research chooses to explore the relation between impoliteness and power
differences. When Limberg used Brown Levinson’s theory, this research prefers to use Jonathan Culpeper’s theory as a main theory.

The last research as reference for this research came from Wibowo G.P. and Kuntjara, K. (2012). They wrote an article entitled “Impoliteness Strategies Used on Online Comments in An Indonesian Football Website”. They focused on using impoliteness strategies in Okezone website’s online football comments. They used Jonathan Culpeper’s theory to examine the strategies. For the research method, they used qualitative method supported by quantitative data. In the result, Wibowo and Kuntjara found out that there were four impoliteness strategies used by Indonesian participants where withhold politeness strategy was excluded.

Compared to this research, the article above only focuses on impoliteness strategies while this research chooses to examine the relation between impoliteness and power differences. When Wibowo and Kuntjara gets the data from online football comments, this research get them from movie transcript.

Overall, the differences among the researches above are not only the focus of the research, but also the source of the data. For example, the first research gets the data from the society in Australia and Britain, but the second gets the data from a quiz show, and this research gets them from movie transcript. The last difference is the goals of every writer want to reach. For instance, the second journal does the research to purpose a new strategy of impoliteness and to know the relation between impoliteness and entertainment while the aim of this research is to understand the influence of power differences to impoliteness strategy.
2.2 Discourse Analysis

2.2.1 Definition

Discourse is the term that language is arranged according to different patterns that speakers’ utterances follow when they take part in different area of social life. Furthermore, discourse analysis is the analysis that used in these patterns. The approach of this discourse analysis is a series of interdisciplinary approaches that are able to explore many different social areas -including organisations and institutions- in many different types of researches. It is also beneficial “in exploration of the role of language use in broad societal and cultural developments such as globalisation and the spread of mass mediated communication” (Jorgensen and Phillips 1-3).

2.2.2 Discourse Analysis and Pragmatics

Pragmatics and discourse analysis are the approaches for studying relation between language and contextual background features. In Joan Cutting book “Pragmatics and Discourse”, he gave an example of discourse and pragmatics. Queen Victoria’s famous words “We are not amused” when her husband Albert passed away means that the queen intended to stop her courtiers in trying to make her laugh. Her statement gave a signal for them that they had to respect her as a queen (1-2).
Both of pragmatics and discourse have much common in study about context, text, and function. As cited by Cutting, Stilwell Peccei and Yule stated that in context they both study: 1) the meaning of words in context 2) analyzing the parts of meaning that can be explained by knowledge of the physical and social world 3) the socio-psychological factors influencing communication (2).

Furthermore, according to Cook quoted by Cutting, pragmatics and discourse in text concentrate on how stretches of language become meaningful and integrated the speakers. In discourse analysis, it is called coherence while in pragmatics it is called relevance (2).

Both of discourse analysis and pragmatics focus on function that the speakers has two purposes – short-term and long-term– when they interact verbally. For example in speech act theory, it describes what speaker intends to do, including apologise, threaten, and promise. In the function study, critical discourse analysis is also introduced. It is an strategy that observes the aim of language in social context and reveals how discourse reflects and specifies power structures (Cutting 2).

2.3. Context

2.3.1 Definition

In book “An Introduction to Language”, context is the discourse preceding an utterance together with the real-world knowledge of speakers and listeners” (Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams 578). According to Yule, context may be identified as having a powerful impact on how referring expressions in words are
to be interpreted (Pragmatics 21). Yule also stated that the interpretation of the meaning of the sign is not only focuses on the words, but also on what we think about the intention of the speaker that he/ she wants to deliver in the message (The Study 129). Wharton, quoted by Finkbeiner et al., claimed that context is everything in pragmatics. It is because the study deals with context-dependent facets of meaning (Meibauer 9).

2.3.2 Types of Context

There are two kinds of context that are relevant with pragmatics- linguistic context and situational context (Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams 207-8).

The first is linguistic context. This context preludes the phrase or sentence to be interpreted. For instance when someone says “Something male and animate has arrived at a state of adoration of something female and animate, and the speaker finds it astonishing”. Without context, this sentence may not be understood because there are no referents for he (something male and animate) and her (something female and animate). It will be unclear and it will be different if the sentence preludes it “were John met Mary yesterday”. Then, it can be understood as

“ John met Mary yesterday

Amazingly, he already loves her.”
According to Yule, this context type is also known as **co-text**. The co-text of a word is “the set of other words used in the same phrase or sentence”. It has an effect on what someone interprets the word probably means from others. For example when people identify word “bank”, they usually know that meaning is expected in a particular sentence. If they find someone talk “she has to get to the bank to withdraw some cash”, it means that the bank is a place/ an office for saving money. It will be different when in particular sentence they find word “steep “ or “overgrown”. The bank can be interpreted as riverside. All of these is the basis of linguistic context (The Study 129-130).

The second kind is **situational context** which means knowledge of the world. This context includes “the speaker, listener, and any third parties present along with their beliefs and their beliefs about what others believe”. This context includes: 1) physical environment 2) the subject of conversation 3) the time of day, and so on. The way language interpreted can be influenced by almost any imaginable extralinguistic factor under appropriate circumstances (Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams 208).

### 2.4 The Impoliteness Theories

Some people still think that impoliteness is a parasite of politeness. Furthermore, in several years ago, linguists did not focus yet on impoliteness study, although their works wrote it implicitly. It can be seen in Lakoff and Penman work when they analysed American courtroom discourse. According to
Culpeper, in that time they “extended their models of politeness to include features of confrontational discourse”. Another case also happened to Lui work. When he investigated politeness in a Chinese novel, he also discussed impoliteness. He thought it as an extension of politeness theory by Brown and Levinson (Towards 350-55).

Study of impoliteness strategy was coined first by Jonathan Culpeper, Derek Bousfield, and Miriam A. Locher (Pramujiono 183). According to Craig, quoted by Culpeper, “politeness theory needs to consider confrontational strategies, if it is to preserve analytical coherence. Furthermore, it is clear that in some circumstances impoliteness plays a key role, not a marginal one” (Towards 366). Thus, it can be concluded that many linguists start to think to develop impoliteness study as a scope in pragmatics.

As quoted by Jonathan Culpeper, Locher and Bousfield state that there is no specific definition of impoliteness that agreed by linguists in a recent volume of researches on impoliteness (Impoliteness 19).

There are several definitions from linguists (Rahardi 63). Here is the definition of impoliteness from several linguists:

1. Locher and Bousfield claim that “impoliteness is behaviour that is face-aggravating in a particular context”.

2. Terkourafi reveals “impoliteness occurs when the expression used is not conventionalised relative to the context of occurrence; it threatens the addressee’s face ... but no face-threatening intention is attributed to the speaker by the hearer”.
3. Culpeper mentions that impoliteness is “communicative behaviour intending to cause the face-loss of a target or perceived by the target to be so.” He also declared that impoliteness is ‘the use of strategies that are designed to have the opposite effect of social disruption’.

Thus, impoliteness is participant’s strategy in interaction that aims to damage addressee’s face and this has an effect of social disruption. From the definition above, the most complete definition comes to Culpeper because he not only mentioned about impoliteness itself, but also the effect for the society in his definition. Pramujiono argues that in 1996 Culpeper wrote impoliteness is using a strategy designed for attacking someone’s face, then, social conflict and disharmony will happen (183).

Culpeper in his book Impoliteness: Using Language to Cause Offence (2011) claimed that impoliteness is ‘a new field of study, and any new field is prone to insecurity’. This study is the part of assault, harassment, ill-treat, and abuse which all cause pain for people even commit to suicide. According to him, impoliteness ‘can be approached from within social psychology (especially verbal aggression), sociology (especially verbal abuse), conflict studies (especially the resolution of verbal conflict), media studies (especially exploitative TV and entertainment), business studies (especially interactions in the workplace), history (especially social history), literary studies, to name but a few’ (xii-3).

Culpeper gives an example from his report data written by a British undergraduate about using impoliteness (Impoliteness 1). It is showed below:
I was in a taxi with 5 other girls, on our way into town. The taxi driver seemed nice at first, commenting on how pretty we looked etc. Then he turned quite nasty, making vulgar sexual innuendos, swearing a lot and laughing at us. He then insulted some of us, commenting on the clothes we were wearing and when we didn’t laugh, he looked quite angry. He then asked where we were from, we told him, and then he started criticising and insulting us and our home towns. We mostly stayed quiet, giving non-committal, single word answers until we could leave.

The person above showed how impolite the drive is. It can be can see it when she writes ‘then he turned quite nasty, making vulgar sexual innuendos,…’”. He then insulted some of us, commenting on the clothes we were wearing ….’’. It is the example of abuse, one of impoliteness acts.

Impoliteness generally can blemish people’s identities in our society. Thus, it has bad consequence of being ‘very offensive’. Culpeper states in his writing that British undergraduate says that she and her friends feel ‘angry, disgusted, and upset’, all of these are particular emotions actuated by word regarded as impolite (Impoliteness 1).

Culpeper cited Terkourafi idea about impoliteness timing (Impoliteness 19). It can happen when:

1. The speaker intentionally does face-attacking when having communication.
2. The listener does the act as an intended face-attacking.
3. A mixture of (1) and (2).
Archer, Bousfield, Culpeper, Limberg quoted by Wijayanto claimed that in general, impoliteness can be divided to the purpose of the use and the context behind. According to the purpose of the use, impoliteness defined as an act in using language to damage relations among persons or to attack listener’s face intentionally. Culpeper as quoted by Wijayanto stated that impoliteness is "the use of strategies that are designed to have the opposite effect-that of social disruption" (116).

Cited by Wijayanto, Culpeper claimed that there are several factors of why people use impoliteness strategy in conversation (117). The following factors are:

1. The closeness in social relation between the speaker and the hearer.

2. Imbalance in social power among the persons. The speakers who have more dominance power tend to act impolite to their listeners who have less power in society.

3. The speaker’s intentions do not want to save listener’s faces. That is possibly because of conflict importance.

Culpeper states that this conditions happen because there is a confrontation and conflict importance among interactants in a communication. Because someone wants to defend the values which they believe in, he or she press and attack other faces. This case cannot be separated from the role of power owned by people in society. Based on Culpeper cited by Pramujiono, there are four things defining the signs of impoliteness (183). They are:
1. Co-text. It means an utterance that implies an impoliteness strategy like abuse, using rude and bad language, etc,

2. Retrospection to comments.

3. Reaction for particular nonverbal that indicates offensiveness,

4. Using impoliteness strategy conventionally in typical contexts.

2.4.1 Notion of Impoliteness

Beebe, quoted by Culpeper stated that impoliteness is a function that “the speaker intended, and was not [simply] failed politeness” (Revisited 1546). Culpeper claimed that “defining impoliteness is a real challenge”. The reason is although some verbal behaviors are particularly impoliteness, they are not usually be impolite speech because it depends on the situation. Impoliteness consists of two parts; (1) a mental act held by a person and comprised of non-positive evaluative beliefs about specific behaviour in a social contexts, and (2) the activation of that act by those particular in-context behaviors (Impoliteness 22).

The notion of an attitude is well arranged in social psychology, specifically in language attitude research. Bradac, quoted by Culpeper stated that it consists of “a favorable or unfavorable reaction to stimuli and has cognitive, affective and behavioral element” (Impoliteness 22). Then, he mentions his own definition of impoliteness:

“Impoliteness is a negative attitude towards specific behaviours occurring in specific contexts. It is sustained by expectations, desires and /or beliefs about”

organisation, including, in particular, how one person’s or a group’s identities are mediated by others in interaction. Situated behaviours are viewed negatively – considered ‘impolite’ – when they conflict with how one expects them to be, how one wants them to be and/or how one thinks they ought to be. Various factors can exacerbate how offensive an impolite behaviour is taken to be, including for example whether one understands a behaviour to be strongly intentional or not.”

Culpeper gives some words that have close meaning to the impoliteness term picked from [http://thesaurus.reference.com/](http://thesaurus.reference.com/) such as bad manners, boldness, boorishness, brusqueness, coarseness, contempt, contumely, discourtesy, discourteousness, dishonour, disrespect, etc. All the words are established by English-speaking cultures (Impoliteness 23-4).

### 2.4.2 Face and Offence

#### 2.4.2.1 Face

An instrument of face consists of ideas such as reputation, prestige and self-respect. In English, the term is probably most generally used in ‘losing face’ idiom that means one’s public image sustains some damage frequently resulting in emotional response like embarrassment. Much modern writing on face comes upon the work of Goffman in despite of the idea of face seems to hail from China. Next, Culpeper quoted Goffman about face definition. Face as the positive social value of an individual effectively declares for herself or himself by the line others
think he or she has taken during a specific contact. It is “an image of self delineated in terms of approved social attributes” (Impoliteness 24).

Brown and Levinson stated that the idea of face is taken from that of Goffman and from the English folk term. It features two related components, which they think are universal that every member wants to claim for himself or herself. As quoted by Brown and Levinson, there are two types of face according to Goffman (Politeness 61).

2.4.2.1.1 Positive Face

It becomes close in some respects to Goffman statement of face. It has meaning as ‘the want of every member that his wants be desirable to at least some others . . . in particular, it includes the desire to be ratified, understood, approved of, liked or admired’. For instance;

[8] Dean: *This room is so cold*

Sam: *Yeah, it is. May be it because of the winter.*

Dean’s speech above means that he wants Sam to close the door because it is so cold. Sam does not get Dean’s intention and thinks it literally. On the other hand, Dean wants Sam to understand what he said about the cold. Then, it is called Sam damages Dean’s positive face.

2.4.2.1.2 Negative Face

It has meaning as ‘the want of every competent adult member that his
actions be unimpeded by others’ as Goffman declared (Impoliteness 24-5). For instance:

[9] Dean: *I want to talk Marry this afternoon. I have to explain the truth.*
Sam: *No! Stop it! You cannot do that.*
Dean: *Yes, I should.*

Dean has a want to talk to Marry about the truth, but Sam does not allow it. On the other hand, the want is Dean’s right and Sam does not give him the right. Here, Sam damages Dean’s negative face.

2.4.2.2 Type of Face and Offence

The analytical framework that Culpeper have chosen for analyzing the kinds of offence involving face explained within his data ‘rapport management’ developed by Spencer-Oatey. The reason is because the Spencer-Oatey framework is broad and has been successfully spread out in empirical research including different cultures, shows research in social psychology, and has been effectively applied to impoliteness as Culpeper and Cashman claimed (Impoliteness 27).

Spencer-Oatey divided rapport management framework into five types as cited by Culpeper. The three types are; ‘quality’, ‘relational’ and ‘social identity’ on the face type. The reason why she separated it is from work on identities in social psychology and communication studies. Culpeper writes that Spencer-
Oatey marks the distinction between identity and face; *identity is more situated within an individual, whereas face is more relational; face is not associated with negative attributes; and face is affectively sensitive.* The other two type of rapport management framework are in sociality rights; equity and association right (Impoliteness 27-40).

### 2.4.2.2.1 Quality face

We have a deep-rooted desire for another people to judge our personality (competence, abilities, appearance, etc) in positive way. The definition of quality face Spencer-Oatey gave that it is related to the value that we successfully declare for ourselves in terms of personal qualities, and so is closely related to our sense of personal self-esteem. The value above is individually based (Impoliteness 28).

The following example is given by Culpeper with no attempt to ‘tidy’ spelling, punctuation, etc.:

> I walked into my male flatmates room just before going out.

[10] Matt : your not going out in that are you?

Me : [embarrassingly] yer, shut up you! [in a joke like way]

### 2.4.2.2.2 Social identity face

We have a deep-rooted desire for another people to recognize and elevate our social identities or roles such as a group leader, a valued customer, a close friend. According to Spencer-Oatey’s opinion cited by Culpeper in his book, social identity face is related to the value that people successfully state for
themselves in terms of social or group roles, and is closely related to their sense of public worth. Unlike quality face, social identity face is collectively based. For example, when teachers tell that they get offended by judgments about they having a soft life because teachers assumedly obtain such long holidays, that would be a critical judgment about all people of the group. It is one of the issue in social identity face (Impoliteness 29).

2.4.2.2.3 Relational face

Moreover, Culpeper also cites Spencer-Oatey argument that “sometimes there can also be a relational application; for example, being a talented leader and/or a kind-hearted teacher entails a relational component that is intrinsic to the evaluation”. He adds some opinion that leader and teacher are obvious examples of roles where social roles contain relationships. It is clear that all social phenomena are relational in a general sense. Culpeper says that Spencer-Oatey makes understandable writing what she means by relational is “the relationship between the participants (e.g. distance – closeness, equality-inequality, perceptions of role rights and obligations), and the ways in which this relationship is managed or negotiated” (Impoliteness 30).

Next, Culpeper cites Chen et al. about ‘the relational self reflects who a person is in relation to his or her significant others’. The inclusion of ‘significant others’ is to any individual or group of people in a relationship considered significant such as partners, family, friends. The following example is when a teacher tells that they obtain offended by judgments that they do not care about
their own students’ needs that would be a critical comment about a role relationship (Impoliteness 29-30).

2.4.2.3 Sociality Right Type

There are two types of the sociality right; equity right and association right. First, equity right. Culpeper cited from Spencer-Oatey that equity is people have a deep-rooted belief that they deserve to have personal consideration from others and to be treated fairly.

Second, association right. This right means persons have a fundamental belief that they deserve to have relationship with others. This right has three components: involvement, empathy, and respect (Impoliteness 40-1).

2.4.3 Types of Impoliteness Strategy

Politeness strategy is to enhance face, while impoliteness strategy is to attack face (Towards 356). Jonathan Culpeper has divided types of impoliteness strategy into five categories (356-7). The following types are:

2.4.3.1 Bald on record impoliteness

Bald on record impoliteness is an act of face-threatening done by someone directly, clearly, and without any ambiguity. Generally, this strategy uses a simple
way when speaker (S) does not pay attention to listener/ hearer (H) face and considers that the act is not important to do (Towards 362). For instance:


        Sam: *What? What did you say?*

Here, Dean’s utterance is an act FTA. He did impoliteness to Sam without any ambiguity.

### 2.4.3.2 Positive impoliteness

Positive impoliteness is using strategy which is addressed to damage positive face’s speaker. The strategy used, for instance is not considering the hearer in the conversation she or he makes. The output strategy (OS) of positive impoliteness are; 1) not paying attention/ disregard, 2) no sympathy, being disinterested, and unconcerned, 3) using improper identity marker, 4) using language that is not obvious/secret, 5) showing disagreement, 6) using taboo language (such as *bullshit, ass, damn, goddamn*), 7) ignore, snub the other, 8) calling H with another name, 9) joking or using small talk, 10) disassociating from the other, 11) excluding the other from an activity, and 12) making another comfortless, etc (Towards 358-63). For instance:

[12] Dean: *Hey Sam, what did you do with my car?*

        Sam: *I did not do anything, Dean.*
Dean:  *Damn, you damaged it.*

Here, Dean uses word ‘damn’ to damage Sam’s positive face. He did positive politeness by saying taboo word ‘damn’.

### 2.4.3.3 Negative impoliteness

Using language by someone intend to damage the hearer’s negative face. It can be done by through various output strategies; (1) making someone frighten, (2) disparaging/ harassing someone, (3) scorning/ taunting / condescend, (4) insulting, (5) doing something insincerity, (6) understating the hearer, (7) grabbing the hearer’s space, (8) ) associating the other with a negative aspect explicitly, (9) putting someone to be dependent one or indebtedness on record. Sometimes this strategy can be done if you belittle someone. For instance, you use the diminutive ‘little’ such as little mouth, little act, little ass and little body, etc (Towards 356-63). This is the example in conversation:

[13] Dean:  *Hey, you. You are the one who is running you're little mouth again. You're the one intimidating and threatening my squad leaders.*

Sam:  *No, I am not.*

Dean:  *Yes, you are. I am going to bite you then.*

What Dean says above is to frighten Sam, and that is called negative
impoliteness.

### 2.4.3.4 Sarcasm or mock politeness

Sarcasm or mock impoliteness is face-threatening act using mock or illusive politeness strategy. According to Culpeper, we can also say that impoliteness is insincere politeness from S to H. In his writing, *Towards an Anatomy of Impoliteness* (1996), he observed about impoliteness in an army training camp. Then he gives instance:

[14] Speaker 1: *Hey, you know something about you?*

Speaker 2: *About what?*

Speaker 1: *You really impress people with your little act girl.*

The word 'impress' is frequently to convey a pleasing judgement, but Speaker 1 says that to mock Speaker 2. Thus, the utterance is an insincere politeness and it is called mock politeness (Towards 363).

### 2.4.3.5 Withhold politeness

Withhold politeness happens when speaker does not do politeness strategy that is wished by hearer, or the speaker just keeps silent (Impoliteness Revisited 1555). For instance:


Husband : *Okay, wait a minute.*
Wife : *Happy birthday, Honey! This a little gift for you.*

Husband : *(keep silent)*

The husband fails to thank his wife for the present she gave to him. Thus, it can be called withhold politeness (Towards 357).

When S does FTA to H, actually H can respond or not respond. If H chooses to respond it, then, H is going to have two options to do, either accept the face attack or counter it (Revisited 1562).

According to Fraser and Nolan quoted by Culpeper, there is no speech which will be polite or impolite, but the condition of people used to determine the judgment whether it is polite or impolite. For instance, you ask your child ‘Eat up’. We can say that the order is polite because it can be the good thing for your children even we do not have to add word ‘please’ and so on (Towards 351)

Impoliteness strategy can happen in several ways when people talk each other. Furthermore, one of the things that can influence impoliteness occur is intimacy. Culpeper declares “However, it seems absurd to argue that the more intimate one becomes with someone the more impoliteness one employs”. This statement is close to Leech thought that he quoted “the more intimate a relationship, the less necessary and important politeness is” (Towards 352-54). Then, Leech (1983) stated that when S wants to show the solidarity with H, he or she can tell something which is clearly untrue or clearly impolite to H (Principles 144).
2.4.4 Functions of Impoliteness

According to Culpeper, impoliteness strategy has three functions (Impoliteness 221-33). They are:

2.4.4.1 Affective impoliteness

Affective impoliteness is one of specific functions in impoliteness strategy although the strategy has common function like opposing specific identities, interpersonal relationships, social norms, etc. This function invokes unrestrained emotion display in contexts where it is forbidden and not normal such as laughing during a funeral. Culpeper stated “there are times when the expression of emotion is more impulsive, more reflexive and times when it is more strategic, more instrumental”. More instrumental the function invokes the heightened emotion, typically anger, with the effect that the hearer is to blame for producing that negative emotion.

2.4.4.2 Coercive impoliteness

The next specific function is coercive impoliteness. This function seeks a rearrangement of values between the speaker and the hearer. It is like that the producer of the impoliteness (the speaker) has their current benefits reinforced or protected. The benefits could be material (e.g. speaker uses impoliteness strategy to force hearer giving him/ her something), or symbolic (e.g. an impolite insult to reduce hearer's value and increase speaker's own). This function possibly happens
in an imbalance situation of social structural power. It makes the more powerful participant, such as a parent, a boss, a teacher, is less threatened in conversation. Furthermore, it can also be used in more equal relationships to another more powerful participant a gain in social power.

Sometimes, this function is relatively costly or cheap means in achieving something. According to Culpeper, “impolite coercion is often not seen as an acceptable way of achieving a realignment of values”. In addition, he also stated that it is “risky in that it may achieve a beneficial realignment of values in the short-term, but there is a significant risk of the future cost of the target retaliating”.

2.4.4.3 Entertaining impoliteness

The other function of impoliteness strategy is entertaining impoliteness. It involves entertainment at a potential target of the impoliteness like Culpeper stated. The potential target is also called a potential victim. In this case, the victim is not often aware of the impoliteness that is done by another participant, but the participant who is entertained is aware of the target even the target has real identity. Real identity here is not like as graffiti or weblogs identity that the true identity is often not known or uncertain. Not only the target, but also the others are able to understand the likely impoliteness effects for the target. Then, because of it, this would be entertaining impoliteness. Culpeper asserted that ‘the fact that people can be entertained by symbolic violations to identities and social rights, the
stuff of impoliteness’. Thus, the impoliteness strategy that used by speaker to the hearer can entertain the others although it is a symbolic violation.

2.5 The Power Differences Concept

Besides social distance and the rank or size of imposition of the act involved, relative power also can affect face threat when someone does impoliteness strategy (Towards 355). In the other hand, there is relation between using language and power. Language generally used in social context has relevancy with power. In the other hand, many people still look down the important role of language in manufacture, maintenance, and change that made by social relations of power. Even how big prestige sticking in the dialect of the language depends on the strength of a group that is owned by its (Fairclough 1). According to Cambridge Advanced Leaner’s Dictionary, power means the capability to control people and occasions. A power should be assessed legitimate first by people in order to be accepted. As for the process is realized through language and other communication systems (Simpson and Mayr 2).

The relations between language and power was described in book Impoliteness in Language, those are; (a) power generally is expressed through language, (b) power cannot be explained without any contextualization, (c) power tend to be relative, dynamic, and can be denied by someone, (d) relation between language and society can be seen through the power on it (Bousfield and A.Locher 34).
Fairclough as quoted by Bousfield and A. Locher divided power discourse to two parts, *power in* and *power behind*. *Power in* refers to using power when using language, while *power behind* focuses to constitution of social institutions and society through power relation (Bousfield and A. Locher 35). In Miriam Meyerhoff’s book, *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, he explains that the distinction in choosing language in any social group influenced by power degree, social distance, and burden expense which is exist (Meyerhoff 100). It is not much different from what was said by Norman Fairclough in his book entitled *Language and Power*.

According to Brown and Levinson, the higher power owned by someone can make someone else be more polite to her or him (Impoliteness 74). For example is the relation between daughter and her parents. Here where the daughter’s power is lower than her mother makes she speak more polite and choose to use appropriate language when she has conversation with her parents who have the higher power. It also happens in relation between lecturer and the students. Because the power owned by the lecturer is higher, then, she or he can control the course of talks with her or his students.

Powerful people have freedom to make themselves as impolite participants in conversation. Lakoff and Penman cited by Culpeper, it all happens because “(a) reduce the ability of the less powerful participant to retaliate with impoliteness (e.g. through the denial of speaking rights), and (b) threaten more severe retaliation should the less powerful participant be impolite”. Thus, impoliteness can happen in any situation when S and H have different power (Towards 354).
Fairclough stated in his book “power in discourse is to do with powerful participants controlling and constraining the contributions of non-powerful participants”. He writes it is beneficial to distinguish among three kinds of such problems on (46):

- *Contents*: the matter what is talked or done;
- *Relations*: the social relations persons get into in discourse;
- *Subjects* or the *subject position* persons are able to place.
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDINGS

3.1 Data Description

This research used document study technique to collect the data. From using the technique, the collected data of impoliteness strategies are 109 utterances with the details: Mason Jr. 33 utterances, Mason Sr. / Dad 27 utterances, Olivia/ Mom 19 utterances, and Samantha 30 utterances.

After getting the data, the next step is to obtain the samples for this research by using simple random sampling technique. This way means every member in population has equal opportunity to be chosen as a sample member. First, every member of population is arranged and is given numbers in a series. Second, every number of population members is written in small paper. Third, the small papers are folded up and put into a box. Finally, the box is shaken and any folded papers which are thrown out from the box become the samples (Wasito 54-5).

After the processing, the data become 62 utterances with the details: Mason Jr. 18 utterances, Mason Sr. / Dad 13 utterances, Olivia/ Mom 12 utterances, and Samantha 19 utterances. The selected data will be classified by using impoliteness strategy theory of Jonathan Culpeper.

The following data came from four selected characters that are the sample data for this research:
### 3.1.1 Mason Jr. as participant

**Table 3.1**  
Mason Jr.’s Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Data Code</th>
<th>Output Strategies</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Keep silent</td>
<td>Withhold politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Insincere</td>
<td>Mock politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Keep silent</td>
<td>Withhold politeness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Call the other name</td>
<td>Positive impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Ignore face</td>
<td>Positive impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>A6</td>
<td>Use taboo word</td>
<td>Positive impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>A7</td>
<td>Ridicule</td>
<td>Negative impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>A8</td>
<td>Damage face</td>
<td>Bald on record impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>A9</td>
<td>Damage face</td>
<td>Bald on record impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>A10</td>
<td>Ridicule</td>
<td>Negative impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>A11</td>
<td>Attack face</td>
<td>Bald on record impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>A12</td>
<td>Damage face</td>
<td>Bald on record impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>A13</td>
<td>Call the other name</td>
<td>Positive impoliteness</td>
</tr>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>A14</td>
<td>Attack face</td>
<td>Bald on record impoliteness</td>
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<td>15.</td>
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<td>Insincere</td>
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<td>17.</td>
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<td>18.</td>
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### 3.1.2 Samantha as participant

#### Table 3.2

**Samantha’s Strategies**

<table>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Data Code</th>
<th>Output Strategies</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>Ridicule</td>
<td>Negative impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>B2</td>
<td>Damage face</td>
<td>Bald on record impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>B3</td>
<td>Ridicule</td>
<td>Negative impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>B4</td>
<td>Seek disagreement</td>
<td>Positive impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>B5</td>
<td>Ridicule</td>
<td>Negative impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>B6</td>
<td>Condescend</td>
<td>Negative impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>B7</td>
<td>Seek disagreement</td>
<td>Positive impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>B8</td>
<td>Damage face</td>
<td>Bald on record impoliteness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>B9</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>B12</td>
<td>Keep silent</td>
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<td>Withhold politeness</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>B17</td>
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### 3.1.3 Olivia as participant

#### Table 3.3
Olivia’s Strategies

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3.2 Data Analysis

3.2.1 Impoliteness Strategy Analysis

3.2.1.1 Mason Jr. Utterances and His Impoliteness Strategy

**Datum A1**

**Context:** Mason Jr. had a friend named Tommy when he was child. They frequently played together. One day, both of them were spray-painting a drawing on the wall of the drainage ditch. Samantha, his sister, looked after him to come home for dinner.

Samantha : (calling out) ...Maaason.

Tommy : Samantha!

Samantha : Oh! Tommy! Is Mason down there?

Tommy : Yeah.

Samantha : Well, tell him he has to come home for dinner.

Samantha came to found Mason Jr. and screamed, but he did not make any response even though his sister looked after him. He was so busy about his painting and just kept silent. It can be shown when she talked to Tommy to tell Mason Jr. for coming home because his brother did not answer. According to Culpeper, this phenomenon is one of output strategies in withhold politeness.
Mason’s silence gave us a clue that there was no politeness which is expected by Samantha. Actually to ignore this impoliteness strategy, Mason should answer Samantha’s call. Mason Jr. did the impoliteness because he did want his sister bothered him when he was drawing. According to Culpeper’s theory, he actually cannot do this impoliteness because he had less power than Samantha. It can happen because he used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness strategies. This function is to oppose interpersonal relationship between Mason Jr. and his sister that he not always obeys his sister asking as the powerful person.

**Datum A2**

**Context:** When Mason Jr.’s birthday came, Dad and Annie, his stepmother, pick him and his sister up. Dad driving mini-van made Mason Jr. ask where the old car, GTO, was. Dad said that it was bought by sucker collector from California, and he paid twenty-two grand for it. Mason was shocked and mad for a while. Then, Mason Sr. gave his boy a CD in the mini-van that he called it ‘The Beatle Black Album’. Dad gave him a lot of explanation of the album.

**Dad:** Yes, yes, yes. So, *I mean, look at that-- look at that, uhh top of Volume II, first four tracks... You’ve got ”Band on the Run” into ”My Sweet Lord”, into ”Jealous Guy”, into ”Photograph”. I mean, come on. It’s like the perfect segue.

You got Paul, who takes you to the party, George who talks to you about God, John who says no, it’s about love and pain, and then Ringo who just says hey, can’t we
enjoy what we have while we have it? It's a good record.

I shit you not.

Mason: Cool.

Actually, Mason Jr. was not interested in the album and commented it ‘cool’ insincerely. It because he was still mad with his father and just had a good comment to keep Dad silent. Such insincerity is called mock politeness. The boy pretended to be polite by saying ‘cool’, but the fact was not. Here, to make Dad stop talking, Mason Jr. did mock politeness by saying “cool”. Although the boy did not have enough power, he can use function of affective impoliteness that can oppose interpersonal relationship. Instead of saying honestly, he lied to Dad. It can break the relation.

Datum A3

Context: Mason Jr.’s family were moving to Houston because Mom wanted to continue her study. In the back seat of her car, Mason and Samantha fought each other and Mom cannot let it.

Samantha: Eeeee! Don’t!

Mom: Hey! Hey, what's happening back there? Stop, put the barrier up.

Samantha: Ahh! Stop! No!

Mason punches the pillow barrier between himself and Samantha, while his Mom speaks.
Mom: Hey, put the pillow between you. Make a barrier, come on. Stop. We’re gonna play a game called The Game of Silence. Whoever can stay quiet for the longest period of time wins. You guys think you can do that? Okay, go!

The context above told us that they continued to fight even Mom asked to stop. Next, Mom gave them order again because they did not stop it, and they tended to not respond Mom’s order. The silence that Mason did (and Samantha), is also a withhold politeness strategy. To break the impoliteness, he can answer it by either speaking an utterance or using gesture. Gesture is also theoretically considered as a sign of answer. Thus, if he used it, it will be enough to be considered polite. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Mason Jr. cannot refuse Mom’s order to stop fight because it means he did impoliteness, but actually he did. He opposed social norm by doing the forbidden act - not comply Mom’s order. What Mason Jr. did is function of affective impoliteness.

Datum A4

Context: Mason Jr. just has Samantha as a sister. They spent much time together in playing. Sometimes they can cooperate, and another time they fought. When he was comfortably asleep in kids’ bedroom, his sister suddenly bothered him by singing. Mason Jr. tried to stop it, but Samantha sang more loudly. Next, Mason threw her pillow and screamed and Mom came, angry. Samantha shifted singing
to crying instantaneously. She protected herself by lying to Mom and Mason argued.

Samantha : *He's throwing things at me...*

Mom : *Mason! Do not throw things at your sister!*

Mason Jr : *She's faking, she hit me first!!*

Mom : *Listen, both of you! I am going back to bed. I don't wanna hear another peep out of here for an hour. Go to sleep.*

Mason Jr : *(to Samantha)* **Faker!**

Here by accusing his old sister a faker- a given nickname-, Mason Jr. did positive impoliteness. One of the output strategies of positive impoliteness is calling someone by the other name or nicknaming them. Mason Jr. did the impoliteness because he knew that Samantha was lying to their mother. Here, instead of using his less power, he used function of affective impoliteness. It was shown when Mason Jr. called his sister “faker” as a bad nickname that is forbidden in social norm. The function was used by Mason Jr. to break the norm.

**Datum A5**

**Context:** Mason Jr. didn’t pay attention well to Dad’s speech when the parent showed him the way to play bowling in the bowling alley.
Dad: *There we, there we go, there we go! We got something there! We got something! We got something! Ooooh!*

Mason: *Last time i went bowling we had bumpers and it was a lot more fun!*

Dad: *You don’t want the bumpers, alright? You bowl a strike with the bumpers and it doesn’t mean anything. Trust me. Just lay it out on the lane. One, two, three and...*

At the first time, Mason Jr tried to hear Dad’s speech that he did not want the bumpers, but suddenly Samantha gave Mason Jr. a gesture that showed Dad was a smoker. Hence, he looked away from that and took notice for Samantha’s gesture. Thus, it made him do positive impoliteness by ignoring Dad’s face. According to Culpeper’s theory, he actually cannot do the impoliteness because he had less power than his father. In social norm, when speakers talks to their listeners, the listeners have to pay attention. The conversation above showed us that Mason Jr., as a hearer, opposed the norm. Thus, he used function of affective impoliteness to do the impoliteness.

**Datum A6**

**Context:** Mason Jr was discussing with Dad in Antone’s room about woman because he broke up with Sheena. Dad gave him some advices.
Dad : Alright. I'm sick to death of her, okay? I only met her a few times and yes she was cute, alright. But, truth be told I always thought she was a little bit, you know, a little bit too square for you. Y'know, not quite the same vibe.

Mason : You really thought that?

Dad : On some subtle, lower level. I mean, uh, I wasn't surprised when it turned out she was interested in some knucklehead lacrosse player, okay? I mean, bottom line is, it's all timing with these things. Y'know. I mean, uh, take your mom and me. Y'know I think I probably turned into the boring castrated guy she wanted me to be fifteen or twenty years ago, y'know? And man I'm not saying she was wrong to be pissed. I'm not, i'm just saying that, y'know, she could have been a little more patient... A little more forgiving.

Mason : Would've saved me that parade of drunken assholes.

The word ‘assholes’ in Mason Jr.’s utterance for Dad is kind of taboo word. Thus, the utterance can be called as positive impoliteness because the taboo word was used by Mason. In social norm, people forbid to say taboo word in daylife. On the other hand, the conversation above showed us. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Mason Jr. cannot do that because he had less power than Dad. It can happen because he used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness
strategies. This function is to oppose social norm and social identity that Mason Jr. can use taboo word to Dad in the conversation.

Datum A7

Context: Mason Jr’s parents -Olivia and Mason Sr- had divorced for long time. He and his sister, Samantha, live with their mother, but sometimes, their father visited and picked them up to play periodically. For long time, Dad didn’t see them. In the kitchen, Mom told the children that their Dad would spend the afternoon with them in that day. Samantha thought it was eighty years that they did not meet Dad. According to Mom, it was just a year and a half actually. It was so funny for Mason Jr. and he laughed aloud.

Samantha: We haven’t seen him in about eighty years.

Mom : Like... a year and a half.

Mason : (points to Samantha) Ha-ha.

Samantha: Oh please...

In the other hand, Samantha thought it was not funny actually. She felt so annoyed with Mason Jr.’s laughter. It can be seen when she said ‘Oh, please…’ because of Mason Jr. He ridiculed her with the laughter, since Samantha was wrong. The way Mason Jr. doing that is kind of negative impoliteness. According to the theory asserted by Culpeper, Mason Jr. cannot laugh to his sister mistake because it is such of impoliteness and he had no power. It is forbidden in social norm. He invoked unrestrained emotion display, laughing, when his sister said a wrong
answer. Not power, he used impoliteness function called affective impoliteness to oppose the norm.

Datum A8

Context: In one weekend, Mason Sr. visited and took the children to go play with him. When they were in car, Dad asked Mason Jr. about his weekend, but he did not really answer it.

Dad: Milwaukee Brewers. Alright, get to know 'em, get to hate 'em. Mase! How you been, huh? How was your week?

Mason: Pretty good.

Dad: Yeah? What you been up to?

Mason: Not much.

Actually, he did not want to answer that question and tried to hide something bad about Bill, his first stepfather. Here, Mason Jr. used bald on record impoliteness because he did impoliteness clearly and unambiguously. Here, to make Dad stop asking, Mason Jr. did the impoliteness by saying “not much”. Although the boy did not have power, he can use function of affective impoliteness that can oppose interpersonal relationship and social norm. Instead of saying politely, he just said two words that can make the conversation stop. It can damage the relation between Mason Jr. and Dad and break the norm.
Datum A9

Context: Mason Jr. damaged Dad’s face when they saw a live baseball game in stadium. Suddenly when Dad taught Mason Jr. and Samantha about how great Roger, Astros group’s player, is, the boy spoke different topic.

Mason: *Dad, do you have a job?*

Dad: *Ha! Why would you ask me that?*

Mason: *I don’t know. Mom wanted to know and I didn’t know what the answer was.*

Dad: *Mom wanted to know. Alright. Well, you can tell mom that I just happen to have passed my second actuarial exam, alright? So... you tell her that. How’s she doing?*

The question shocked Dad and this made him ask his child back. This interaction proved us how Mason Jr. sometimes damaged and attacked Dad’s face in that weekend. All of the utterances above are to damage Mason Jr.’s hearer face, Dad, and it can make Dad lost his face. Mason Jr. did it directly, clearly, and unambiguously. This is called bald on record impoliteness. One of the West cultures is people did not allowed talking about anything which is can hurt others including asking the people’s job. What Mason Jr. did is breaking the social norm. Although he had less power than Dad, he can did it. It happened because he used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness strategies. This function is used to oppose social norm.
Datum A10

Context: Dad and Mason Jr. were together in the boy’s bedroom. The boy showed his collection of arrowheads and a long feather to Dad. Then, Samantha entered the room carrying photos. She sat down next to Dad and interrupted Mason Jr. She told Dad about her friends including her basketball team.

Dad : Uh-huh. Wait, you scoring any points?

Samantha : Well, about eight or ten a game.

Dad : Eight or ten a game? That is awesome!

Samantha : Yeah!

Mason : Once she didn’t score any and she cried!

It was clear, however, Mason Jr. ridiculed his sister by saying that. All of the ridiculing utterance he did is kind of negative impoliteness strategy. Mason Jr. said that actually his sister had ever cried and did not score any in basketball game. The boy wanted his father know. Here, Samantha is called potential target. The boy made his sister as potential victim to make Dad laughing. It can make Dad entertained with Mason Jr.’s impoliteness to Samantha. This is called entertaining impoliteness function.

Datum A11

Context: In city street when Dad driving, he felt weird with his children in having
conversation included Mason Jr. Dad did not satisfy about the answer. Then, it made him want to ask more.

Dad : Mason, uh, how was your week? Well Dad, you know it was kind of tough. Joe, he's kind of a jerk, actually. He stole some cigarettes from his mom and he wanted me to smoke 'em. But I said no, cause I knew what a hard time you had quittin' smokin', Dad.

How 'bout that? Is that so hard?

Samantha: Dad, these questions are kind of hard to answer.

Dad : What is so hard to answer about what sculpture are you making?

Samantha: It's abstract.

Dad : Okay. Okay, that's good. See, that's, I didn't know that.

I didn't know you were even interested in abstract art.

Samantha: I'm not. They make us do it.

Mason : But Dad, I mean why is it all on us though?You know, what about you? How was your week?You know, who do hang out with? Do you have a girlfriend? What have you been up to?

He did not want to tell his father the fact and instead he chose to ask several questions. Mason Jr. was surprised and almost gave up about that. These words attacked Mason Sr. as hearer clearly and Mason Jr. did not care about that. Thus, Mason Jr.’s utterance is kind of bald on record impoliteness. In social norm,
Mason Jr. cannot talk back to Dad with the impolite answer. He actually did not have power to break the norm, but he can use function of affective impoliteness. This function can oppose social norm.

Datum A12

Context: In Antone’s room, Mason Jr. told Dad about his relation with his girlfriend, Sheena. He almost got down because of her, but Dad thought different. He considered the reaction of Mason Jr. about Sheena was too much. Dad said that his son who crying over some silly girl is a complete waste of time. Furthermore, Mason Jr. did not accept Dad’s opinion.

Mason : So what's the point?
Dad : Of what?
Mason : I don't know, any of this. Everything.
Dad : Everything? What's the point? I mean I sure as shit don't know. I mean, but, neither does anybody else. Okay, we're all just winging it, you know? I mean the good news is you're feeling stuff. You know? And you got to hold onto that. You do. I mean you get older and you don't feel as much. You're skin gets tougher. The point is those pictures you took. Thousands of submissions from all over the state and you won.
The boy did not agree with Dad, then, he asked what point Dad wants to say. Unfortunately, Dad did not get it. Moreover, Mason Jr. argued that he did not know what Dad mean and got little angry. He wanted Dad appreciate his feeling to Sheena. What Mason Jr. did to Dad called damaging face. This is one of the output strategies in bald on record impoliteness. He did the impoliteness because he did want Dad interrogate him. According to Culpeper’s theory, he actually cannot do that because he had less power than Dad. On the other hand, it can happen when he used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness strategies. This function is to oppose interpersonal relationship between Mason Jr. and his father that he did not always agree and obey Dad’s idea.

**Datum A13**

**Context:** One day Mason Jr. was angry to Bill, his first stepfather. He complained about Bill’s bad attitude such as making his mom cry and getting angry for many times. Then, Mason Jr. argued with Mom about Bill when they arrived in his school.

Mom : *For what it's worth, it's hair and it will grow back. Now i can see your pretty eyes and your foxy face.*

Mason : *Why'd you even marry him? He's such a jerk.*

Mom : Well, bill has his good qualities. You know, nobody's perfect. And now we have a family.

Mason : *We already had a family.*
Calling Bill as a jerk is also calling the other name of someone that is one of output strategies of doing positive impoliteness. According to Culpeper’s theory, he actually cannot do that because he had less power than Bill although he said “jerk” in front of Mom. It can happen because he used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness strategies. This function is to oppose social norm that Mason Jr. called his stepfather by using bad nickname that is forbidden in the norm.

Datum A14

Context: In Mom’s car, she tried to explain Mason Jr. that Bill also had his own good qualities and nobody is perfect. She also reminded the child that they had family, but Mason Jr. argued that they already had a family beforehand.

Mom : For what it's worth, it's hair and it will grow back. Now I can see your pretty eyes and your foxy face.

Mason : Why'd you even marry him? He's such a jerk.

Mom : Well, Bill has his good qualities. You know, nobody's perfect. And now we have a family.

Mason : We already had a family.

That time, before she could say anything and the boy exited Mom’s car. What Mason Jr. spoke to his mother above is called attacking face. Besides damaging face, bald on record impoliteness was also performed by attacking hearer face. It is like the way Mason Jr. talked to Olivia. Thus, that time Mason Jr. did bald on record impoliteness. In social norm, Mason Jr. cannot talk back to Mom with the
impolite answer. He actually did not have power to break the norm, but he can use function of affective impoliteness. This function can oppose interpersonal relationship because he did not agree with what Mom said about Bill. It can damage Mason Jr.’s relation and his mother.

Datum A15

**Context:** Mom asked Mason Jr. about who his friend used the broken downstairs bathroom. He explained Mom that he did not know, but Mom kept asking him in kitchen. Then, he felt tired to answer it.

Mom : *That tall guy, what's his name?*

Mason : *Phillip?*

Mom : *Yeah, Phillip. He did it. Can Phillip read? I mean, there's a big sign on the door, it says, "Do not use this bathroom, it's broken." I mean, how difficult is that?*

Mason : *I don't know. I'm sorry.*

In fact, he did not feel sorry about that. He just tired with Mom’s questions. This insincerity is called mock politeness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, he actually cannot do the impoliteness. Instead of saying “sorry” sincerely, he preferred to say it to stop Mom argument. This happened because of affective impoliteness function. He did not have to apologize sincerely like what is written in social norm although his power less than Mom had.
Datum A16

**Context:** When Mason Jr. prepared cereal for breakfast in the kitchen, Mom talked to him about putting their house on the market. He was curious and Mom tried to explain the reason.

Mason  :  Well why did you even buy it in the first place, then?

Mom  :  Because I really enjoy making poor life decisions, keeping us on the brink of poverty. I mean, I've spent the first half of my life acquiring all this crap and now I'm gonna spend the second half of my life getting rid of all this stuff.

Mason  :  Really? Like what?

Mom gave the reason but Mason Jr. did not satisfy yet. He asked again. Then, Mom tried to say clearly, but Mason did not believe it completely. He just thought that it was a joke. What Mason Jr. did here is ridiculing his listener. It means that he used negative impoliteness in the conversation above. In social norm, Mason Jr. cannot talk back to Mom with the impolite answer. He actually did not have power to break the norm, but he can use function of affective impoliteness. This function is to oppose social norm because he did not agree with what Mom said about her life.

Datum A17

**Context:** After breakfast, Mason Jr. started to walk away from the kitchen
without doing dish. Next, Mom asked him to do it, but Mason had a reason that all
day he did dishes.

Mom : Mason -- Mason, please, don't leave me that dirty dish to
wash.

Mason : I do dishes all day.

Mom : Well, great honey, then you're a professional. Come on,
you could do one or two more for you poor old mom.

Mason walks over to the sink.

Mason : Okay.

When Mason Jr. refused to do that, Mom argued. She stated that because her son
was a professional person, he would do the dish for poor old mom. Mason Jr.
walked over to the sink and did it. He just said okay to stop Mom, but he did not
want to do it actually. The insincerity that Mason Jr. did is one of the output
strategies in mock politeness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, he actually cannot do
the impoliteness because Mom had more power than Mason Jr. Instead of saying
“okay” sincerely, he preferred to say that to stop Mom talking and he did want to
fight before going to work. This happened because of affective impoliteness
function. He did not have to say sincerely like what is mentioned in social norm
that children have to be polite to their parent.
Datum A18

**Context:** Mason Jr. joined photography competition. After the winners’ announcement, he met Dad in Antone’s room. In the beginning, they had a chat about the relation between Mason Jr. and his girlfriend. Dad related the relation to the award Mason Jr. got.

Dad: *Everything? What's the point? I mean I sure as shit don’t know. I mean, but, neither does anybody else. Okay, we're all just winging it, you know? I mean the good news is you're feeling stuff. You know? And you got to hold onto that. You do. I mean you get older and you don’t feel as much. You're skin gets tougher. The point is those pictures you took. Thousands of submissions from all over the state and you won.*

Mason: *Well, I got silver. And nine other people did, too.*

Dad: *I'm gonna kill you. I'm tryin' to tell you that I believe in you, Mason. I think you're really special, and if some girl doesn't see that, then fuck her, y'know?*

Mason: *No answer*

Dad thought that what Mason Jr. did in photography was awesome. He believed in the boy’s skill. He convinced his son that Mason Jr. was special that he had not to be doubtful because it can make some girls love and see him. If the girls did
not, then forgetting them. On the other hand, Mason Jr. did not answer when his father asked the son’s opinion about the argument Dad talked. The boy kept silent. According to Culpeper, Mason Jr. did withhold politeness because he did not answer and failed doing politeness that was expected by Dad. According to Culpeper’s theory, he actually cannot do the impoliteness because he had less power than Dad. On the other hand, it can happen because he used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness strategies. This function can oppose interpersonal relationship between Mason Jr. that he had not to obey or answer his father question.

In total, Mason Jr. did the whole impoliteness strategy with details; 15 withhold politeness, 4 positive impoliteness, 3 negative impoliteness, 5 bald on record impoliteness, and 6 mock politeness strategies.

### 3.2.1.2 Samantha’s Utterances and Her Impoliteness Strategy

**Datum B1**

**Context:** One day in kids’ bedroom, Samantha sang in front of him and Mason Jr. was disturbed. He told his sister off to stop it, but Samantha did not. She continued to sing.

Samantha: (singing) *“Oops, I did it again... I played with your heart. Got lost in the game. Oh baby, baby...”*
Mason throws a stuffed animal at her that she deflects.

Samantha: "Oops, you think I'm in love. I'm sent from above. I'm not that innocent."

Another stuffed animal. She continues to sing.

Mason : Stop! Quit it!

Samantha: "You see my problem is this. I'm dreaming away. Wishing that heroes truly exist. I cry watching the day. Can't you see I'm a fool in so many ways..."

Mason : Quit! Mom!

Samantha: "But to lose all my senses—that is..."

Mason Jr. was mad. It was not about the song that Samantha sang, but it was the way when she sang it. Mason tried to stop and avoid it. However, it did not work. His sister still did it that time. She made his brother as the object of ridicule. This is called negative impoliteness. According to Culpeper’s theory, Samantha can do the impoliteness because she had power than Mason Jr. Thus, she did not need use the function of impoliteness strategy to do that.

Datum B2

Context: After all the time the family lived together in Bill’s house, Mom thought
that the relation was unhealthy anymore. She and her children cannot stand for him. Then, she decided to go away from the house with the children without any preparation, then, Mom and Samantha argued in front of the girl’s school.

Mom: Okay, Samantha. You go right through that door. The office is right there. They're expecting you, they're gonna give you your schedule. Here's your lunch money. I will pick you up right here at 3:30.

Samantha: I’m wearing dirty clothes! Because you wouldn’t even let us get our stuff! We don’t even have a to live! This sucks!

Mom: Samantha... I'm doing the best I can! And you're right, it sucks! But it doesn't suck half as much as having a drunk fool slam your head against a wall!

So cut your horseshit attitude.

Mom screamed and got mad. She disappointed, even she talked dirty using taboo words. Samantha’s utterance was very offensive to Mom’s face. She did it clearly and there was no ambiguity. That is clearly a bald on record impoliteness. In social norm, Samantha cannot talk back to Mom with the impolite argument. She actually did not have power to break the norm, but she can use function of affective impoliteness. This function can oppose social norm while Samantha did not say her argument politely to her mother.
Datum B3

Context: Dad invited Samantha and the brother to go to Annie’s house. They had long chat when they walked through the woods, then, Dad told them to come back there on the 20th for Cooper, their new little brother, if they did not mind.

Mason: Were we baptized?

Dad: I wasn't the least bit concerned with the state of your soul. We can do it now, though, if you want.

Mason: No, nah, I think I'm alright.

Dad: You and Cooper together, you know. Dunk your heads.

Samantha: You're not becoming one of those God people, are you, Dad?

Dad: And what's that supposed to mean, hm?

Annie and her folks really treasured the ritual and Dad would appreciate it if they can come. Dad was little bit shocked when he heard his girl say that. This ridicule speech is part of negative impoliteness. Samantha asked Dad that her father actually did not become one of those God people. Because of that, Dad was laughed by Mason Jr. Here, Dad is called potential target. The daughter made her father as potential victim to make Mason Jr. laughing. This is called entertaining impoliteness function. She also used affective impoliteness function to oppose
religion norm that baptizing is important to Annie’s family belief, but she laughed about it. Thus, Samantha used the functions to do the impoliteness to her father.

Datum B4

Context: When Mom, Samantha, and Mason Jr. ate lunch in their kitchen, Mom told the children that she wanted to continue her study. She argued that going back to college means making a better living for them.

Mom: Samantha, I have to go back to college so I can make us a better living.

Smack

Mom: With this job I can't take care of us the way I’d like to. I can't keep going this way. And Grandma said she'd help us out... and it would be nice to be near her.

Samantha: Fine, Mother. You can do whatever you want but we're not moving.

Even though Mom had good reason for moving, Samantha still refused it. She said that her mother can do whatever she wanted, but Samantha and Mason Jr. were not moving. Here, Samantha disagreed with Mom’s idea. What she did called seeking disagreement and part of positive impoliteness. In social norm, Samantha cannot talk back to Mom with the impolite reaction. She actually did
not have power to break the norm, but she can use function of affective impoliteness. This function is to oppose social norm because Samantha did not say her reaction politely to her mother.

Datum B5

Context: Mom, Samantha, and Mason Jr. prepared to have breakfast in the kitchen. When the girl placed pancakes in plates, she talked to his brother by saying a cryptic language. Mason Jr. was angry and asked her to keep silent.

Mason: *Speak English! Shut up. Mom! She's speaking that stupid language again!*

Mom: *Samantha!*

Samantha: *I was speaking perfectly clear English, Mother. You know, he's a little slow in the head. He did officially flunk first grade.*

Like the boy was, Mom was angry too. She never thought her daughter that. Mom screamed and gave Samantha a signal to keep silent, but the girl argued. She claimed her little brother was a little slow in the head. Her speech ridiculed Mason Jr. ability. It can be concluded that Samantha used negative impoliteness in conversation. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Samantha can do the impoliteness because she had more power than her little brother. On the social norm, Samantha cannot talk back to Mom politely and lied about “speaking perfectly”. She
actually did not have power to break the norm, but she can use function of affective impoliteness. This function is to oppose social norm because Samantha did not say the truth to her mother. She was lying that is called breaking the social norm.

Datum B6

Context: Samantha moved to an apartment in Austin, and Mason Jr. would move the fall when he went to college. Because of that, Mom decided that she wanted to live in tiny apartment not their big house. She told them in a cafe when they had lunch. Mason was so curious and asked about Christmas.

Mom : No, I'm moving! You moved two years ago. You have an apartment in Austin. Mason is moving the fall. I'm done. This will be great for me. I'll have all these options. I could take a sabbatical. I could get some writing done and try to get published.

Mason : What about Christmas, though? What are we gonna do?

Samantha : I'm not sharing a room with him.

Nobody asked her, and Mason Jr. actually asked their mother. This utterance is condescending Samantha’s hearer, Mason Jr. In fact, they would not share a room together. It because after that, Mom explained that one of them would sleep on the
couch and use a blow-up mattress. By condescending the hearer, Samantha did negative impoliteness there. According to Culpeper’s theory, Samantha can do this impoliteness because Mason Jr.’s power was less than Samantha had.

Datum B7

Context: One day, Mom, Samantha, and Mason Jr. had lunch in the kitchen. Mom started to have chats with both of them. She planned moving to Houston to continue her study, but in the beginning, she realized that the children might not like that idea.

Mom : Well, soon. We should be out by the first, so we don’t have to pay two rents next month.

Samantha : No, Mother, we’re not moving. Nope, nope, sorry

Mom: Nope. Nope.

Mom : Samantha, I have to go back to college so I can make us a better living. With this job I can’t take care of us the way I’d like to. I can’t keep going this way. And Grandma said she’d help us out... and it would be nice to be near her.

Samantha : Fine, Mother. You can do whatever you want but (shrugs) We’re not moving.
Mom tried to explain her girl, but it did not work. Samantha disagreed with the idea. She felt so comfortable in their house and did not want to move anywhere. According to Culpeper, seeking disagreement when people talk to their hearers is the output strategy of positive impoliteness. Samantha cannot disagree Mom’s the decision because it means that she did impoliteness. The girl did not have enough power to do the impoliteness, but actually she did it. Although Samantha did not have power enough, she can use affective impoliteness function. This function can oppose interpersonal relationship between the girl and her mother and social norm. In social norm, children have to obey parent’s order, but Samantha preferred not to do that.

Datum B8

**Context:** Samantha and Mason Jr. lived with Bill family after Mom married to him. Every weekend they did dusting and cleaning. Actually, they were fine about it, but Bill’s behaviour made them feel so disgusted. However, the children tried to hide that from Dad, their biological father. It was proven when Dad asked them in the car about their weekend and what they had been up to.

Dad : *Okay. (To Samantha) How ’bout you? How was your week?*

Samantha : *Fine."

Dad : *What you been up to?*
Samantha : *Nothin' really.*

She said it lazily and it is like that she did not want to talk about it more. And, the result was that Dad felt weird and got little angry. The utterance of Samantha can be categorized as doing bald on record impoliteness because she did impoliteness clearly without any ambiguity. Here, to make Dad stop talking, Samantha did mock politeness by saying “nothin’ really”. Although the girl did not have power, she can use function of affective impoliteness that can oppose interpersonal relationship. Instead of saying honestly, he lied to Dad. She also broke social norm when she lied. It was against the norm.

Datum B9

**Context:** Samantha’s hands placed pancakes on the family plates when the family had breakfast in the kitchen before doing routine activities. Then, she talked to Mason, but he did not understand it.

Samantha : *I affatay servay yoohay.*

Mason : *Speak English! Shut up. Mom! She's speaking that stupid language again!*

Mom : *Samantha!*

Mason Jr. was mad and asked his sister to speak English well. Here, Samantha used secretive language. This utterance made the hearer cannot understand what
speaker was talking. Samantha should use English in their conversation because he and she both speak English. Mason Jr. cannot understand Samantha’s speech while she did it intentionally. Using secretive language means someone doing positive impoliteness in conversation. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Samantha can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because she was more powerful. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the positive impoliteness.

Datum B10

Context: Every weekend Samantha, Mason Jr. and Bill’s children had to clean their house and yard. Samantha felt so bored about that and thought not do that anymore. When the family in the kitchen, Samantha protested, but her stepfather Bill disagreed.

Samantha: *But I mean, who dusts anymore?*

Bill : *You do when we ask you to! And don't - Olivia, don't let her back-talk me in front of the other kids, please.*

   Thank you.

Mom : *Samantha, please...*

Samantha: *Whatever!*

When Samantha talked back to Bill, he was angry. He asked Mom to forbid the girl did that. Next, Mom begged her daughter to not doing that by saying “please”.
On the other hand, Samantha just ignored Mom’s face. What she did in the conversation above is called positive impoliteness. She did this impoliteness because she did not want to comply with Mom’s command. According to Culpeper’s theory, she actually cannot do the impoliteness because she had less power than Mom. It can happen because she used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness strategies. This function can oppose social norm. In social norm, Samantha has to listen and do what Mom saying when it is good, but she did not. Thus, this impoliteness is not caused by power, but the affective impoliteness function.

**Datum B11**

**Context:** Samantha and Mom prepared dinner in the kitchen, then, Mom walked over to the stairs to call up to Mason. When Mom did it, she noticed the screen on an open laptop. Next, she was angry to Samantha because her daughter did not post yet their house pictures and the descriptions on online auction.

Samantha: *Why are we even doing this? It's like an online junk shop. I thought you had a good job?*

Mom : *I do. We're what you call house poor. Everyone's got to do their part. Your brother took the pictures. You have to help.*

Samantha: *Who even buys this shit?*
Samantha argued, and she stated that their house like an online junk shop. She wondered why Mom did that because Samantha thought her mother had a good job. Moreover, Mom talked back to Samantha that the girl is who called the house as house poor. The girl still in her argument and called the house as a “shit”. The word is included as a taboo word. When speakers used taboo words in a chat with their listeners, it means they did positive impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, she as a daughter had not power to do the impoliteness to Mom. On the other hand, it still happened because she used affective impoliteness functions. This function made Samantha can break social norm that she can say taboo word to Mom as the powerful person.

Datum B12

Context: Mom had a plan to move on a tiny apartment because her children went to college. She told it to Samantha and Mason Jr. when they had lunch in a café. In the beginning, both of them got little shocked. Next, Mom asked them to pack their things from their house as soon as possible.

Samantha: No. To be honest, I drank way too much last night.

Mom : You weren’t driving, were you?

Samantha: No. No. Carrie’s back home, too, and we just hung out.

You know, peach Smirnoffs, they just go down so easy.
Mom: No, no. Hey - that's not an excuse. You can still pack boxes. These people want to move in as soon as possible.

Samantha: No answer

Samantha gave a signal to Mom that she cannot do it in that time, but her mother refused the reason. She still wanted her daughter to pack boxes, but Samantha kept silent. She did not answer even did not gave a gesture as an answer to her mother. What she did called withhold politeness based on Culpeper theory. Samantha actually cannot keep silent when Mom asked because it was impolite. She did not have enough power to do this. Because of that, she used function of affective impoliteness. This function can oppose social norm which she had not to respond to what Mom saying. This norm is also able to oppose the interpersonal relationship between her and Mom.

Datum B13

Context: Samantha mocked Mason Jr. in the kitchen when they prepared breakfast. Mom told her to sit down then she did, but she was actually not.

Samantha: I was speaking perfectly clear English, Mother. You know, he's a little slow in the head. He did officially flunk first grade.

Mom: Sit your butt down.
Samantha : Yes sir, Mother sir!

She said ‘yes’ for the order, but on the other hand, she called Mom with ‘Sir’. It is like her mother was an army. This pretention made Samantha do the mock politeness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, she actually cannot do that because she had less power than Mom. It can happen because she used affective impoliteness, one of the functions in impoliteness strategies. This function is to oppose social norm and interpersonal relationship between Samantha and her mother that she not always obey and talk politely to Mom as the powerful person.

Datum B14

Context: Mom wanted to move to Houston – as said earlier- and Samantha disagreed about that. After Mom got Mason Jr., she tried to persuade Samantha in the kitchen table.

Mason : What about our friends?

Mom : Oh, baby, we can e-mail them or write. We can come back to visit. And guess what?

She reaches out to touch Samantha's arm.

Mom : This place that Grandma found us, you'll each have your own room. Right?

Samantha shrugs.
Mom : And there's a pool.

_Samantha shrugs again._

Samantha kept silent and shrugged. She pretended to not care of what Mom said although she tried to give her girl the best of she could do -by having room for each of them- that time. Here, Samantha’s silence is the output strategy of withhold politeness because she failed to do politeness that Mom expected. According to Culpeper’s theory, Samantha cannot keep silent because it is part of impoliteness strategies. Although she had not power, Samantha still can do it by using function of affective impoliteness. It is one of the functions in impoliteness strategies to oppose social norm that people cannot be silent when others talk to them.

**Datum B15**

**Context:** One day Mom cannot pick Mason Jr. from his school, so she asked Samantha to do it. Because his sister did not do it, Mason Jr. went to the college where Mom taught. Mom was so angry to her daughter in Samantha’s room. The girl argued that her friend was running late, so they could not turn around.

Mom : _You know what, Samantha? You need to start thinking long and hard about who you want to be. Do you want to be a cooperative person, who is compassionate and helps people out? Or do you want to be a self-centered narcissist?_
Samantha: You know what? You're right. I am this horrible person... But honestly, he's not a baby anymore. You don't have to treat him like one. He's in eighth grade and he can find his way home if he wants to.

Mom: You know what? When Gaby leaves, you and me are gonna have a chat.

Mom ordered Samantha to think long and hard about who she wants to be. Instead of apologizing, the girl said loudly to Mom. She attacked Mom with her speech. By attacking Mom’s face, Samantha did bald on record impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, as a child who had less power, Samantha cannot do the impoliteness. On the other hand, it still happened because she used function of affective impoliteness. This function can oppose social norm that people must be polite to their parents, but Samantha attacked Mom’s face clearly.

Datum B16

Context: Dad invited Samantha and Mason Jr. to go camping together when they had a chat in bowling alley café. The boy said yes, but the girl did not. She preferred to go party with her friends. Dad had different thought about the party. He assumed that many boys would be there. Dad even asked whether Garret, Samantha’s close friend, has a condom.

Dad: Well. Does Garret have a condom?

Samantha: Ohh! God! Dad!
Dad : Mason Sr: What? What, come on Sam. We have to be able to talk about this. Alright? Come on, we do. We can do it. We can do it. Just stay with me here. Alright? It’s as hard for me as it is for you. But, seriously though, alright, I read an article in the paper the other day... that said that although U.S. teenagers are not the most sexually active, we have the highest rate of teenage pregnancy. Okay?

Samantha: No answer

Dad continued his speech. He persuaded her daughter to just stay with him. He also talked about U.S teenagers who are not the most sexually active, but they had the highest rate of pregnancy. Samantha did not answer her father question to stay. By keeping silent above, she did withhold politeness. According to Culpeper’s theory, Samantha cannot keep silent because it is part of impoliteness strategies. Although she had not power, Samantha still can do it by using function of affective impoliteness. This function can oppose social norm that people cannot be silent when others talk to them even though Dad had more power.

Datum B17

Context: To continue study, Mom decided to move to Houston with her children. In the beginning, Mason Jr. and Samantha disagreed the decision. Because Mom
persuaded them, Mason Jr. agreed, but Samantha did not. She wanted to live there and did some weird act in the outside front door.

Mom : *Okay, let's go, 'cause I wanna get there before it gets dark.*

Samantha : *Goodbye yard, goodbye crepe myrtle, goodbye mailbox. Goodbye box of stuff Mommy won't let us take with us but we don't wanna throw away. Goodbye house, I'll never like mommy as much for making us move.*

Mom : *Samantha! Why don't you say goodbye to that little horse shit attitude? Okay? 'Cause we're not taking that in the car.*

The three of them slowly exit the front door and head over to the car. Mom wanted to get Houston before it got dark, so she ordered the children to hurry up. On the other hand, Samantha said goodbye to everything in the yard because she did not want to leave their house. It was like she considered Mom not there when she said “goodbye”. Based on Culpeper’s theory, excluding the listener from the conversation is one of the output strategies in positive impoliteness. Samantha cannot do the impoliteness because she had less power than Mom. On the other hand, it still happened because Samantha used function of affective impoliteness. This function can oppose interpersonal relationship and social norm including excluding the listener from the conversation.
**Datum B18**

**Context:** One day Dad invited Samantha and Mason Jr. to Annie parent’s house to celebrate Mason Jr.’s birthday. When they arrived, they go to woods nearby the house. Mason Jr. and his sister walked down to the pond. Samantha pushed a stick into the mud. Mason photographed pond.

Samantha: *Mason, why are you such a stick-in-the-mud?*

Mason: *What are you even talking about?*

Mason Jr. did not say anything to Samantha, and he just took photos. Her sister suddenly told that her brother was such a stick-in-the-mud. Mason Jr. was confused. He felt offended. Samantha attacked face of his brother. What she did is called bald on record impoliteness. Here, Samantha can do the impoliteness strategy because she had more power than her little brother. Thus, Samantha did not need use function of impoliteness strategy to do that.

**Datum B19**

**Context:** Mom moved out from Bill’s house with her children because of Bill’s behaviour. It means that the children had to go to new school to continue their study. When Mom drove Samantha to her new school, they argued each other.

Samantha: *Mom, this is awful. You're dumping me in some parking lot of this school where I don't even know*
anyone! I'm leaving all my friends and I didn't even
get to say goodbye! I don't know where to go!

Mom: Okay, Samantha. You go right through that door. The
office is right there. They're expecting you, they're
gonna give you your schedule. Here's your lunch
money. I will pick you up right here at 3:30.

Samantha: I'm wearing dirty clothes! Because you wouldn't even
let us get our stuff! We don't even have a place to
live! This sucks!

Mom drove Samantha to school, but she was still angry to her mother. She said
impolitely to express her disappointment. She attacked Mom’s face clearly
without any ambiguity, even though her mother did the best struggle to save
Samantha and her little brother. By attacking face of her listener, she did bald on
record impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Samantha, as a child, cannot do
the impoliteness because Mom had more power than the girl. On the other hand, it
still happened because Samantha used function of affective impoliteness. This
function can oppose social norm including attacking Mom’s face in conversation.

In total, Samantha did the whole impoliteness strategy with details; 5
negative impoliteness, 6 positive impoliteness, 1 mock politeness, 10 withhold
politeness, and 8 bald on record impoliteness strategies.
3.2.1.3 Olivia’s Utterances and Her Impoliteness Strategy

Datum C1

Context: Living with Mason Jr. and Samantha as a single parent made Olivia should be ready for their disturbance every time. In the early morning, Mom heard Mason Jr. screamed from kid’s room. Next, Mom came and asked what was going on.

Samantha : “You see my problem is this. I'm dreaming away. Wishing that heroes truly exist. I cry watching the day. Can't you see I'm a fool in so many ways...”

Mason : Quit! Mom!

Samantha : ”But to lose all my senses—that is...”

Mom : What the hell is going on in here?!

Mason Jr. was angry to her sister because Samantha sang in front of him. He screamed loudly and called Mom. Mom went to their room, but she was angry with them. Mason Jr. hoped his mother can assist him from Samantha. Mom did not. Here, Mom failed to do politeness that her son expected. According to impoliteness’s theory, Mom did withhold politeness. Mom can do the impoliteness to Samantha and Mason Jr. because she had more power. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her children.
Datum C2

Context: Bill cut Mason Jr.’s hair without permission. He felt so embarrassed to go to school with the hairstyle. When Mom went to kid’s room, Mason Jr. said to his mother that he was sick.

Mom : Mason, what's goin' on?

Mason : I don't feel good.

Mom : Yeah? Well your head feels fine. So get your ass out of bed. I'm gonna drive you to school, you got five minutes and don't make me late.

When Mason Jr. said that he was sick, Mom argued that his head felt fine. Mom did not want his boy make any nonsense reason. She forced Mason Jr. to school. Instead of making her boy calm down, Mom ordered him to get out of bed rudely. What she did is called attacking face. It is part of bald on record impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Samantha and Mason Jr. because she had more power. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her children.

Datum C3

Context: Mason Jr. was preparing things in his room. He was going to college to
continue his study. He did not want to bring his first picture that he ever took. On the other hand, Mom thought it would better if the boy brought it with him.

Mason : *Did you -- Did you put this in here again?*

Mom laughs.

Mason : *I don't want it.*

Mom : *Come on, it's the first picture you ever took.*

Mason : *Well, I mean, all the more reason to leave it behind, right?*

*Mason goes to put the picture back in his room, while Mom suddenly breaks into quiet sobs.*

Mason Jr. did not know why the picture in his box. Mom did that. She wanted the boy brought the picture because it can keep his memories about photography. When Mason Jr. argued, Mom broke into quiet sobs. She did not answer the boy question. By keeping silent to hearer when conversation takes place is the way to do withhold politeness. According to Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because she had more power. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her son.

**Datum C4**

**Context:** Mom wanted to move to an apartment because Samantha and Mason
Jr. were in Texas. One afternoon in a café, she told them to arrange and pick their stuff because the apartment was tiny.

Mom : Thank you. Okay guys, let's be clear. I'm going to break this into four categories. One. Anything you wanna keep from your childhood and your taking with you. Two. Throwing away. Three. Donating. Four. Whatever you wanna try to sell at the garage sell next weekend, whatever we don't sell, we're donating.

Mason : Doesn't the apartment have like an attic, or storage or something?

Mom : No. You're missing the point. We're not going to drag a bunch of crap to mom's tiny apartment.

Samantha : Can't believe we're moving again.

Mom just talked to them merely to inform -not to give them a choice- and she almost forced them to accept the decision. Thus, it can be stated the utterance damaged Mason Jr.’s face and Samantha’s face. By damaging face of the hearers, Mom used bald on record impoliteness in the conversation above. According to Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Samantha and Mason Jr. because she had more power. She also did the function of coercive impoliteness. This function can force hearer to do what speaker want. Here, Mom as speaker can force Samantha and Mason Jr. to pack their things from her house.
Datum C5

Context: Mom wanted moving because she was going to continue her study. The family prepared for that even though it was difficult to ensure Samantha about it. They cleaned the rent house and packed things. Next, they slowly exited the front door and Samantha said goodbye to everything including to the house yard and mailbox. It made Mom get mad.

Mom: Okay, let's go, 'cause I wanna get there before it gets dark.

Samantha: Goodbye yard, goodbye crepe myrtle, goodbye mailbox. Goodbye box of stuff Mommy won't let us take with us but we don't wanna throw away. Goodbye house, I'll never like mommy as much for making us move.

Mom: Samantha! Why don't you say goodbye to that little horse shit attitude? Okay? 'Cause we're not taking that in the car.

Here, Mom used taboo word ‘shit’ in response to Samantha’s utterance. According to Culpeper, the use of taboo word can make hearer feel uncomfortable. This way is involved in positive impoliteness. Participants who used that are considered as damaging positive face of hearer. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Samantha and Mason Jr. because she had more power including saying the taboo word. Thus, she did not need to use
function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her daughter.

Datum C6

Context: After a year and a half, Dad finally visited Mason Jr. and Samantha. He picked them up from Grandma Catherine’s house. She told Dad that Olivia wanted him to send back the children to Catherine’s house, but he did not. When Olivia met Mason Sr. in her house, she was so angry.

Dad  : Hey, Liv.

Mom  : Hey.

Dad  : I know you wanted me to drop them off at your mom's. I just thought it'd be easier if I brought 'em over here.

Mom  : Well, it really screwed up my plans.

In fact, Mason Sr. did not want to screw the plan up. He thought that it would be easier if he brought them over Olivia’s house. He tried to explain Olivia what happened, but she chose not to hear it. Next, they went outside and fought. What Olivia did that time is attacking Mason Sr.’s face. It is clear that he tried the good thing, but Olivia refused it by saying he screwed up the plan. This utterance is called bald on record impoliteness because she clearly attacked his face. According to Culpeper’s theory, she actually cannot do that because she had an
equal power with Dad. On the other, she can use function of affective impoliteness to attack Dad’s face. Attacking people face means opposing social norm, and the function can be used for it.

Datum C7

**Context:** When Mason Jr. finished his preparation for moving to college, he came back out from his room to another room. He wore backpack, and noticed Mom crying. She assumed that the boy was going to be very happy to be leaving, but Mason Jr. was not actually.

Mom : *Just go, and leave my picture!*

Stunned, Mason doesn't know what to say.

Mason : *Aren't you jumping ahead by like, forty years or something?*

Mom : *I just thought there would be more.*

They argued each other and the boy was so confused. Mom was so sad and Mason Jr. did not know what his mother expected. Then, Mom told him the journey of their life with tears. Finally, she yelled to him to go leave her picture. The boy did not know what the mistake he did. Here, Mom damaged Mason Jr.’s face. According to Culpeper, this is called bald on record impoliteness because Mom did it clearly. Mom can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because she had more
power. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her son because Mason Jr. had less power than hers.

Datum C8

Context: Early morning in the kid’s room, Samantha bothered her brother. She sang in front of Mason Jr., and it was very annoying. To make Samantha stop, he threw things at his sister.

Mom : Do you guys know what time it is?

Samantha : He’s throwing things at me...

Mom : Mason! Do not throw things at your sister!

Mason : She’s faking, she hit me first!!

Mom : Listen, both of you! I am going back to bed. I don’t wanna hear another peep out of here for an hour.

Mom found Samantha cried. She complained Mom that Mason Jr. has threw things at her. The boy denied it and tried to explain Mom what was going on actually. Mom did not want hear that. She just wanted the children keep silent and go to sleep. What Mom has done is one of the output strategies in withhold politeness. This strategy occurs if speaker fails to act where politeness work that is
expected by hearer. In that time, the children, especially Mason Jr., did not want to hear Mom screamed because Samantha played on him. Furthermore, the fact is that he tried to defend himself and Samantha started the noise first. Here, Mom was expected to ask them well or at least hearing Mason Jr.’s explanation. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Samantha and Mason Jr. because she had more power. Here, she used coercive impoliteness function too to make the children kept silent. The function is used by speaker to make her/ his hearer do something that the speaker wants.

Datum C9

Context: One day after leaving Bill’s house, Mom argued with Samantha in her car. Her daughter got mad because she did not have any preparation before they left. Then, Mom got mad.

Mom: Okay, Samantha. You go right through that door. The office is right there. They're expecting you, they're gonna give you your schedule. Here's your lunch money. I will pick you up right here at 3:30.

Samantha: I'm wearing dirty clothes! Because you wouldn't even let us get our stuff! We don't even have a place to live! This sucks!
Mom: Samantha... I'm doing the best I can! And you're right, it sucks! But it doesn't suck half as much as having a drunk fool slam your head against a wall! So cut your horseshit attitude.

She actually disappointed and got mad to Samantha. Mom thought that she gave the best, but the girl still complained and called it suck. These taboo words will make the hear feel uncomfortable, so Mom did positive impoliteness in this case. According to Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Samantha because Mom had more power. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her daughter including saying the taboo word because Samantha had less power than hers.

Datum C10

Context: Mom, Samantha, and Mason Jr. went to café to have a lunch. When they sit down at the table, Mom told them that she wanted to move out from their house. The reason of moving is she was alone when the children went to college.

Mom: Thank you. Okay guys, let's be clear. I'm going to break this into four categories. One. Anything you wanna keep from your childhood and your taking with you. Two. Throwing away. Three. Donating. Four. Whatever you wanna try to sell at the garage sell next weekend, whatever we don't sell, we're donating.
Mason: *Doesn't the apartment have like an attic, or storage or something?*

Mom: *No. You're missing the point. We're not going to drag a bunch of crap to mom's tiny apartment.*

Mom asked the children to take their things from the house. She broke it into four categories. Mason Jr. thought it would be hard to do Mom’s order. Then, he asked whether the apartment had storage or something to put his things. Mom said no and told Mason Jr. was missing the point clearly. What she said can damage her listener. According to impoliteness theory, this is called bald on record impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because Mom had more power. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her son because her son had less power than hers.

**Datum C11**

**Context:** Mom walked down the hallway to Samantha’s bedroom. She knocked on the door before walking inside. Mom wanted to ask her daughter why Samantha did not pick her brother from the school.

Samantha: *Mom, I know what you're gonna say. She was running late and we couldn't turn around.*
Mom :  

No, no! No excuses! The bottom line is you didn't do what you said you were gonna do. You stranded your brother!

Samantha : It's embarrassing to ask my friend to turn around and go get some kid at the middle school.

Samantha claimed that Gaby, her friend, ran late and could not turn around. She thought that it was embarrassing if she asked her friend to turn around and picked Mason Jr. up. Mom was angry and said that there was no excuse for that. She yelled to Samantha and stated that the girl stranded the brother. Mom attacked the girl’s face. She used impolite utterances in conversation intentionally. This attacking face is one of the output strategies in bald on record impoliteness. Mom can do the impoliteness to Samantha because Mom was powerful. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her daughter including saying impoliteness clearly because Samantha had less power than hers.

Datum C12

Context: After Samantha moved to college, Mason was going to do the same thing. Mom was really sad because it mean that she was alone in her house. She is crying in the kitchen table.

Mom : This is the worst day of my life.
Mason : What are you talking about?

Mom : I knew this day was coming. I just -- I didn't know you were gonna be so fuckin' happy to be leaving.

Mason : I mean, it's not that I'm that happy. What do you, what do you expect?

Mom : You know what I'm realizing? My life is just gonna go, like that! This series of milestones. Getting married, having kids, getting divorced, the time that we thought you were dyslexic, when I taught you how to ride a bike, getting divorced again, getting my master degree, finally getting the job I wanted, sending Samantha off to college, sending YOU off the college... You know what's next? Huh? It's my fuckin' funeral!

The taboo word ‘fucking’ was used by Mom to express her sadness. She actually could change it by another word, but she did not. By using the taboo word above, Mom did positive impoliteness to her listener. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Mom can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because Mom had more power. Thus, she did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her son including saying the taboo word because Mason Jr. had less power than hers.

In total, Mom did three impoliteness strategies with details; 3 withhold politeness, 7 positive impoliteness, and 9 bald on record impoliteness strategies.
3.2.1.4 Mason Sr.’s Utterances and His Impoliteness Strategy

Datum D1

Context: Mason Sr. did not communicate intensely with his children. Nevertheless, he always took his time visiting the children. Then, they were going to chat, play, watch television together, and do another activity they wanted to do included lunch together in a bowling alley café.

Dad: Wow. Is there gonna be alcohol there?

Samantha: Probably not. Maybe some of the seniors.

Dad: Mm-hmm. I know what this party is. The parents are out of town, right? Somebody's uh, scored a keg, right... You guys are gonna have a good time, trash the whole house... Right? Am I right?

Samantha: No

Dad was disappointed about Samantha’s choice when she preferred to choose going party rather than camping with her father. On the other hand, Dad tried to get her back and push her to the corner by saying that. He attacked her face even though she can decide by herself what she wanted to do actually. The attacking face that Dad did is kind of doing bald on record impoliteness strategy. According to Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Samantha because he had more power. Thus, he did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do
the impoliteness in conversation with his daughter including attacking face because Samantha had less power than him.

Datum D2

Context: Dad took Mason Jr. to Antone’s room. Mason Jr. told Dad that he has broken up. Then, Dad gave him some advice, but the boy not completely agreed about that.

Dad: I mean, everyone’s just changing so much. The odds of two young people staying on the same wavelength are...

Mason: Yeah, but still --

Dad: Look, and I also guarantee you that every day of your life that you spend crying over some silly girl is a complete waste of time.

Mason: She wasn't a silly girl, though. I mean, she's a serious person. I really thought we were --

Dad said it intentionally. It made Mason Jr. get a little shock when hearing that. The boy has broken up with his girlfriend, Sheena. Thus, it is clearly damaging the boy’s face. So, bald on record can be used at least in two ways, either damaging face or attacking face. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the
impoliteness to Mason Jr. because Dad had more power. Thus, he did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with his son including damaging face because Mason Jr. had less power than him.

Datum D3

Context: Mom organized simple party in her house for Mason Jr. graduation. There were many persons included Dad, Uncle Steve, and Annie. Mom was in the kitchen when Dad went to there.

Dad : *You did a great job with both of them, by the way.*

Mom : *Thanks for saying that. (pause) I never thought I'd hear you say that.*

Dad : *Well, it's true. Thank you.*

Mom : *And you're doing it all over again, huh?*

Dad : *I know, I know, right? It's gonna be uh, fifteen years till I have an empty nest. But hey, I'd love to pitch in, help with this, if I could. I mean, it's so great that you did this. I was just going to give you a little. I'd appreciate it if I could.*

Dad was so happy and claimed that Mom did a great job with both of Samantha and Mason Jr. She never thought it would be heard from Dad. Mom was so
pleased when Dad said “thank you” to her. On the hand, Dad thought Mom want him to pay back all the cost of the children’s school. It was not true. Dad broke Mom feeling. Mason Sr. damaged Mom’s face. It is called bald on record impoliteness. According to Culpeper’s theory, Dad cannot do the impoliteness to Mom because Dad an equal power with Olivia. Thus, Dad needed to use function of coercive impoliteness to do it. This function can increase Dad value or face and decrease Mom’s face.

Datum D4

Context: One day Mason Jr., Samantha, and Dad went to Annie parent’s house. Dad picked them up by driving mini-van. Mason Jr. got a shock when he saw the van. He asked Dad where the GTO, first Dad’s car, was. Dad answered it easily that he sold it to a buyer. Mason was so disappointed.

Dad: What are you..? Alright, first off, I have no memory of that, alright? Second of all, I would never say that. Never.

Mason: Yeah. You did though.


(laughs) Are you...? Oh, come on! I mean, you’re
not... Ughh. Look, you can sit there like there’s a death in the family, alright, but bottom line is that was my car. Alright? I paid for it, I took care of it, and I can do whatever I want with it. Alright? I’m sorry if you had other ideas about it but when you get older you can save up and buy a car of your own. And be cool like I used to be. Or... you can get a mini-van.

Mason Jr. thought that his father would give the GTO for him when he turned 16 years old. He was sure that Dad said that thing. On the other hand, Dad denied it because he did not remember it even a little bit. Next, Dad seemed to blame the boy. He thought that if he really said that thing, how about Samantha, his own sister. Furthermore, according to Dad, it was not fair if he gave the GTO to Mason Jr. while he did not give Samantha anything. Therefore, the utterance is one way to ridicule someone. The way Dad ridiculed Mason Jr. is one of the output strategies in negative impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because he had more power. Thus, Dad did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with his son including ridiculing Mason Jr.’s face because his son had less power than he had

Datum D5

Context: Dad and Samantha played bowling in bowling alley. Samantha made
strikes, but not her little brother, Mason Jr. The brother tried to play well, but it did not work. He made gutter balls several times. Next, he persuaded Dad to give him bumpers.

Dad : *Don't worry about it.*

Mason : *Wish we could use the bumpers.*

Dad : *Bumpers are for kids. You know, what’re you, two years old? You don't want the bumpers. Life doesn't give you bumpers.*

Dad’s utterance made his boy face down. He did not want to give up. Mason Jr. tried again to persuade his father, but it still did not work. This can be categorized as negative impoliteness because Dad condescend Mason Jr. as his hearer by saying the one who needs bumpers is a kid. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because he had more power than the boy. Here, Dad also used coercive impoliteness function. This function is used to make an insult from speaker to hearer.

**Datum D6**

**Context:** Dad picked Samantha and Mason Jr. up to play together. In his car, Dad made conversation with them and asked about their daily activities.

Dad : *Here, let me get this bag here. You doin' okay, darlin’?*
Samantha: Yeah.

Dad: Yeah? Ah. What about you, cowboy?

In the dialogue above, Dad called Mason Jr. by nickname “cowboy”. He used the other name that time for calling Mason’s name. The way Dad did that is kind of positive impoliteness strategy as Culpeper claimed. According to Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because he had more power. Thus, Dad did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with his son including calling Mason Jr. with other name because his son had less power than had he.

Datum D7

Context: One evening Dad took Mason Jr. and Samantha to restaurant. He offered the children to go for camping. Mason Jr. appreciated it, but Samantha preferred to go party with her friends.

Tammy: Yeah. What are you guys up to?

Dad sits back down at the table.

Dad: Um, we’re going camping. Well no, this one is not going camping. This one is going to a party.

Tammy: (to Samantha) Ohh... Fun.
He talked to Tammy, Dad’s girlfriend in the past, although the truth is he wanted to ask Samantha to join the camping family. He told Tammy like Samantha was not there. The way Dad quipped on her girl and as if he did not see Samantha included doing positive impoliteness strategy. The way Dad did this strategy is by excluding other participants from the conversation activity. According to Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Samantha because he had more power. Thus, Dad did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with his daughter including excluding Samantha from the conversation above because his daughter had less power than him.

Datum D8

Context: Dad wanted Samantha and Mason Jr. to go to camping with him. Instead of camping, Samantha chose to go to party with her friends. Dad looked so disappointed. Then, in a café, Dad asked about anything of the party.

Dad : Has she talked to you about... contraception?

Samantha : Oh, Dad. Please!

Dad : What? What?

Samantha : That's enough.

Dad was curious that Samantha’s friend talked about contraception. Although Dad knew that she wanted to stop talking about it, he continued. Samantha was visibly
uncomfortable with the conversation. What Dad said to her can attack her face. Clearly Dad did bald on record impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because he had more power. Thus, Dad did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with her son including attacking Samantha’s face because his son had less power than him.

Datum D9

Context: Mason Jr. and Dad went to camping. They took off their pants and walked to the water in boxer shorts. Before swimming, they had a chat first.

Mason: *I thought you were a musician?*

Dad: *I am but... life is expensive, you know. Guy’s got to be responsible. What do you think?*

Mason pushes his Dad into the water, then dives in himself.

Dad: *Hey, hey, you bast -- Oh you, punk kid! You got no respect!*

Dad gave notice to his son that this life was expensive and every guy had to hold the responsibility. Moreover, Dad asked Mason Jr.’s opinion. Instead of answering, the boy chose to push Dad into the water. Mason Sr. got little surprise. He used taboo word to warn the boy. By using the taboo word above, Dad did
positive impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because he had more power. Thus, Dad did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with his son including saying taboo word to Mason Jr.’s face because his son had less power than him.

Datum D10

Context: Dad, Samantha, and Mason Jr. went to Dad’s living room after they watched baseball game. There was Jimmy, Dad’s roommate, watched television.

Dad : Did you watch the game?

Jimmy : No.

Dad : Lane won it with a three-run homer. It was beautiful, wasn't it?

Samantha shrugs.

Dad : Sam lost her mind! She’s a huge Astros fan.

Samantha: Sure.

Dad asked Jimmy whether he watched the game or not. When Jimmy answered “no”, Dad asked Samantha to make certain that Lane’s playing was so good. Because his daughter just shrugged, he stated Samantha lost the mind. Actually, she did not. The way Dad ridiculed Samantha called negative impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because he had
more power. Here, Dad also used function of entertaining impoliteness to make Samantha as a potential victim to be laughed by Mason Jr. and Jimmy. The others can laugh at Samantha because of Dad’s joke.

Datum D11

Context: Dad did not want Samantha go to party. There would be many boys in the party. Dad was afraid if his daughter had sex there. Samantha’s age was not enough to do that. He did not want his experience and Mom – having baby when they were young- happened to Samantha. Next, Dad asked about many things when he and his children –Samantha and Mason Jr. - ate lunch in a bowling alley café.

Dad : Has your mother talked to you guys about this stuff?

Samantha : Oh, Dad. Dad.

Dad : No, come on.

The kids are visibly uncomfortable with the conversation.

Dad : Huh? What has she -- condoms? Has she talked about that?

Dad asked Samantha whether Mom ever talked about pregnancy or something about having sex. Although the daughter is visibly uncomfortable with the topic, Dad still continued his talking. What Dad did here is attacking Samantha’s face.
It’s the part of bald on record impoliteness. This impoliteness happened because Dad had more power. Thus, Dad did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with his daughter including attacking Samantha’s face because his daughter had less power than him.

**Datum D12**

**Context:** One day Mason Sr. picked his children up, and they made a long conversation in Dad’s car. Although it went well, he felt little confused. He thought there was a thing behind the way of Mason Jr. and Samantha talking. They were weird and not like them in usual weekend.

**Dad** : *What's it of?*

**Samantha** : *Nothing. Dad pulls the car over and parks.*

**Dad** : *Alright, no-no-no-no-no. Nope, that is not how we're going to talk to one another. Alright? Now, I will not be that guy. You cannot put me in that category, alright? The biological father who I spend every other week with and I make polite conversation, you know, while he drives me places and buys me shit. No! Talk to me.*
The word ‘shit’ there can be categorized as taboo word. When speakers use taboo word to hearers in conversation, they did impoliteness automatically. Here, Dad did that, and the taboo word is used when people did positive impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Samantha because she had less power than her father. Here, Dad also used function of coercive impoliteness to force his listener, Samantha, to obey his want. He wanted Samantha tell the truth.

Datum D13

Context: In Mason’s birthday, Dad gave him a CD from The Beatle. Next, they had a chat about it, and Dad shared his opinion to Mason Jr. in Dad’s new mini-van. It looked like Dad really loves The Beatle.

Dad: You know, whenever you listen to too much of the solo stuff, it kind of becomes a drag, you know? But you put ’em next to each other, alright, and they start to elevate each other... and then you can hear it. Huh! It's The Beatles. You know?

Mason: I don't know. I think I always just liked Paul the best.

Dad: It doesn't matter, you know, you're missing the point. There is no favorite Beatle! That’s what I'm saying. It's in the balance. That's what made
them the greatest fucking rock band in the world.

Okay? You know, and there's this decade of music out there that's been scattered. Alright?

The taboo word ‘fucking’ was used by Dad to appreciate The Beatle album. He actually could change it by another word if he want, like ‘cooling’, ‘amazing’, etc, but he still used that in the conversation. By using the taboo word above, Dad did positive impoliteness. Based on Culpeper’s theory, Dad can do the impoliteness to Mason Jr. because he had more power. Thus, Dad did not need to use function of impoliteness strategies to do the impoliteness in conversation with his son including saying taboo word to Mason Jr. because his son had less power than him.

In total, Dad did three impoliteness strategies with details; 14 bald on record impoliteness, 3 negative impoliteness, and 10 positive impoliteness strategies.

According to Culpeper, the more power people have, the more impolite they tend to be. Thus, there is close relationship between power and impoliteness. In the data analysis, among of strategies chosen by the characters of Boyhood, they were influenced by power. Here, Mason Jr. and Samantha had less power while Mason Sr. and Olivia had more power. It is because both Mason Jr. and his sister are children and the other ones are their parent. According to the theory, the conversation between children and parents in the analysis above by considering the power differences level should be as follows:
1. The parents as more powerful speakers, Mason Sr. and Olivia, are allowed to be impolite, while Mason Jr. and Samantha, the children, are expected to be polite.

2. The powerful speakers can use bald on record in the conversation, and the others should use indirect utterances more and less negative impoliteness features than Mason Sr. and Olivia.

3. The powerful speakers, the parents, can be free for being impolite or use the impoliteness strategy, including not answering the less powerful speakers’ questions, because the parent has more power than their children - Mason Jr. and Samantha.

On the other hand, after the expectations above compared to the real strategies used by four participants - Mason Jr., Samantha, Mason Sr., and Olivia -, the results are very different as follows:

1. The children, Mason Jr. and Samantha, performed impoliteness more than the parent, Mason Sr. and Olivia.

2. Positive impoliteness is the most chosen strategy by the children than negative impoliteness. The parents use positive impoliteness and bald on record more than the other strategies.

3. Both of the more powerful and less powerful participants use impoliteness strategies in their conversations.
In this movie, the impoliteness strategies chosen by the characters are not solely influenced by the power differences. The children use the impoliteness strategy more than the parent. On the other hand, the parent never keeps silent or does withhold politeness to the children in every conversation. Thus, we can say that the chosen strategy they used is not only caused by the power difference. Because if the power is the only factor, the conversation would happen as the theory expected: Olivia and Mason Sr. would use impoliteness strategy while Mason Jr. and Samantha would use politeness strategy when they communicate. Hence, the data shows that power is not a determinant in deciding the strategy. According to Culpeper, impoliteness has three functions. Using this perspective will make the analysis on “why children use impoliteness more often than their parents and on why parents are polite” easier to understand.

The first is coercive – to show who is more powerful and who is less empowered. It can be concluded that the first function is about power. Power used by Mason Sr. and Olivia to do impoliteness in conversations with the children is part of coercive function.

For instance, coercive function can be shown in this dialogue.

Dad : Wow. Is there gonna be alcohol there?

Samantha : Probably not. Maybe some of the seniors.
Dad: *Mm-hmm. I know what this party is. The parents are out of town, right? Somebody's uh, scored a keg, right... You guys are gonna have a good time, trash the whole house... Right? Am I right?*

Samantha: *No*

Dad was disappointed about Samantha’s choice when she preferred to attend party rather than to camp with her father. On the other hand, Dad tried to get her back and push her to the corner by saying that. He attacked her face even though she can decide by herself what she wanted to do. The attacking face that Dad did is a kind of doing bald on record impoliteness strategy. From the conversation there, Dad used coercive function. He did impoliteness because he had power more than had Samantha.

The second is affective function. This is one of other functions in impoliteness strategy although the strategy has common function like opposing specific identities, interpersonal relationships, and social norms. This function invokes unrestrained emotion display in contexts where it is forbidden and not normal such as laughing during a funeral.

For instance, affective function can be shown in this dialogue.

Mason: *Were we baptized?*

Dad: *I wasn't the least bit concerned with the state of your soul. We can do it now, though, if you want.*
Mason: No, nah, I think I'm alright.

Dad: You and Cooper together, you know. Dunk your heads.

Samantha: You're not becoming one of those God people, are you, Dad?

Dad: And what's that supposed to mean, hm?

Dad told Samantha and Mason to come back there on the 20th for Cooper, their new little brother, if they did not mind. Annie, Dad’s new wife, and her folks really treasured the ritual and Dad would appreciate it if they can come. On the other hand, Dad was little bit shocked when he heard his girl say that. What Samantha said in the conversation above is actually opposing religious norms because in Annie family’s belief, baptizing is an obligation to do for a new born baby, but she laughed when she heard that. Thus, the way Samantha did impoliteness to her father is by using affective function.

The last is entertaining function. This function involves entertainment at a potential target who called a potential victim. The victim is often unaware of the impoliteness that is done by another participant, but the participant who is entertained is aware of the target even the target has real identity. Not only the target, but also the others are able to understand the likely impoliteness effects for the target. Then, because of it, this would be entertaining impoliteness. Culpeper asserted that “the fact that people can be entertained by symbolic violations to identities and social rights, the stuff of impoliteness”.

This function is shown in the following:

Dad : *Uh-huh. Wait, you scoring any points?*

Samantha : *Well, about eight or ten a game.*

Dad : *Eight or ten a game? That is awesome!*

Samantha : *Yeah!*

Mason Jr. : *Once she didn't score any and she cried!*

Dad : *You cried?*

Samantha : *Well, only a little bit.*

Dad : *Awww.*

Dad and the boy were together in Mason Jr.’s bedroom. The boy showed his
collective collection of arrowheads and a long feather to Dad. Then, Samantha entered and
told Dad about her friends including her basketball team, but Mason Jr. ridiculed
his sister by saying that. The ridiculing utterance he said to Samantha made her as
a potential victim and a joke. The impoliteness strategy, precisely negative
impoliteness, that used by Mason Jr. to his sister can entertain the others by
laughing at her. This can be a symbolic violation for Samantha. Thus, although
Mason Jr. has power less than has Samantha as his old sister, he still can do the
impoliteness because of the entertaining function.
All of this clearly tells that impoliteness is affected by not only power or coercive function, but also by the intention of the speakers: to show affection or to entertain that called **function of impoliteness strategies**.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1 Conclusions

One of the leading and widely studied theories of impoliteness is impoliteness strategy’s theory coined by Jonathan Culpeper. This theory was inspired by Penelope Brown and Stephen Levinson’s theory in politeness strategy. Both of speaker and hearer can do their impoliteness strategies by using; bald-on-record, positive, negative, withhold politeness, and mock politeness which is asserted by Culpeper.

This research analyses the Boyhood script that embodied in conversation by Mason Jr., Samantha, Olivia, and Mason Sr. by using the impoliteness theory by Jonathan Culpeper. In analysing this script movie, the research at first sorted which utterances contained output strategies of impoliteness. Then, they are matched between the output strategies and the kind of impoliteness shown. Furthermore, this research also analysed the relation between power and the chosen strategy that used by the characters. Here, the result is compared with the function impoliteness strategy itself.

The children, Mason Jr. and Samantha, performed impoliteness more than the parents, Mason Sr. and Olivia. Positive impoliteness is the strategy chosen more often by the children rather than negative impoliteness. On the other hand, the parent use positive impoliteness and bald on record more than the other
strategies. Impoliteness from the person who has less power is incompatible with the notions given by Culpeper theory. On the other hand, the more powerful speaker, Mason Jr. and Olivia, use impoliteness strategy less than their children is also an incompatibility with the notion given. As the more powerful participant, they tend to be impolite.

The level differences of power influenced the chosen strategy from the character, but it was not the only thing contained in the movie. In some occasions, Mason Sr. and Olivia tried to reach their goals in a straight way because they have power more than the children. And the children also tried to be polite in order to get their aims as the less power participants. Here, the other important aspect is found to be considered. It was function of impoliteness strategy itself. According to Culpeper, there are three function of impoliteness strategy; affective, coercive, and entertaining. Those are also used by the characters in this movie for doing impoliteness strategies. Thus, not only the power differences influenced in applying impoliteness, but also the function itself.

4.2 Suggestions

The writer suggest to students who are interested in impoliteness strategy research to use wider and different object of research. It will be better if the students can conduct impoliteness strategy research in daily communication where conversation occurs naturally. Movie scripts where the conversations among characters are designed beforehand indeed give us insight on how
communication in such settings occur. It proves that sometimes theory and practice does not match.

However, naturally occurring data -although it is hard to get, and many theoretical linguists don’t use them- can complete the conclusion of this research. It is intriguing to see how such data can enrich the conclusions of this research in the future. This is because the combination of naturally occurring data with movie scripts will give us some complete results in linguistic study like this.

Another suggestion is to use conversation of people from different cultures as an object of research. It is surely an interesting idea as there is controversy among linguists on whether politeness and impoliteness concepts are universal or local. Whatever the object of research on impoliteness is, the research should be beneficial to readers in general. Hopefully, this research can serve this objective.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


EXT. OUTSIDE SCHOOL - DAY

Mason waits outside his elementary school, laying in the grass staring up at the clouds. In the distance, the school door opens and Mason's Mom, Olivia, walks toward him.

Mom : Hey, love bug. You ready?
He is quickly on his feet and they are walking toward the car.

Mason : Yeah. Hey, guess what, Mom?
Mom : What?
Mason : I figured out where wasps come from.
Mom : Oh, yeah? Where?
Mason : Well, I think it must be if you flick a rock into the air just right, it'll turn into a wasp.
Mom : Dang...
Mason : Yep.
Mom : That's cool.

INT. CAR - DAY Driving...

Mom : So how was your day at school?
Mason : Fine.
Mom : Hey, I had a good meeting with Miss Butler this time. I kinda liked her.
Mason : What did she say?
Mom : Well... she said that you weren't turning in your homework assignments. And I told her, "I know he does them, 'cause I check them every night." She said she found a big chunk of them crumpled up at the bottom of your backpack.
Mason : She didn't ask for 'em.
Mom : Well, baby, she doesn't have to. You're supposed to turn them in. And she said you're still staring out the window all day.
Mason : Not all day.
Mom : And she said that you destroyed her pencil sharpener.
Mason : Not on purpose.
Mom: Wait, she said that you crammed a bunch of rocks in it.
Mason: I thought if it could sharpen pencils, maybe we could sharpen rocks.
Mom: (stifling laugh) Well, what were you gonna do with a bunch of sharpened rocks?
Mason: I was trying to make arrowheads for my rock collection.
Mom: Hm.
She glances back at him, with an understanding sigh.

EXT. DITCH - DAY
Mason runs up, as Tommy is spray-painting a drawing on the concrete wall of the drainage ditch.

Mason: Dude, when's my turn?
Tommy: I don't know.
Tommy hands Mason the can of spray paint. Mason begins to spray-paint a letter on the wall.

Samantha: ...Maaason.
Tommy: Samantha!
Samantha: Oh! Tommy! Is Mason down there?
Tommy: Yeah.
Samantha: Well, tell him he has to come home for dinner.
Tommy: Okay.

INT. KID'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING
Mason is comfortably asleep. Samantha slowly pulls the bow out from underneath his head and smacks him with it.

Samantha: (singing) "Oops, I did it again... I played with your heart. Got lost in the game. Oh baby, baby..."

Mason throws a stuffed animal at her that she deflects.

Samantha: "Oops, you think I'm in love. I'm sent from above. I'm not that innocent."

Another stuffed animal. She continues to sing.

Mason: Stop! Quit it!
Samantha: "You see my problem is this. I'm dreaming away. Wishing that heroes truly exist. I cry watching the day. Can't you see I'm a fool in so many ways..."

Mason: Quit! Mom!
Samantha: "But to lose all my senses-- that is..." He tries to drown out this last bit with a sustained scream. Soon the door flies open and Mom enters, angry.
Mom : *What the hell is going on in here*?!

Samantha has instantaneously shifted from singing to crying.

Mom : Do you guys know what time it is?
Samantha : (through tears/sobs) *He’s throwing things at me*...
Mom : Mason! Do not throw things at your sister!
Mason : *She’s faking, she hit me first*!!
Mom : Listen, both of you! I am going back to bed. I don’t wanna hear another peep out of here for an hour. Go to sleep.

Mom slams the door behind her. Samantha is suddenly fine, almost cheerful.

Mason : (to Samantha) *Faker*!
Mom : Hey!

**INT. KITCHEN - DAY**

Mom, Samantha, and Mason eat lunch.

Mom : So listen, guys, I wanna talk to you about something, and you might not like this idea at first but... we’re moving to Houston.
Mason : When?
Mom : Well, soon. We should be out by the first, so we don’t have to pay two rents next month.
Samantha : No, Mother, we’re not moving. Nope, nope, sorry Mom. Nope. Nope.

Smack, smack, smack...
Smack.

Mom : Samantha, I have to go back to college so I can make us a better living. With this job I can’t take care of us the way I’d like to. I can’t keep going this way. And Grandma said she’d help us out... and it would be nice to be near her.
Samantha : Fine, Mother. You can do whatever you want but (shrugs) We’re not moving. (Smacks)

Mason moves his fork around in his bowl.

Mason : What about our friends?
Mom : Oh, baby, we can e-mail them or write. We can come back to visit. And guess what?
She reaches out to touch Samantha’s arm.

Mom : This place that Grandma found us, you’ll each have your own room. Right?
Samantha shrugs.

Mom : And there’s a pool.
Samantha shrugs again, clearly not sold on the idea.

EXT. OUTSIDE FRONT DOOR - DAY
Carrying their final belongings from inside the house, they slowly exit the front door and head over to the car.

Mason: Okay, let's go, 'cause I wanna get there before it gets dark.
Samantha: Goodbye yard, goodbye crepe myrtle, goodbye mailbox. Goodbye box of stuff Mommy won't let us take with us but we don't wanna throw away. Goodbye house, I'll never like mommy as much for making us move.
Mason: Samantha! Why don't you say goodbye Okay? 'Cause we're not taking that in the car.

Just before he gets in the car, Mason is looking out at the neighborhood.

Mason: Goodbye old lady who listens to rock music and rides a motorcycle.

Soon the car is pulling away. As they drive off, Mason notices out his side of the car, Tommy approaching on a bike in the distance, gesturing toward the car. Mason watches him out the window, but says nothing as Tommy recedes into the distance.

INT. CAR - DAY
Mason and Samantha are restless and energetic, letting their childish energy get the best of them as they wrestle, hit, and squeal at each other in the back seat of the car. It is all well-intentioned though, as the two share a laugh after Mom tells them to quiet down.

Samantha: Eeeeee! Don't!
Mom: Hey! Hey, what's happening back there? Stop, put the barrier up.
Samantha: Ahh! Stop! No!

Mason punches the pillow barrier between himself and Samantha, while his Mom speaks.

Mason: Hey, put the pillow between you. Make a barrier, come on. Stop. We're gonna play a game called The Game of Silence. Whoever can stay quiet for the longest period of time wins. You guys think you can do that? Okay, go!

The family's car moves on toward the Houston skyline just as dusk arrives.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY
Samantha places pancakes on their plates while talking to Mason in a cryptic language, reminiscent of pig latin.

Samantha: I affatay servay yoohay.
Mason: Speak English! Shut up. Mom! She's speaking that stupid language again!
Mason: Samantha!
Samantha: I was speaking perfectly clear English, Mother. You know, he's a little slow in the head. He did officially flunk first grade.
Mom: Sit your butt down.
Samantha: Yes sir, Mother sir!
She salutes.

Mom: All right, listen up guys. Grandma's gonna pick you up after school. Your dad is in town for the day so you're gonna spend the afternoon with him.
Samantha: Hmm.
Mason: Is he moving back?
Mom: I don't know.
Samantha: We haven't seen him in about eighty years.

Mom: Like... a year and a half.
Mason: (points to Samantha) Ha-ha.
Samantha: Oh please...
Mom: Can we please eat, here? The bus is coming. Who wants syrup?

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - LATER
Samantha is bowling, her pink ball hurling down the lane toward the pins.

Dad: Strike! Nice... Nice... Nice...
Samantha: Yay!
Dad: Yeah! Alright!
Dad is clearly impressed and excited for Samantha, as he stands to embrace her.

Dad: Come here, come here, yes! That was awesome! Get up there Mason, get up there!
Samantha: Daddy!
Dad: (to Samantha) It was so good! (to Mason) Come on. Let 'em know who you are, buddy. Let 'em know who you are.
Dad kisses Samantha. Mason throws his bowling ball.

Dad: Yes! Yes! Yes! Alright, alright...
Gutter ball.

Dad: Don't worry about it.
Mason: Wish we could use the bumpers.
Dad: Bumpers are for kids. You know, what're you, two years old? You don't want the bumpers. Life doesn't give you bumpers.

Mason tosses the ball again.
Dad : There we, there we go, there we go! We got something there! We got something! We got something! Ooooh!

Another gutter ball.

Mason : Last time I went bowling we had bumpers and it was a lot more fun!

Dad gets up to bowl.

Dad : You don't want the bumpers, alright? You bowl a strike with the bumpers and it doesn't mean anything. Trust me. Just lay it out on the lane. One, two, three and...

Samantha mimes smoking, points to Dad, as if to say that he smells of cigarettes. It's Dad's turn to bowl.

Dad : Ka-blam! Let's hear it for the father! Whoo! (To Samantha) Get up there, get in there...

Samantha : Yay! Great job!

Dad : Get out there, girl, get out there!

Score-keeping screen flashes an animated alligator that reads: STRIKE

INT. BOWLING ALLEY CAFE - EVENING

The family sits around a table enjoying their snacks, while Dad smokes a cigarette.

Dad : Alright, let me tell you what's happening in Iraq, alright? Exactly what every thinking person in the world knew was gonna happen before they got started. Bush and his little numb-nut fanatics he's got around him, they don't give a rat's ass.

Samantha : That's a quarter.

Dad : What's a quarter?

Samantha : You said a-s-s-s.

Dad : Oh, sorry. My bad.

Samantha : And my teacher says it's a good war, because it's better to be safe than sorry.

Dad : That's what they're teaching you in school? Alright, listen to me. Listen to your father, okay? That is the lie. That's the big lie. Iraq had nothing to do with what happened at the World Trade Center. You know that, right?

Samantha : I guess.

INT. MASON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Mason shows Dad his collection of arrowheads and a long feather, all laid out on top of a skateboard. Mason describes each of the pieces to his Dad.

Mason : I got that one at Dripping Springs...
Dad: *Mmhmm.*
Mason: And um, my friend Rodney gave me that one.
Dad: Yeah?
Mason: And I bought that one.

Dad: You bought this one?
Mason: Yeah.
Dad: You found this at Dripping Springs?
Mason: Uh-huh!
Dad: Wow! What else do you got?
Mason: Well, um, these are snake vertebrae.
Dad: Snake vertebrae? That's disgusting. Huh? Mason, I don't want you collecting snake vertebrae anymore. They both share a laugh.

Mason: Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah, it is.
Samantha enters the room carrying photos and a stuffed animal. She sits down next to Dad, interrupting Mason.

Samantha: Oh, Dad! Um, I forgot to show you these, um, these basketball pictures.
Dad: You're on a basketball team?
Samantha: Yeah!
Dad: Wow! Check you out!
Mason: Yeah, and these are-- these are beaver claws.
Dad: Beaver claws?
Samantha: I know. That's me.
Dad: What, you hunting beaver, huh?
Mason: No. (laughs)
Samantha: You see, that's McKinney, that's Meg, and that Gem. They're all my friends --
Mason: ...And this is dried Canadian grass...
Dad: Uh-huh. What position do you play?
Samantha: Um, guard.
Mason: This is dried Canadian grass... And, and uh...
Dad: Uh-huh. Wait, you scoring any points?
Samantha: Well, about eight or ten a game.
Dad: Eight or ten a game? That is awesome!
Samantha: Yeah!
Mason: Once she didn’t score any and she cried!
Dad: You cried?
Samantha: Well, only a little bit.
Dad: Awww.

Dad kisses Samantha's forehead.

INT. FRONT ENTRY - MOMENTS LATER
Mom : Hello!
Samantha : Oh, Mason, Mom's home!
Mason : Mom's home!
Dad quickly shifts from playful to nervous.

Dad : Hey, Mom's home.
Samantha : Mom, hi!
Mom : Hey.
Dad : Hey, Liv.
Mom : Hey.
Dad : I know you wanted me to drop them off at your mom's. I just thought it'd be easier if I brought 'em over here.
Mom : Well, it really screwed up my plans.
Mason : Well, we just wanted to show him our rooms.
Samantha : Yeah.
Mom : Did you guys eat anything?
Samantha : Well, we had some french fries at the bowling alley.
Mom : Did you do your homework or...
Mason : No.
Samantha : Not yet.
Mom : Okay. Can I talk to you outside for a second?
Dad : Yeah, Sure. (as he exits) They had more than french fries.
The children scramble to find a suitable spot for eavesdropping but their parents are inaudible.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER
Mom is doing work at the kitchen table, as Samantha and Mason kiss her goodbye.

Mason : Bye, Mom.
Mom : (to Mason) Bye, baby. I love you.
Samantha : Bye, Mama.
Mom : (to Samantha) Bye, honey. Have fun with your dad.
Bill : Just a minute, Mason. (to Mom) The boys didn't finish raking the leaves. Samantha did not finish dusting. So tomorrow, when they come home, instead of swimming and all the other little stuff that they want to do, they're gonna do their chores. Right?
Mom : Right! Okay, guys, you had this conversation, you understand?
The boys nod.

Mom : Tomorrow?
The girls nod.

Mom : Okay.
Bill : Thank you. I just wanted you to back me up on that so I'm not the only one yelling at them all the time.
Mom : Okay, I back you up. You guys got that?
Mason nods.

Mom : We all agree, everybody agrees, right? Tomorrow, chores?
Samantha nods.

Bill : Well, they don't hear it, you know. It goes in one ear and out the other.
Samantha : But Dad, I mean, dusting is pointless.
Bill : It's not pointless, you just don't like to do it.
Samantha : But I mean, who dusts anymore?
Bill : You do when we ask you to! And don't -- Olivia, don't let her back-talk me in front of the other kids, please. Thank you.
Mom : Samantha, please...
Samantha : Whatever!
Samantha turns to walk away from the conversation.

Bill : Bye-bye, have a wonderful weekend.
The other kids follow Samantha as she exits. Bill sits down at the table with Mom.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY
Dad is parked in the drive way. He gets out of the car to greet the kids.

Dad : Hey, Randy! Hey!

Dad : Hey, you two. How you doin'? Oh.
Mason : Shotgun.
Dad : Here, let me get this bag here. You doin' okay, darlin'?
Samantha : Yeah.
Dad : Yeah? Ah. What about you, cowboy?
Mason : Pretty good.
Dad throws the kids' bags in the trunk.

Dad : Yeah? Alright. Let's roll!
EXT. CITY STREET - DAY
They drive down the street in Dad's car.

Dad : You guys ready for the big game?
Samantha : Yeah.
Dad : Sam, who are the Astros playing tonight?
Samantha : I don't know.
Dad : Milwaukee Brewers. Alright, get to know 'em, get to hate 'em.
Mase! How you been, huh? How was your week?
Mason : Pretty good.
Dad : Yeah? What you been up to?
Mason : Not much.
Dad : No? You still hangin' with that kid Joe?
Mason : Yeah.
Dad : Yeah, he's still your best friend?
Mason : Yeah, I guess.
Dad : Okay. (To Samantha) How 'bout you? How was your week?
Samantha : Fine.
Dad : What you been up to?
Samantha : Nothin' really.
Dad : You um, you still working on that sculpture project?
Samantha : Yeah.
Dad : Yeah?
Samantha : Almost finished.
Dad : What's it of?
Samantha : Nothing.

Dad pulls the car over and parks.

Dad : Alright, no-no-no-no-no. Nope, that is not how we're going to talk to one another. Alright? Now, I will not be that guy. You cannot put me in that category, alright? The biological father who I spend every other week with and I make polite conversation, you know, while he drives me places and buys me shit. No! Talk to me.

He turns to Samantha in the passenger seat.

Dad : Samantha, how was your week? Uh, I don't know Dad, it was kind of tough. Billy and Ellen broke up, and Ellen's kind of mad at me because she saw me talking to Billy in the cafeteria. And you remember that sculpture I was working on? Well, it was a unicorn and the horn broke off. So, now it's zebra. Okay? But I still think I'm going to get an 'A'. Alright?

Dad turns around to address Mason in the back seat.

Dad : Mason, uh, how was your week? Well Dad, you know it was kind of tough. Joe, he's kind of a jerk, actually. He stole some
cigarettes from his mom and he wanted me to smoke 'em. But I said no, cause I knew what a hard time you had quittin' smokin'. Dad. How 'bout that? Is that so hard?

Samantha: Dad, these questions are kind of hard to answer.

Dad: What is so hard to answer about what sculpture are you making?

Samantha: It's abstract.

Dad: Okay. Okay, that's good. See, that's, I didn't know that. I didn't know you were even interested in abstract art.

Samantha: I'm not. They make us do it.

Mason: But Dad, I mean why is it all on us though? You know, what about you? How was your week? You know, who do you hang out with? Do you have a girlfriend? What have you been up to?

Dad: I see your point.

Mason smiles.

EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER

Dad, Samantha, and Mason crouch down into starting line positions.

Dad: Down! Set! Hut! Ahhhh!

Dad releases the ball down the hill and the three of them chase after it.

Dad: No no no no no!

The ball kicks up and into Samantha's hands. They are now chasing after her.

Samantha: Yes!

Dad: Don't let her get -- No no no no no!

INT. BASEBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

Dad, Samantha, and Mason watch a live baseball game.

Dad: Let's go, Roger!

The crowd reacts to the game.

Dad: Guy's incredible. He's unhittable this year! Now just so you know, what we're watching here, is history. Now you see this guy out here? This dude is like forty-three years old and he's strikin' out guys half his age. This guy's ERA is 1.47, alright, can you believe that? Now if the Astros could just get a few runs maybe we'd win a game.

Mason: Dad, do you have a job?

Dad: Ha! Why would you ask me that?

Mason: I don't know. Mom wanted to know and I didn't know what the answer was.

Dad: Mom wanted to know. Alright. Well, you can tell mom that I just happen to have passed my second actuarial exam, alright? So... you tell her that. How's she doing?
Samantha: Great.
Dad: She finishing school?
Samantha: Yep, all 'A's.
Dad: All 'A's huh? Like mother, like daughter, right?
The kids leave to get hot dogs, etc. Mason puts mustard on his.

INT. DAD'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT
The TV is playing the horror film HOSTEL. JIMMY sits on the couch watching the movie, as Dad and the kids enter.

Samantha: Hi, Jimmy.
Jimmy: Hey, Samantha!
Mason: Hey, what's up, Jimmy?
Jimmy: What's goin' on, Mason, man?
Mason and Jimmy fist bump.

Mason: Astros won.
Jimmy: You went to the game?
Dad enters the room.

Dad: What, I'm the only one with any arms around here? Nobody else can carry anything, huh? Help their old man out?
Mason: What you watching?
Jimmy gestures for silence.

Dad: Aw, come on Jimmy, man! You knew the kids were comin' this weekend.
Dad clears dirty dishes and paraphernalia from the table.

Dad: Can't you just help me out a little bit, just --
Jimmy: I'm sorry, muffin.
Dad: Yeah, don't "muffin" me, alright? Don't put me in that position. Alright, I'm not your fuckin' Tony Randall.
Samantha: Dad, it's always a mess.
Dad: It was not a mess this morning. Okay?
Jimmy: I mowed the lawn.
Dad: Oh yeah, great.
Dad stretches out beside Samantha on the couch.

Dad: Oh, come on man! Turn this shit off. Come on, give me that thing.
Dad takes the remote control away from Jimmy.

Dad: Did you watch the game?
Jimmy: No. (laughs)
Dad: Lane won it with a three-run homer. It was beautiful, wasn't it?
Samantha shrugs.

Dad : *Sam lost her mind! She's a huge Astros fan.*
Samantha : *Sure.*

**EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY**
Dad, Samantha, and Mason pull up in the GTO. They sit in Mom's driveway, saying their goodbyes.

Dad : *Love you guys.*
Mason : *See you, Dad.*
Dad : *Alright. Be well. Okay. Have a great week. Sam, I'll see you next weekend?*
Samantha : *Alright. Oh yeah, that's right.*
Dad : *What?*
Samantha : *Susie has a birthday party next Saturday.*
Dad : *A sleepover?*
Samantha : *Yeah.*
Dad : *Alright. I'll talk to your mom about it. Don't worry about it, okay? Have a great week.*
Samantha : *Had a great time.*
Dad : *Okay.*

**INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - MORNING**
The kids wander down the hallway, filing into Mason's bedroom. Randy, Samantha, and Mindy enter one at a time, to let Mason know they are leaving for school.

Randy : *Mason, we're leavin'.*
Samantha : *You're not sick.*
Mindy is the last to leave the room, shaking her head in disbelief.

**INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS**
Mom knocks on Mason's door, then enters the room.

Mom : *Mason, what's goin' on?*
Mason : *I don't feel good.*
Mom : *Yeah? Well your head feels fine. So get your ass out of bed. I'm gonna drive you to school, you got five minutes and don't make me late.*

**EXT. SCHOOL - DAY**
Mom is dropping Mason off at school.

Mason : *I mean, he didn't even ask! He just cut it. I mean, it's my hair!***
Mom: Well, no wonder you were angry. I’d be angry too.
Mason: I look like a martian now.
Mom: Honey, you know what? I’m gonna talk to him about it later, okay?
Mason: Yeah, I tried to call you but you didn’t answer your phone.
Mom: I’m so sorry. I’ve been so busy with school... Hey.
She touches his hair, lovingly.
Mom: For what it’s worth, it’s hair and it will grow back. Now I can see your pretty eyes and your foxy face.
Mason: Why’d you even marry him? He’s such a jerk.
Mom: Well, Bill has his good qualities. You know, nobody's perfect. And now we have a family.
Mason: We already had a family.
With this, Mason turns and exits the car.

INT. CAROL’S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Mason and Carol's son, LEE, play a boxing game on Nintendo Wii, while her daughter, ABBY, sings in the background. Mom brings the boys a snack.

Mom: Hey, Lee and Mason. Take a break. Here’s a snack.
Abby continues to sing. The room is tense.

Carol: Hey, Abby, why don’t you come help me with this, huh?
Samantha: Why couldn't Randy and Mindy come with us?
Mom: I'm not their legal guardian, honey. That would be kidnapping. I can’t just...
Samantha: Well, what's gonna happen to them? What happens when their legal guardian is dangerous and abusive?
Mom: You know, I don't know honey. I called their mom. I called the Child Protective Services. You know, I have you and your brother. We were in a dangerous situation. You're my responsibility.
Samantha: Are we ever gonna see them again?
Mom: I don't know. And I hope so.
Samantha: How much longer are we gonna be here?
Mom fights back tears.

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY

Mom pulls up to drop Samantha off at the front doors of her new Junior High School.

Samantha: Mom, this is awful. You're dumping me in some parking lot of this school where I don't even know anyone! I'm leaving all my
friends and I didn't even get to say goodbye! I don't know where to go!

Mom: Okay, Samantha. You go right through that door. The office is right there. They're expecting you, they're gonna give you your schedule. Here's your lunch money. I will pick you up right here at 3:30.

Samantha: I'm wearing dirty clothes! Because you wouldn't even let us get our stuff! We don't even have a place to live! This sucks!

Samantha gets out of the car, slamming the door behind her. Mom screams out of the window as she walks away.

Mom: Samantha... I'm doing the best I can! And you're right, it sucks! But it doesn't suck half as much as having a drunk fool slam your head against a wall! So cut your horseshit attitude.

Mom turns to Mason in the back as he climbs toward the front seat.

Mom: Put your seat belt on!

INT. BOWLING ALLEY CAFE - EVENING
They sit around a table talking.

Dad: And what is it that you do at these parties?
Samantha: I don't know... talk, dance, listen to music.
Dad: Uh-huh. And that's more fun to you than going camping with your brother and your father who love you?

Samantha: Yes. Sorry.
Dad: Wow. Is there gonna be alcohol there?
Samantha: Probably not. Maybe some of the seniors.
Dad: Mm-hmm. I know what this party is. The parents are out of town, right? Somebody's uh, scored a keg, right... You guys are gonna have a good time, trash the whole house... Right? Am I right?

Samantha: No.
Dad: No? No?
Samantha: No, Dad. Amy's really responsible.
Dad: Mm-hmm. Who's gonna be there?
Samantha: Marie, Christine, Amy... Everyone.
Dad: Is uh, is that guy on your Facebook page, is he gonna be there? Hm?
Samantha: Who?
Dad: Come on, the guy that has got his arm wrapped around you with his hair over his eyes and --

Samantha: Garrett?
Dad: Garrett, is that his name? Alright, is Garrett gonna be there?
Samantha: Probably?
Dad: (to Mason) Uh-huh, you see? I learn more about her from her Facebook page than I do from our scintillating conversation. (to Samantha) Is he your boyfriend?
Samantha: Kind of.
Dad turns to Mason for further information.

Dad: Have you met him? Has he been around the house?
Mason: Sometimes.
Dad: Sometime-zz? Zzz?
Dad turns his attention back to Samantha.

Dad: You have a boyfriend... Wow. Have you heard of Sarah Palin?
Samantha: Yes.
Dad: What's the one thing that you know about Sarah Palin's seventeen year old daughter?
Samantha: That's right. And what is the one thing that you are not going to be in a couple of years when you turn seventeen?
Samantha: Pregnant?
Dad: That's right! Alright, now what are the, the two ways that you can achieve that goal? The first is... not have any sex. Okay? That did not work out very well for your mother and me. And what's the second way?

Mason stands to leave the table.

Dad: Where are you going?
Mason: Bathroom.
Dad: You don't have to go to the bathroom. Sit down, Mason. Just... Just sit down. What's the second way? Alright? Has your mother talked to you guys about this stuff?
Samantha: Oh, Dad. Dad.
Dad: No, come on. Has she talked to you about... contraception?
The kids are visibly uncomfortable with the conversation.

Dad: Huh? What has she -- condoms? Has she talked about that?
Samantha: Oh, Dad. Please!
Dad: What? What?
Samantha: That's enough.
Dad: Well. Does Garret have a condom?
Samantha: Ohh! God! Dad!
Dad: What? What, come on Sam. We have to be able to talk about this. Alright? Come on, we do. We can do it. We can do it. Just stay with me here. Alright? It's as hard for me as it is for you. But, seriously though, alright, I read an article in the paper the other day... that said that although U.S. teenagers are not the most sexually active, we have the highest rate of teenage pregnancy. Okay?

A woman, Tammy, walks up to the table, interrupting their conversation.
EXT. RIVERBED - DAY
Mason and Dad walk along the rocks, mid-conversation. They sit down near the water and begin taking off socks and shoes.

Mason: Yeah, I think she's about to get her master's degree. Dad: Well, then she's gonna start applying for teaching jobs? Mason: I think she already has.
Dad: Really? Where?
Mason: (shrugs) All over.
Dad: All over Texas?
Mason: Yeah.
Dad: Well, if you gotta move, you gotta move, you know? It's no big deal. We can handle that. I'll still come get you every other weekend. I mean, unless she moves 500 miles away or something, it'll just be a little more car time. No big deal.
Mason: I'm just kinda sick of moving.
Dad: Well, I bet you are. But you know, you never know. I mean, I might have to move, right? I'm working for this insurance company now. These places get bought and sold all the time. You know? We'll just roll with it.

They take off pants, walk up to the water in boxer shorts.

Mason: I thought you were a musician?
Dad: I am but... life is expensive, you know. Guy's got to be responsible. What do you think?

Mason pushes his Dad into the water, then dives in himself.

Dad: Hey, hey, you bast-- Oh you, punk kid! You got no respect!
Dad splashes his son and they both begin to swim.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY
Mason opens the door as he and his mother enter the house.

Mom: Thanks.
Mom drops her purse on the table and then walks down the hallway to Samantha's bedroom. She knocks on the door before walking inside.

Mom: Samantha!
Samantha is sitting on her bed, listening to music with a friend, GABY.

Samantha: Okay! Mom...
Mom: Why in the hell didn't you pick up your brother like you said you would?
Samantha: Mom, I know what you're gonna say. She was running late and we couldn't turn around.

Mom: No, no! No excuses! The bottom line is you didn't do what you said you were gonna do. You stranded your brother!

Samantha: It's embarrassing to ask my friend to turn around and go get some kid at the middle school.

Mom: What do you mean "some kid"? He's your brother! And you know what? We've helped Janie out before. I mean, she lives right around the corner. It's no big deal.

Samantha: Sorry.

Mom: You know what, Samantha? You need to start thinking long and hard about who you want to be. Do you want to be a cooperative person, who is compassionate and helps people out? Or do you want to be a self-centered narcissist?

Samantha: You know what? You're right. I am this horrible person... But honestly, he's not a baby anymore. You don't have to treat him like one. He's in eighth grade and he can find his way home if he wants to.

Mom: You know what? When Gaby leaves, you and me are gonna have a chat.

Mom leaves the room.

Samantha: (to Gaby) Awkward...

Gaby and Samantha laugh together.

Gaby: Dude, that sucks.

INT. JIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Mom is hosting a small get-together, and is currently talking with Professor Douglas.

Mom: ...And they're buying this party line that they're supposed to feel bad and trade off their own pension, as if that's what's corrupting this nation.

Prof. Douglas: Yeah, because those who hear Fox, in my opinion, are being lied to.

Mom: Yeah, thank God for Wisconsin. I mean, we have to follow that example.

Prof. Douglas: You're right.

Mason enters the front door.

Jim: Hey, Mason. What time is it?

Mason: Uh, like 12:15.

Jim: Happy birthday.

Mason smiles.
Mom: *Huh! Happy birthday!*
Mom kisses Mason. Professor Douglas walks over to join them, taking an interest.

Prof. Douglas: *Mason, it's your birthday?*
Mason: *Uh, just now, I guess.*
Prof. Douglas: *Yeah, how old are you?*
Mason: *Fifteen.*
Prof. Douglas: *Fifteen! Give me a hug.*
Professor Douglas hugs Mason.

Prof. Douglas: *Happy birthday. Oh my goodness!*  
Professor Douglas rejoins the party.

Mom: *(to Mason) Have you been drinking?*
Mason: *Have you?*
Mom: *Yeah, a little. Have you?*
Mason: *A little bit.*
Mom: *Have you been...?*
Mom mimes smoking reefer.

Mason: *A little bit.*
Mom: *Oh... okay.*
Mason: *I'm gonna go to sleep.*
Mom: *Talk in the morning, huh?*

**INT. MINI-VAN - DAY**

Mason: *So, this is like Annie's car and... and you drive the GTO? I guess you can't really put a baby seat in that thing.*
Dad: *Yeah, no... But I had to sell that anyway.*
Mason: *You what?*
Dad: *Yeah, I had to sell that.*
Mason: *So... so it's gone?*
Dad: *Yeah, some sucker collector from California paid twenty-two grand for it, which is great 'cause I basically got to pay for this in cash. I only paid eighty-five hundred for that thing way back when. I mean, you know, cars are generally a terrible investment. You know? Soon as you drive them off the lot you got a used car on your hands, and the value's only dropping from there. But... if you take care of it, you know, and you get lucky and it's a classic, you know, the value starts going up again. I mean shit, you got guys paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for some Shelby Cobra.*

After a long silence, Dad notices Mason is unusually quiet.
Dad: What?
Mason: You don't remember?
Dad: Remember what?
Mason: Really? You said that was going to be my car when I turned sixteen.
Dad: (laughs) What? No, I didn't. I never said that.

Mason: I remember. I was in third grade and you were taking me over to Anthony Nagar's house for his birthday... and we were there early, so we gave him a ride around the block. And he was talking about how much he loved our car and so you were all like "Oh. This is going to be Mason's when he turns 16."
Dad: What are you...? Alright, first off, I have no memory of that, alright? Second of all, I would never say that. Never.
Mason: Yeah. You did though.
Dad: What? Mason. Come on, what about your sister? I'm just gonna forget about her? Come on, how's that fair? Huh? Anthony Nagar, what the?(laughs) Are you...? Oh, come on! I mean, you're not... Ughh. Look, you can sit there like there's a death in the family, alright, but bottom line is that was my car. Alright? I paid for it, I took care of it, and I can do whatever I want with it. Alright? I'm sorry if you had other ideas about it but when you get older you can save up and buy a car of your own. And be cool like I used to be. Or... you can get a mini-van.

Annie and Samantha watch a Lady Gaga music video on Samantha's cell phone in the back seat.

Annie: Does your mom actually let you watch this?
Samantha: Yeah. She likes it too.
Annie: (laughing) Oh, my god... Okay, well.
Samantha: Yeah.
Annie: Have you ever seen her in concert?
Samantha: No. But she's coming to Houston in April.
Annie: She's coming to Houston?
Samantha: Mm-hmm.
Annie: Oh, you know, your dad and I could get you tickets, and you could stay with us.
Samantha: That'd be great.
Annie: Yeah.
Dad: Hey, hey, Annie? Will you get me the, the little birthday present for Mason?
Annie: Yeah, babe.
Annie hands a small wrapped present to Dad. Mason unwraps the gift to reveal a CD set.
Dad: Alright. This one, this one needs a little explanation, okay? Open it up. I call that "The Beatles' Black Album". Alright, what it is, is the best of John, Paul, George, and Ringo solo, post-break up.

Mason: Thanks.

Dad: Yeah, basically, I put the band back together for you.

Annie laughs.

Dad: You know, whenever you listen to too much of the solo stuff, it kind of becomes a drag, you know? But you put 'em next to each other, alright, and they start to elevate each other... and then you can hear it. Huh! It's The Beatles. You know?

Mason: I don't know. I think I always just liked Paul the best.

Dad: It doesn't matter, you know, you're missing the point. There is no favorite Beatle! That's what I'm saying. It's in the balance. That's what made them the greatest fucking rock band in the world. Okay? You know, and there's this decade of music out there that's been scattered. Alright? And now it has been carefully found, arranged, and ordered for you, by your loving father.

Annie: Very arranged and very organized, over and over again by your loving father.

Dad: Yes, yes, yes. So, I mean, look at that-- look at that, uh, top of Volume II, first four tracks... You've got "Band on the Run" into "My Sweet Lord", into "Jealous Guy", into "Photograph". I mean, come on. It's like the perfect segue. You got Paul, who takes you to the party, George who talks to you about God, John who says no, it's about love and pain, and then Ringo who just says hey, can't we enjoy what we have while we have it? It's a good record. I shit you not.

Mason: Cool.

EXT. WOODS - DAY
The family walks through the woods. Annie holds Cooper to her chest in a cloth carrier. Mason has his camera in hand. Dad chews on a piece of straw.

Annie: The pond's right up here. Ooh, it's low.

Dad: Yeah.

Annie: You know, my dad could take you fishing next time you're here if you want.

Mason: Nice.

Annie: (to Cooper) Hi, baby. What's goin' on?

Mason and Samantha walk down to the pond. Annie sits on a picnic bench with Cooper.

Annie: You know, I think we're just gonna hang out here for a minute.
Dad: Want me to stay with you?
Annie: No, it's okay.
Dad: You sure?
Annie: Yeah, thanks.

Samantha pushes a stick into the mud. Mason photographs pond.

Samantha: Mason, why are you such a stick-in-the-mud?
Mason: What are you even talking about?
Dad: Hey, you guys don't mind coming back here on the 20th, do you, for Cooper's baptism?
Mason: No, it's fine.
Dad: Sam?
Samantha: Okay.
Dad: I appreciate it. It means a lot to Annie and her folks, you know.
Mason: Were we baptized?

They share a look and laugh.

Dad: I wasn't the least bit concerned with the state of your soul. We can do it now, though, if you want.
Mason: No, nah, I think I'm alright.
Dad: You and Cooper together, you know. Dunk your heads.
Samantha: You're not becoming one of those God people, are you, Dad?
Dad: And what's that supposed to mean, hm?

INT. JIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Jim sits at the kitchen table, opening a beer. Mom and Samantha prepare dinner in the kitchen. Mom walks over to the stairs to call up to Mason.

Mom: Mason! Honey, come down for dinner.

On her way back to the kitchen, Mom notices the screen on an open laptop.

Mom: Samantha! You didn't post these pictures and their descriptions? Come on, this auction is going to end on Sunday, honey. You've got to get those posted.
Samantha: Why are we even doing this? It's like an online junk shop. I thought you had a good job?
Mom: I do. We're what you call house poor. Everyone's got to do their part. Your brother took the pictures. You have to help.
Samantha: Who even buys this shit?
Jim: Hey, Sam, watch your mouth, alright? Don't disrespect your mother. You like a roof over your head, don't you?
Mom: Yeah, and you like having electricity so that you can charge your cell phone?
Samantha: I'm not even gonna be here next year. I'm a senior. I should be having fun.

Mason enters. He sits down at the table. He has blue nail polish on his fingernails.
INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DAY
Mom sits at the kitchen table surrounded by bills and papers. Mason comes down the stairs.

Mason: Morning.
Mom: Morning. Hey, which one of you guys used the downstairs bathroom last night?
Mason: I don't know. I didn't.
Mom: That tall guy, what's his name?
Mason: Phillip?
Mom: Yeah, Phillip. He did it. Can Phillip read? I mean, there's a big sign on the door, it says, "Do not use this bathroom, it's broken." I mean, how difficult is that?
Mason: I don't know. I'm sorry.
Mason prepares cereal.

Mom: I think I'm gonna put the house on the market.
Mason: Why?
Mom: This house is too big for us. I mean, you're going to school eventually... It's too expensive. I'm done.
Mason: Well why did you even buy it in the first place, then?
Mom: Because I really enjoy making poor life decisions, keeping us on the brink of poverty. I mean, I've spent the first half of my life acquiring all this crap and now I'm gonna spend the second half of my life getting rid of all this stuff.
Mason: Really? Like what?
Mom: Like- Well, I got rid of a couple husbands, now I'm gonna get rid of a mortgage, some maintenance, the tchotchkes, the, the homeowner's insurance, the property tax, the plumbing... Ahhh. You know what? From now on I am gonna be Mommy Monk. Simple. Celibate.
Mason: Don't be gross, Mom.
Mom: Fine, I'll be a poor whore with a big house. (Laughs). Is that better?
Mason: Okay.
Mason starts to walk away.

Mom: Mason- Mason, please, don't leave me that dirty dish to wash.
Mason: I do dishes all day.
Mom: Well, great honey, then you're a professional. Come on, you could do one or two more for you poor old mom.

Mason walks over to the sink.

Mason: Okay.
Mom: Thank you.
INT. MOM'S HOUSE - DAY
Mason sits on the stairs video chatting with Dad on his phone.

Dad : Well, so it's -- it's runnin' okay? That alternator's not messin' up anymore?
Mason : (Holding Phone). No, it's fine. It's up for the trip.
Dad : (Laughing). Well, you gonna see your sister when you guys are in Austin?
Mason : Yeah, she said I can stay at her dorm, which is cool, and I guess her roommate's out of town so it's no big deal.
Dad : Alright, well, did you apply there yet? Did you get that application in to UT?
Mason : Not yet, but Sheena's pretty much in, though.
Dad : Yeah, right. Well, if you know that's where you wanna go, you should probably do that early acceptance thing. You know? I mean seriously, let 'em know you're a man who knows what he wants.
Mason : Yeah.
Dad : A bit of decisiveness goes a long way in this life, alright?
Mason : Yeah.
Dad : Great. And uh, what about work? How's that goin'? 
Mason : Uh, I don't know. It's, it's alright. Today kind of sucked, this guy didn't show up. But it's definitely an interesting perspective on the world. People are slobs.
Dad : (Laughing) Well, when people ask me about you I say, "Oh, Mason, he's doing great. He's got a job, he's really cleanin' up.”
Mason laughs.
Dad : (From Phone) Alright, hey, hey, say hi to Annie and Cooper, will you?
Dad pans the phone to Annie and baby.
Annie : Say hi to your big brother. Hey, big brother.
Mason : Hey, Annie. Hey, kiddo.
Annie : Can you say bye-bye?
Baby : Bye-buh!
(Laughs)
Annie : We'll see you soon.
Dad : Alright, alright, well, be careful when you're driving, alright? Don't be texting, don't be doing any of that. Alright? Just, you're Obi Wan. You're centered, patient, right? You watch three cars ahead, two behind. It takes two bad drivers to have an accident okay?
Mason: Okay.
Dad: (From phone) Right, and listen, tell your sister to pick up her phone or call me back or something.
Mom comes down the stairs and drops a bag at Mason’s feet.
Mason: Okay.
Dad: Alright, buddy! You have a good one.
Mason: Bye, Dad.
Mom: (Motioning to the bag) Hey, honey, take this to your sister. Throw it in the truck, okay?
Mason: Okay, I will.
Mom: So where is Sheena staying?
Mason: At her friend Emily’s.
Mom: Is Emily a real person?
Mason: (Laughing) Yeah. Yeah, she’s a sophomore. She has an apartment.
Mom: (Holding out money) Okay, this is in case of emergency. Don’t spend it. I want it back.
Mason: Okay. Thanks.
Mom: Did you do your homework?
Mason: Most of it, but… (pause) I can finish tomorrow night.
Mom: Honey! Eleventh grade is really important for college. Don’t blow it.
Mason: I know! I know. I mean, we’re going to UT and everything.
Mom: I know, and don’t you want me to come? Come on, Sheena, road trip with Mom! I’ll pay for gas.
Mason: Umm…
Mom: I’m just kidding. I have work. She kisses his forehead.
Mom: Call me when you get there.
Mason: I will.
Mom: Have fun!
Mason exits.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY
Sheena and Mason are sitting on bleachers outside the school, under a tree overlooking a practice field. They are in mid-argument.

Sheena: I just don’t get why you’re being so fucking childish.
Mason: I’m not being childish. You’re the one who made it into this big thing by telling everyone.
Sheena: I haven’t told anyone.
Mason: So Cynthia just magically knows you’re going to the prom with this loser even though you’re not dating him anymore?
Sheena: She’s my best friend.
Mason: Well, your best friend has a big fucking mouth.
Sheena: Take it up with her, then.
Mason: Why don't you just tell Miss Fuckin' Rubber Jaws she can keep on talking as long as she includes the truth, which is that we wouldn't be having this conversation if your college boyfriend weren't out of town this weekend.
Sheena: You had already bought the tickets. It's just prom, it's not like it matters. I'm just tryin' to be friends with you.
Mason: Now it's just humiliating. I can't... I can't do that.
Sheena: Mister I-Don't-Care-What-Anyone-Else-Thinks-Of-Me.
Mason: Fuck anyone else. I care what I think of me. Which isn't much right now. King of the Pity Prom.
Sheena: Fine. We're not going.
Mason: Great.
A long pause.

INT. DEN - GRADUATION PARTY - CONTINUOUS
Later, Uncle Steve, Dad, and Mason have a manly discussion.

Uncle Steve: You got to remember, you're going to college, though, alright? And if you're anything like me or your old man, you're gonna be pulling down some serious wool. You're gonna be tapping some masterful gap.
Dad: Steven...
Uncle Steve: You're gonna be doing some good work out there. Think about it, awful lot of flowers in that bouquet. But, you gotta do me a favor. You're going to be vulnerable this summer, alright. Remember to use protection during breakup sex.
He puts his hand on Dad.

Uncle Steve: This guy knows exactly of which I speak. Look what happened to him. Viola'.
Uncle Steve gestures to Mason.

Dad: Steven...
Uncle Steve: (laughing) Cheers.
Dad: It's not that simple.
Uncle Steve: (chanting) Four more years. Four more years. I'm just saying.

INT. KITCHEN - GRADUATION PARTY - CONTINUOUS
Later Dad enters the kitchen where Mom happens to be.

Dad: Do y'all recycle? Should I --
Mom: I have one started there.
Dad : Oh, yeah, right. Okay, great. Okay. Am I, uh, am I your only ex at this party?
Mom : Yes, but I'm not your only wife here, though.
Dad : Yeah.
Mom : Can you believe they're both out of high school?
Dad : No. No, I can't. (a beat) You did a great job with both of them, by the way.
Mom : Thanks for saying that. (pause) I never thought I'd hear you say that.
Dad : Well, it's true. Thank you.
Mom : And you're doing it all over again, huh?
Dad : I know, I know, right? It's gonna be uh, fifteen years till I have an empty nest. But hey, I'd love to pitch in, help with this, if I could. I mean, it's so great that you did this. I was just going to give you a little. I'd appreciate it if I could.

Mom nods
He pulls out his wallet.

Mom : Sure. Yeah.
Dad : Yeah. But I don't have any cash. It's in Annie's purse. I'll be right back.

INT. ANTONE'S - EVENING
Mason and Dad are wandering through the green room area while the band is doing a sound check.

Dad : ...So it sucks. I mean, the guy's a college lacrosse player. I mean, what are you gonna do?
Mason : She didn't even like sports.
An iced-down bucket of drinks beckons.

Dad : You want a beer?
Mason : No, that's alright.
Dad : You can have one.
Mason : It's okay.
They continue their conversation out of the green room to a little area overlooking the stage.

Dad : Yeah, well, for what it's worth, we've all been through the exact same thing, at one point or another.
Mason : It's not the same, though. I mean, you never got to know her.
Dad : No, I know, I know. It's not the same.
Mason : I just don't know what I did wrong.
At this point Dad yells down to Jimmy, his roommate from years before, briefly interrupting the sound check.
Dad : Hey, Jimmy. Hey, man. Hey --

Jimmy : Hey, Mason.

Dad : We're up here raiding the green room. Hope that's okay.

Jimmy : That's totally cool.

Dad : Alright.

Jimmy : Wow! Is that M.J.?

Dad : Uh-huh. Right?

Jimmy : Unbelievable.

Dad : Well, we just decided to come a little early, check you out.

Jimmy : That's cool man, let me finish up, I'll be up in a minute.

Dad : Alright, alright.

He and Mason slowly start to drift around the venue.

Dad : (back to Mason) I guarantee you, you didn't do anything wrong. These high school love things, they never work out. Here, come here. I mean, everyone's just changing so much. The odds of two young people staying on the same wavelength are...

Mason : Yeah, but still --

Dad : Look, and I also guarantee you that every day of your life that you spend crying over some silly girl is a complete waste of time.

Mason : She wasn't a silly girl, though. I mean, she's a serious person. I really thought we were --

Dad : What?

Mason : I don't know.

Dad : Here's the truth. Women are never satisfied. Ok? They're always looking to potentially trade up and that's, I'm sorry to say, what I think has happened to you my fine feathered friend.

Mason : What does that even mean?

Dad : It means don't hand over the controls to your self-esteem to Sheila.

Mason : Sheena.

Dad : Alright. It means you are responsible for you, not your girlfriend, not your mom, not me. You. And if you truly take care of you, you will be amazed at how much girls like Sheena start lining up at your front door.

Mason : Great.

Dad : Yeah, you know, you just gotta separate yourself from the pack in some way. Excel at something, you know, and then you have your pick of the litter when they front-running hussies start sniffing around.

Mason : So what you're saying is, I should take up lacrosse.

Dad : Exactly. Or you could, you know, start a band. Worked for me a long time ago. I think it's still working for Jimmy. Or you just keep taking pictures.

Mason : She hated the pictures I took of her.
Dad: Alright. I'm sick to death of her, okay? I only met her a few times and yes she was cute, alright. But, truth be told I always thought she was a little bit, you know, a little bit too square for you. Y'know, not quite the same vibe.

Mason: You really thought that?

Dad: On some subtle, lower level. I mean, uh, I wasn't surprised when it turned out she was interested in some knucklehead lacrosse player, okay? I mean, bottom line is, it's all timing with these things. Y'know I mean I probably turned into the boring castrated guy she wanted me to be fifteen or twenty years ago, y'know? And man I'm not saying she was wrong to be pissed. I'm not, I'm just saying that y'know, she could have been a little more patient... a little more forgiving.

Mason: Would've saved me that parade of drunken assholes.

Dad gestures zipping his lip, saying nothing.

Mason: So what's the point?

Dad: What's the point? I mean I sure as shit don't know. I mean, but, neither does anybody else. Okay, we're all just winging it, you know? I mean the good news is you're feeling stuff. You know? And you got to hold onto that. You do. I mean you get older and you don't feel as much. You're skin gets tougher. The point is those pictures you took. Thousands of submissions from all over the state and you won.

Mason: Well, I got silver. And nine other people did, too.

Dad: I'm gonna kill you. I'm tryin' to tell you that I believe in you, Mason. I think you're really special, and if some girl doesn' see that, then fuck her, y'know?

INT. CAFE - DAY

Mom, Mason and Samantha sit down at a table. A waitress places menus.

Mom: Thank you. Okay guys, let's be clear. I'm going to break this into four categories. One. Anything you wanna keep from your childhood and your taking with you. Two. Throwing away. Three. Donating. Four. Whatever you wanna try to sell at the garage sell next weekend, whatever we don't sell, we're donating.

Mason: Doesn't the apartment have like an attic, or storage or something?

Mom: No. You're missing the point. We're not going to drag a bunch of crap to mom's tiny apartment.

Samantha: Can't believe we're moving again.

Mom: No, I'm moving! You moved two years ago. You have an apartment in Austin. Mason is moving the fall. I'm done. This will
be great for me. I’ll have all these options. I could take a sabbatical. I could get some writing done and try to get published.

Mason: What about Christmas, though? What are we gonna do?
Samantha: I’m not sharing a room with him.
Mom: One of you will sleep on the couch, and we’ll use that blow-up mattress.
Samantha: How am I supposed to do my laundry?
Mom: Sam, I’m gently pushing you out of the nest. And on your way down you may magically find some quarters that you use to do laundry in your own apartment. Come on! You guys are adults. You need to take some responsibility! And what do you want?

Mom puts her glasses on.

Mason: I’m gonna get the veggie burger.
Samantha: I’m not having anything, not hungry.
Mom takes her glasses off.

Mom: What’s wrong with you?
Samantha: I’m sick.
Mom: What is it, your head? Do you have a fever?
Mason: She’s pregnant.
Samantha: (weak laugh) No. To be honest, I drank way too much last night.
Mom: You weren’t driving, were you?
Samantha: No. No. Carrie’s back home, too, and we just hung out. You know, peach Smirnoffs, they just go down so easy.

Mom: No, no. Hey - that’s not an excuse. You can still pack boxes. These people want to move in as soon as possible.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING
Mason is packing a box, in mid-conversation with Mom, who is seated in another room.

Mason: ...Isn’t that kind of crazy though, that a computer knows who you are from just twenty questions off a form? I guess there are really only like eight types of people in the world.

Mom goes to the kitchen and pours coffee into a mug.

Mason: I mean there are subsets, like male and female, but apparently we’re not as unique as we want to think we are.

Mom: Have you even talked to this guy yet?
Mason: No, but we’ve been trading emails. He seems pretty cool. He’s studying literature, and uh, anthropology, and he’s way into Bright Eyes... so that’s not so bad. But anyways, he was telling me about how the system they use for assigning roommates is kind of
spooky. Like, the Freshmen satisfaction rate for new roommates used to be like 60%, and now it's 100%. Just cause of the computer.

Mom: Well. Sounds like he'll be a good roommate, then.
Mason: Yeah. But we've pretty much decided that soon they won't even need a questionnaire. Because they'll just let the NSA scan your digital ghost, and they'll tell you who your roommate is, based on everything you've ever said, written, or clicked.

Mason walks back into the living room, carrying a box. He holds up a framed picture.

Mason: Did you -- Did you put this in here again?
Mom laughs.

Mason: I don't want it.
Mom: Come on, it's the first picture you ever took.
Mason: Well, I mean, all the more reason to leave it behind, right?

Mason goes to put the picture back in his room, while Mom suddenly breaks into quiet sobs. He comes back out, wearing a backpack, and notices Mom crying.

Mason: What?
Mom: (crying) Nothing.
Mason: No, what is it?
Mom: Nothing! This is the worst day of my life.
Mason: What are you talking about?
Mom: I knew this day was coming. I just -- I didn't know you were gonna be so fuckin' happy to be leaving.

Mason: I mean, it's not that I'm that happy. What do you, what do you expect?

A beat.

Mom: You know what I'm realizing? My life is just gonna go, like that! This series of milestones. Getting married, having kids, getting divorced, the time that we thought you were dyslexic, when I taught you how to ride a bike, getting divorced AGAIN, getting my master degree, finally getting the job I wanted, sending Samantha off to college, sending YOU off the college... You know what's next? Huh? It's my fuckin' funeral! Just go, and leave my picture!

Stunned, Mason doesn't know what to say.

Mason: Aren't you jumping ahead by like, forty years or something?
Mom: I just thought there would be more.

Mom sits at the table crying. Mason does not know how to comfort her.
EXT. BIG BEND - LATE AFTERNOON
Mason, Nicole, Dalton and Barb hike through a BIG canyon. Nicole talks to Mason about teaching dance.

Mason : Do they let you major in that here?
Nicole : Well, it's not that serious here, so I kinda like train outside the university, but I'm taking all my basics like History of Dance and all that.
Mason : Nice.
Nicole : Yeah.
Mason : What do you teach?
Nicole : Oh, gosh. Ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, hip-hop...
Mason : Wow. Which one's your favorite?
Nicole : Tap.
Mason : Yeah?
Nicole : Yeah. You can make up all your own sounds and there's no rules.
Mason : Right...
Nicole : Just, like, creative freedom.
Mason : That's great.
Nicole : Yeah.
Mason : Right.
Nicole : ... So to be a part of bringing it back to the kids...
Mason : Right, keep it going.
Nicole : ... Is really rewarding. Yeah.
Mason : How old are they?
Nicole : Six to eight.
Mason : Wow. (laughs)
Nicole : (laughing) Yeah. They have like no fear, and they're not self-conscious at all.
Mason : They haven't reached the awkward years yet.
Nicole : Yeah, not yet. It's coming.

The group continues walking over a ridge as the sun is setting.

EXT. HIKE - LATER
As Barb and Dalton coyote call on the rocks, Mason joins Nicole sitting on a rock overlooking the river and sunset.

Nicole : Hey.
Dalton and Barb continue like coyotes, much to Nicole and Mason's amusement.

Nicole : Dalton can be crazy sometimes.
Mason : He seems cool, though.
Nicole : Yeah. Yeah, they're both really cool. How are you feeling?
They both laugh.

Mason : Great. Really great, to be honest.
Nicole: Good. I'm really happy that you're hangin' out with us.
Mason: Yeah. Me too.
Meanwhile, over on a big rock, the coyotes are now yelling words.

Dalton: This moment's having a multiple orgasm! It's like as if all of time has unfolded before us so we can stand here and look out and scream - Fuck yea!! Wooo!
Back with Nicole and Mason laughing.

Nicole: You know how everyone's always saying, "Seize the moment"?
Mason nods yes.

Nicole: I don't know, I'm kinda thinkin' it's the other way around. You know, like, the moment seizes us.
Mason: Yeah. Yeah, I know. It's constant, the moments. It's just... it's like always right now, you know?
Nicole: Yeah.

They trade smiles. FADE OUT