

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the portrayal of Daniel Fairbrother of Scot Gardner's *Burning Eddy*, I would like to draw some conclusions. In this novel, Gardner portrays the development of the character Dan when he gradually changes to be a better person. At first, Dan is described as someone who is negative, passive, and desolate.

Dan's negative characteristic can be seen in the negative thoughts he always has about his father, Steven. Dan thinks that Steven is always grumpy and he constantly blames his father for some conditions at home that he is not satisfied with. Dan also thinks negatively about his life. He tells the story about his life in just two minutes to Eddy because he thinks there is nothing special or interesting in his life.

Dan's passive characteristic can be seen when Michael teases Dan as Dan is about to ask a question to his teacher. Dan actually does

not like being treated that way but he does not say a thing to Michael. The same thing happens when Dan gets bullied by Amy. Amy says something bad about Dan and his sister but Dan does nothing to oppose Amy.

Dan's being desolate can be seen when he is bullied by Michael and his friends. Dan gets hurt physically and mentally because of that. He thinks that everything in his life is wrong, everything he has is ugly, nothing good ever happens to him, and his life is miserable.

After Dan meets Eddy, his life gradually changes to be better. Dan starts to change after he lets go of his past, too. These factors affect Dan so that he develops into a better person. Later he becomes someone who is confident, understanding, and optimistic.

Eddy advises Dan that people must not fight fire with fire. After getting this advice, Dan becomes confident so he can see and mend his relationship with Michael and they become friends. Dan can also reveal his feelings to Chantelle after Eddy gives him encouragement.

Eddy shares her experience with Dan. Eddy tells him that she has been raped by an American soldier during World War II but in the end, she can forgive the man who has raped her. Eddy's experience opens Dan's mind. Dan becomes understanding toward his father. Steven has beat him up but Dan is willing to forgive him and visit him in prison. Dan also becomes understanding toward his father after Steven tells Dan his secret. Dan feels sympathy for his father's misfortune and he forgives his father for all the things that he has done.

Dan lets go of his past and stops blaming himself over the death of his best friend, Chris. After that, Dan becomes optimistic toward his life. He feels stronger and he hopes for the better future in his life. Dan also feels optimistic that he is not alone, even when Eddy dies, because Eddy has taught him that alone is just a state of mind. Dan has family, friends, and a girlfriend who can always be there for him.

Through the portrayal and development of Dan, I conclude that Gardner wants to show the life of a teenager in the process of growing up and about the importance of forgiveness. Many teenagers experience hardship in the process of growing up because they have to deal with the issue of acceptance, fitting in and many others. Some teenagers may be bullied at school, have bad relationship with their parents, or have guilty feeling of something that happened in the past. These will affect their characteristics. They need friends that they can trust, they need someone to love and accept them for who they are, they need to forgive others who have hurt them, and to forgive themselves in order to let go of their past. That process of growing up develops and shapes their characters, making them a better person than before.

I think *Burning Eddy* is worth reading because the story is funny, dramatic, captivating, and realistic. I think it is realistic because the story represents a real life story that happens to many teenagers. In my opinion, Dan is a life-like character. We can find such a character in real life. After reading this novel I get some valuable lessons of life such as we have to forgive others and throw away hatred in our heart in order to be free and happy inside, cherish our

time with our loved ones before it is too late, be brave to be ourselves and live our life to the fullest every day.

