Both the hair clasp in "Clasp" and the metal splinter in "The Gift" represent the importance of ties between a parent and child. In "Clasp", the girl receives her hair clasp from her biological mom. At first, she doesn't care for it, but after she heard her mom's story about when "Your grandma bought [the baby's ring] right after I was born" (15), she realizes how valuable the clasp is. In "The Gift", the metal splinter was a memory of how his "father recited a story in a low voice" (2) and comforted him while he pulled it out. The objects reflect the love between a parent and child and the importance of that love to the child.

Both the splinter and the clasp represent family or even the bond of family. In "Clasp," the adoptive mom tells her adopted daughter that the clasp in the gift box was her mother's ("her" being the daughter). Then, in "The Gift," the father pulls a splinter from his son's thumb and then the son grows up to pull the same metal splinter from his wife's thumb. In each of these stories, the significant objects (the clasp and the splinter) can be passed down to the next generation in a family, symbolizing the (sometimes painful) bond between the members involved.

The hair clasp in "Clasp" and the splinter in "The Gift" are similar in many ways. They both are symbolizing parenthood. The clasp is a way of remembering her mother and will probably be passed down into further generations. The splinter is a way of remembering how brave the boy's father is and how he should be to his own son in the future. The hair clasp and the metal splinter are not just objects of memories they are a symbol to remember their parents.

Though these two pieces are about different events, they show a common theme of family. In both stories, a parent passes something down to their child, representing tradition being passed down. In both cases, the object is not initially appreciated, but then becomes a fond memory or possession. In the narrative, the girl considered her clasp to be "cheesy," and "a trick," until she realized the significance of the item from her biological mother. In the poem, the splinter was painful for the boy, but he learned to appreciate it and "kissed [his] father."

In life things are given to us that seem pointless at first, but mean the world to us in the end. In the story of the "Clasp," the main character was given a clasp that supposedly came from her real mother. It means nothing to her. She even says "The hair clasp, along with any other junk accumulated, is raked in my wastebasket." She doesn't comprehend how beautiful the gift is until the end just like "The Gift." The little boy's father does the glorius task of removing the splinter from his palm. He views it as painful and scary. Then he finds himself years later removing the splinter from his wife. "I bend over my wife's right hand." In both stories they are given something special, a gift from their elders. From here on out they will cherish their special little gifts.