

In the story "Marigolds," Eugenia Collier develops the theme "One cannot have both compassion and innocence" through her use of several literary techniques. One technique she uses is external conflict. An example of this technique is found in the quote, "The children screamed with delight, while she (Miss Lottie) screamed curses at them" (87). This example shows that the children had their innocence while being out of control and had no compassion for Miss Lottie and her feelings. Another technique she employs is internal conflict. This technique is best illustrated when the narrator states, "I scrambled to my feet and just stood there and stared at her, and that was the moment when childhood faded and womanhood began" (83). This quote helps the reader understand the theme because it marked the precise moment when Lizabeth finally grew out of her innocence and began to feel compassion for Miss Lottie. A third technique the author uses is situational irony. For example, at the end of the story the narrator says, "And I too have planted marigolds" (84). This demonstrates the theme because it shows that once she grew out of her innocence, she felt compassion for Miss Lottie, understood why she planted the marigolds, and wanted to plant them also. Those are just a few of the techniques Eugenia Collier used to express her theme.

In the story "Marigolds," Eugenia Collier develops the theme "One cannot have both compassion and innocence" through her use of several literary techniques. One technique she uses is flashback. An example of this is found in the quote, "I remember them vividly now" (76). This example shows the theme because it shows how she learned her lesson of compassion after looking back at an event, not while she was experiencing it. Another technique she employs is symbolism. This technique is best illustrated when the narrator states, "Whatever verve there was left in her, whatever was of love and beauty and joy had not been squeezed out by life, had been there in the marigolds she had so tenderly cared for" (84). This quote helps the theme because it shows the compassion that Miss Lottie had for the marigolds as well as the symbolic hope of the marigolds that made Lizabeth so angry because in her innocence, she envied the happiness they gave Miss Lottie. A third technique the author uses is situational irony. For example, at the end of the story, the narrator says, "And I too have planted marigolds" (84). This shows the theme because it shows the author has gained compassion and learned to love the marigolds that she originally hated, which is situationally ironic. These are just three of the literary techniques Eugenia Collier uses to display the theme throughout the story.