

Todd changes throughout the novel. In the beginning, Todd was awkward and did not read at the first Dead Poets meeting. He truly came out of his shell at the end of the book when he wrote a poem and read it out loud at a Dead Poets meeting. Mr. Keating said to Todd:

“I hold in my hand a crystal ball. In it I see great things for Todd Anderson.”

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This made Todd feel important for once in his life.

Todd has always had big shoes to fill. His brother, Jeffrey Anderson, was a stellar student at Welton. One of the best, as Mr. Nolan said:

“Ah, Mr. Anderson. You have some big shoes to fill, young man. Your brother was one of our best.”

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Teachers and parent's communication with adolescent

Teachers, other than Mr. Keating, talk to the students as if they aren't really there. They talk about their family. Especially Dean Nolan does this. When he meets students, he mentions their parents and asks about their wellbeing:

“(...) Mr. Dalton, how's your father?” (...) “Your family move into that new house yet, Mr. Overstreet?” (...) “Wonderful,” Nolan smiled briefly. “I hear it's beautiful.” (...)

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The relationship between student and teacher is very professional. The teachers aren't allowed to help students with personal problems, and they have to follow the school's traditions and ways of teaching.

Mr. Keating has a different relationship with the students. He wishes the best for them. He moves out from the school's traditions and ways of teaching, to teach the boys different than usual. He wants them to be free thinkers, choose their own path and be themselves.

He has a special connection with a group of boys, which he helps understand themselves. He lets them in on a secret, the Dead Poet Society, and they restart the society.

“What was the Dead Poet Society, sir?” (...) “A secret organization,”

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The relationship between parents and students wasn't very good. Often the parents dominated their child, which lead to them choosing their life. They did it with the best interest at heart, but that also lead to complicated connections.

“We are dreaming of tomorrow, and tomorrow isn't coming; we are dreaming of a glory that we don't really want.”

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This quote illustrates that link well. The boys can't wait to finally become what they have dreamed of. But it isn't their dream, it's their parent's. They don't let the child think for themselves, and therefore they accept whatever choice their parents chooses.