Solutions for all- “Charles”

Answers to Activity 3

1. Your response to the title – “Charles”. Did you think it was a suitable title?

What are your thoughts on the title?

1. You should have written a short summary of the story – list the important details of the story only.
2. A school – a pre-school classroom
3. The purpose of the dialogue is to make the story and the characters seem more realistic.
4. An important theme in the story "[Charles](https://www.enotes.com/topics/charles?en_action=hh_answer_body_click&en_label=%2Fhomework-help%2Fwhat-theme-charles-by-shirley-jackson-278319%23answer-883498&en_category=internal_campaign)" is people's blindness to the flaws of those closest to them—and also their enabling of these flaws.

Although Laurie is constantly talking about Charles's antics at school, it never once occurs to his mother, the narrator of the story, that "Charles" could be Laurie. Laurie tells his parents that Charles gets spanked at school for being fresh and also for hitting the teacher. Meanwhile, he is also doing disrespectful things at home as he is telling these stories. His parents simply let him get away with this behavior and don't associate it with Charles. For example, after his mother asks him a question twice at the dinner table and Laurie ignores her, the parents do not stop him from leaving:

1. The message of the story is that **the creation of a personal identity is a difficult and complicated process, regardless of age**. This is shown clearly through the character of Laurie, a young child who begins kindergarten.
2. Your own response to the story. Did you enjoy the story? Do you identify with the story? Write down your feelings about the story.
3. When the **mother learns at the end of the story** that there is no child named Charles in the class and that it is **Laurie** who has had difficulty adjusting to kindergarten and has done all the bad things he attributed to Charles, the reader no less than the **mother** is very surprised.