

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **CONCLUSION**

Having analyzed the novel, I would like to draw some conclusions. The protagonist has a complex life experience that shapes her. Janie Mae Crawford is introduced as a naïve, dependent and obedient girl who later is transformed by her life experiences into an aware, rebellious and independent woman. She is also portrayed as a persistent and tough woman as she makes herself able to face her complex life journey. She eventually finds her true self after going through three marriages that give her valuable lessons.

Her journey to find her true self begins when she is sixteen years old. Her grandmother is the figure who first shapes Janie. Her grandmother is very dominant and she makes all decisions for Janie. Thus, Janie is initially portrayed as a naïve, obedient and dependent girl. One significant point which is related to Janie's young life is the belief of her grandmother about finding happiness through marriage. This ultimate goal of Janie's life is influenced by her grandmother's belief. She has an idea of a happy marriage that gradually causes her to be persistent in reaching it. It takes three marriages and many years for Janie to realize that marriage is not the answer to happiness.

Janie's persistence and toughness turn her failure in marriages into a better understanding of herself and her life. Through Logan's mistreatments she becomes aware of what she deserves in life, instead of just being a slave who works hard doing manual labor every day. Her awareness of her desire together with her persistence leads her into her next marriages. Her awareness about herself happens through a process and it is not an instant change; therefore, through her marriage with Joe, she comes to another realization that money and wealth cannot buy her happiness. In the abundant life she receives, she feels empty because she is treated like an object. Being mistreated by Joe, Janie shows her rebellious nature; she rebels against the obstacles in her life. The death of Joe confirms that freedom is what Janie wants. She wants freedom to speak her mind and to be herself.

After knowing what she wants, she chooses to live with Tea Cake, the man who gives her that freedom. She feels alive as she never feels so loved and appreciated before Tea Cake comes into her life. However, the fact that the society puts males in control and power over females, also happen in Janie's third marriage.

The climax moment happens when Tea Cake is dying and showing his dominance towards her. Janie, who is aware of her wants of freedom, takes an independent action of shooting Tea Cake dead. This shows her true self of being independent. However, she is still grateful for Tea Cake and his existence in her life, as he has opened up her eyes and made her realize her true self. The death of Tea Cake opens her eyes to see the horizon which for long has been blocked by her grandma's idealism.

Janie's persistence in finding happiness leads her into an awareness of her desire to be herself and to express herself freely, which lead her into the realization of the need to be independent. Her experiences have given her valuable lessons to be who she is at the end.

The analysis shows that Janie is a dynamic character. From being naïve, obedient, and dependent, she is later changed by her persistence and toughness in facing her life process, into an aware, rebellious, and independent woman. Her portrayal also shows how powerful the impact and influence the society can have on a person. Janie cannot be herself when the rigid rules and control from her grandma and her husband limit her movement. Janie's persistence and toughness is the key for the changes of her characteristic in enduring life difficulties and later leads her into her freedom from the clutch of the norms of the society.

One can learn from Janie that one has the right to live one's life according to one's own way to be oneself and be responsible with one's choices. After analyzing the novel, I can see how great the novel is. The protagonist's life journey and transformation offer valuable lessons. The complex situation of Janie's life reflects the situation in real life, that one's life could be very difficult and complex. It makes her story more alive because the readers can relate the story to their own life. The readers could also see the example of a person who struggles and never gives up in finding her true self despite all the difficulties one has to face.

I believe that this novel is worth reading since I have learned a lot from this novel. Since one cannot depend on others to realize one's own dream, I learn that I should live my own life and find out by myself which path of life God has

prepared for me. I also learn that the conditions of the society will definitely have an impact on my life, including my dream. Thus, I need to find out my own dream in life and fight for it.