

Paul crabbe changes
from a selfish youth
to a sensitive man
essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

The renowned text, *Maestro*, clearly explored the concept of egocentrism. Through the protagonist, the author, Peter Goldsworthy demonstrated that one who's selfish would perpetually be selfish. Paul Crabbe, the central male character, was seen as an illiberal adolescent. He treated his Maestro with no respect and wasn't engrossed by what he was telling him. His greed was also apparent in the way he treated his girlfriend and his parents. During the progression of the novel, Paul's avarice continued as became more insensitive towards others and showed no deferent.

The selfish juvenile, Paul Crabbe, was imprudent towards his venerable piano teacher, Herr Eduard Keller. In their first meeting, Paul was starrng at his hands, those dainty, faintly ridiculous hands. He was startled as most of the right finger was missing. Instead of ignoring his hands, Paul kept glancing at them, showing discourtesy, which made Keller feel awkward. Paul then went on and asked can you play Liszt without it? This showed that Paul was disrespectful towards Keller. Instead of ending his discourtesy, he decided to propel Keller further, making it seem that he was an expert when it came to music.

As the novel and their relationship progressed, Paul became interested in Keller's past life. He was caught stickybeaked looking at Keller's photo's, whilst Keller was out. This showed Paul's bad manners as he entered into Keller's apartment, without permission and was looking at his family photo's. This made Paul feel half-excited by his discoveries, only thinking about himself and wasn't aware that Keller felt disturbed by his rudeness. Paul's greediness towards Keller continued to flourish as the story progressed.

During the novel, Paul was curious about Keller's past history, before he came to Darwin.

The night before Paul left for the South, after completing school to pursue his dream, the young adult was granted his wish, as Keller began to tell his hidden past. After a few drinks, Keller began to tell Paul about his deceased family, but Paul wasn't interested, he believed Rosie might already be waiting, parked in the street, wearing nothing underneath. He continued to glance at his watch, paying no attention to Keller, but Keller continued. Paul was impolite towards Keller and believed that Keller was only sharing his history with him to serve some ironic, drunken purpose of his own.

The supposedly mature man was exceedingly avaricious, while Keller was gazing at the portrait on the piano, Paul was listening to a car tooting in the street, which he believed was of enormous sexual gravity. Paul's selfishness was evident as he was only thinking about his sensual addiction, and wasn't concerned about what his maestro was declaring. Not only was Paul putting himself before Keller to satisfy his desires, he also was unfaithful towards his girlfriend, Rosie Zollo. When Paul first met Rosie, he disliked her because she was too much like him.

However, as Paul got to know a little more about her, their relationship began to grow. When Paul meet Rosie at That Christmas in the South concert, he didn't introduce her to his parents. This made her feel that Paul didn't want her to meet his parents. Keeping this in mind, she decided to introduce herself. Even when Paul was dating Rosie, he was still fascinated by the girl of his dreams, Megan Murray. This showed that Paul unfaithful

towards Rosie as he was still having fantasies about Megan. When Paul and Megan were alone, he forgot about his girlfriend and the self-centred male decided to fulfil his sexual dreams with Megan.

Paul later realised that he was disloyal towards his girlfriend, so he decided to go to her house, and made love with her. This selfish performance only made him feel better about himself; he didn't feel guilty, but terrified that he might lose her. It also enhanced his unfaithfulness while he was growing towards adulthood because once a cheat, always a cheat. Paul's lack of respect wasn't only apparent in the way he treated his girlfriend, but was also evident in the way he treated his parents. Paul's mother, Nancy, and father, John, only wanted the best for their son.

After finding one of the greatest piano teachers in Darwin, Paul decided he didn't want to attend his lessons and called Keller a sadist. This disappointed his father, as he believed that Keller was the finest piano educator and as a result sent Paul to his room. Whilst Paul went away to Adelaide for a music audition, he never contacted his parents, not even to tell them that he had arrived safely. This showed that Paul wasn't concerned about his parent and once was putting himself before others, which enhanced his covetousness as he matured. Paul's egotism continued to grow whilst being a matured man.

Undoubtedly, after realising how much his maestro has helped to shape the man he was know as, Paul became slightly sensitive towards Keller. Whilst Keller layed on hid deathbed, Paul went and visited him. As he came in contact with Keller, the words " wie gehts Maestro" were spoken on Paul's behalf. This overwhelmed Keller, as it was the first time Paul sounded

respectful. When Keller has passed away, Paul hurried to the hospice ward where he, for the first time lent over and kissed Keller. This showed that Paul, after all, did appreciate his maestro for the talent Keller brought out in him.

Although he was slightly respectful to Keller, he was also imprudent, as he believed Keller was bad for him, the worst possible teacher as he revealed perfection to him. As Paul Crabbe attended a Thai restaurant in Smith Street his selfishness was evident, as the wedded gentleman was glancing at the waitress, and for an instance he considered asking her what time she finished work. This showed that even as a matured married man, Paul hadn't changed and was still selfish, only considering himself to satisfy his sexual desires.

The talented Peter Goldsworthy in his novel *Maestro* clearly delved that one who's selfish will always be selfish. Evidently, this was shown through the protagonist, Paul Crabbe. The central male character was seen as a narrow-minded youth. He handled his Maestro with no dignity and wasn't interested by what he told him. His cupidity was also obvious in the way he treated his girlfriend and parents. Through these aspects of the novel, Peter Goldsworthy made it apparent that Paul Crabbe didn't alternate from a selfish youth to a sensitive man, hence became an illiberal youth and remained as a self-seeking man.