Effects of Life: Comparisons of Theme In “A Devoted Son” and “Malachi’s Cove”

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Abstract:
Anthony Trollope and Anita Desai, come from different cultures which contribute to their individual writing. Anthony Trollope, originally from London uses his daily setting of cliffs and seaside coves in his short story "Malachi's Cove". Anita Desai, originally from British India, uses her common cultured thought of sending their children to the United States for a better life in her story "A Devoted Son".

“A Devoted Son” Anita Desai
Summary:
❖ Rakesh goes to America to pursue a career as a doctor
❖ Becomes very successful
❖ Comes back to Asia to take care of sick father
❖ Takes care of him during his last moments before his death

“Malachi’s Cove” Anthony Trollope
Summary:
❖ Mahala (Mally) Tringlos gathers seaweed and sells it as fertilizer to support old and crippled father
❖ Neighbors son, Barty, a rich and wealthy man, barricades her preserves
❖ Barty falls into a whirlpool
❖ Mahala saves his life risking her own
❖ Fall in love with each other

Contrasting Settings:
❖ Cornwall, England by dangerous and steep cliffs
❖ Southern part of Asia, poor village family in India

Contrasting Conflicts:
❖ Mally is angry that she has to share the cove with Barty, Barty gathers just as much seaweed as she does with less experience
❖ Rakesh’s father is unhappy because he is denied things he loves by his own son

Similar Theme In Short Stories:
❖ It is important to take care of family

Conclusion:
No matter where you are from, personality is affected by surroundings. Despite contrasting literary elements, setting and situational irony, the similar theme, take care of family no matter what and do what is best for them, connect the two short stories.