

The members of the Lacey family change as a result of the main conflict in the story “The Stray”. In the story, a main character, Doris, found a stray dog outside in the snow. Her father, Mr. Lacey, did not want to keep the dog at their house.

At the beginning of the story, Doris brought the stray dog into her family’s house, out of the cold and snow. Doris feels sad because she knows her father will not let the dog stay. In the text it states, “Doris didn’t name the dog because she knew her parents wouldn’t let her keep it.” Doris didn’t want to connect with the dog deeply which would have happened if she named it.

Mr. Lacey was annoyed and somewhat angry at the beginning of the story when Doris took the stray inside.

Mr. Lacey did not want to have to feed the dog. Mr Lacey said, "I don't know where it came from, but I know for sure where it's going." Mr Lacey was going to take the stray to the animal shelter when the streets cleared of snow.

Towards the end of the story, Mr. Lacey put the stray in the car to take it to the animal shelter. Doris was very sad and cried herself to sleep. When she came out of her room, her father told her to be sure to feed the dog. Doris was so relieved, because her father had kept the dog.

"Doris put her hands to her mouth and said, 'You didn't take her.'" Doris went from feeling devastated to feeling extremely happy that the dog would remain in her house.

Mr. Lacey changed the most as a result of the main conflict in the story. At the beginning of the story, Mr.

Lacey was annoyed and didn't want to keep the dog.

Once Mr. Lacey saw the conditions of the animal shelter, he decided to show compassion and keep the dog. After

Mr. Lacey came back, he said, "It's the worst place I've ever seen...I wouldn't leave an ant in that place." Mr.

Lacey changed as a result of seeing the conditions of the animal shelter.

As a result of the conflict, both characters learned something. Doris learned that her father had a soft spot in his heart for animals despite his gruff attitude. Mr. Lacey learned the truth about animal shelters and in turn, learned to show compassion.