The Children Act - Analisi strutturale

**Title:** Considering the title the reader can discover the general plot of the book. Indeed the title refers to The Children act of 1989 (As you can see at page 122 “wich declares in its opening lines for the primacy of the child’s welfare”). Right from the title the reader could make some conjectures: The main plot of the book could concern the law, in particular the children’s law. Probably among the characters there is a lawyer.

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**Citation:***When a court determines any question with respect to — the upbringing of a child; or the administration of a child’s property or the application of any income arising from it, the child’s welfare shall be the court’s paramount consideration.*

The sentence is taken from the Children Act of 1989, In particular it is an extract from section 1. It is about Welfare of the child

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**Chapters:**

The novel is composed by 5 Chapters. Each chapter has a specific narrative function. The novel is written in the third person, but it's all narrated from inside Fiona's awareness – and much of her thinking, inevitably, is about the facts of her legal work and the issues and arguments arising from it.

**First Chapter:** The function of the Chapter is to present the protagonist: Fiona Maye,  a respected [High Court Judge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Court_Judge) specializing in [Family Law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_family_law) and living in [Gray's Inn](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gray%27s_Inn) Square. Though outwardly successful, in her private life she must contend with the regret of childlessness and the announcement by her husband that he is about to leave Fiona .

**Second Chapter:** The function of the Chapter is to present the main plot of the novel, The case of Henry Adam. The writer describes the second main character as an intelligent and virtuous guy. Adam is a beautiful, intelligent, wayward 17-year-old with leukaemia whose parents are Jehovah's Witnesses refusing, on religious grounds, to let him have the blood transfusion needed to save his life. He appears to agree with his parents' position.

**Third Chapter:** In the Chapter is described the meeting between Fiona and Adam. This is a Key moment of the novel. The meeting explain why the case will shock Fiona’s life. Fiona, in an independent move, heads off to visit Adam in a hospital wittily likened to "a modern airport. With altered destinations." Visiting him in hospital, she is touched by the boy's beauty and unusual gifts. When Adam plays his violin and sings by his hospital bed, the feeling is of freedom.

**Fourth Chapter:** The Chapter presents Fiona’s decision. She decides to save Adam coherently with her job and her moral. her decision has consequences, which throw her into confusion and self-doubt. The separation which has always seemed straightforward, between her private self and her public function as an instrument of impartial law, begins to break down.

**Fifth Chapter:** The final chapter presents the tragic ending of the story. When Adam reaches the majority, he decides to stop the blood transfusion therapy for religion reasons, He faces certain death.