

## CHAPTER THREE

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the social and inner conflicts of Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*, I would like to draw some conclusions.

In the novel, there are five social conflicts and three inner conflicts, all of which are solved. The first two social conflicts are between Skeeter and Aibileen, and Skeeter and Minny. Skeeter, a white woman who wants to help the black maids by writing a book, wants to interview Aibileen and Minny, but at the beginning they refuse to help. The cause of these conflicts is that Aibileen, Minny and the other black maids are afraid of being caught if they tell the truth about the whites treating them, and about what they feel towards their unfair treatment. The conflicts show that at that time, the blacks do not have freedom; they are not allowed to express their feelings.

The other three social conflicts are between Skeeter and Hilly. Hilly represents a white woman who is very discriminative towards the blacks, whereas Skeeter represents a white woman who is not discriminative and wants to help the blacks. Skeeter feels threatened because Hilly wants to tell people that Skeeter is

helping the blacks' civil right movements by writing a book about the perspective of the black maids. Skeeter also does not agree with the idea about separated bathroom that Hilly likes so much. From these three conflicts between Skeeter and Hilly, it can be seen that the whites who want to help the blacks are also facing a problem. The whites who wants to help the blacks' civil right movements are said to be traitors at that time. Her only friends are her parents and the black maids. From all the social conflicts, it is obvious that the cause of the conflicts is racial discrimination.

The inner conflicts in this novel are experienced by Aibileen, the black maid, and Skeeter, the white woman. The first inner conflict happens within Aibileen herself. She wants to help Skeeter to write the book about the perspective of her towards the whites, but she is afraid if she will be caught for telling the truth. She is afraid of losing her kids and being sent to jail. From this conflict, the reader can notice how fearful she is of the consequences she might get if people find out. The other two inner conflicts happen within Skeeter herself. Skeeter, the white woman who wants to help the black maids through her book is in a dilemma. Helping the black maids is not an easy thing to do. It is very dangerous for her if people find out that she is helping the black maids. She does not want to put herself and Aibileen into troubles. It is even riskier if the whites are found supporting the blacks' civil right movements. At that time, there is a law which forbids the whites to do anything related to supporting the blacks. Obviously, the inner conflicts have a close relationship with the social conflicts. It can be said that the inner conflicts have caused the social conflicts to happen.

From analysing the conflicts, I am of the opinion that the cause of all the conflicts in this novel is racial discrimination. The racial discrimination in 1960s is a very serious issue. The whites feel that they have the power. They feel they are superior compared to the blacks, so that they can do anything to the blacks. They even treat the blacks in such unfair ways. The blacks become the victims and thus suffer a lot from the whites' discriminative actions, but they can do nothing to help themselves. It is obvious that racial discrimination brings about no benefits but suffering to the people being discriminated. The phrase "Separate but Equal" is not a good solution because it still discriminates the blacks. Thus, I agree to the idea that all kinds of discrimination should be terminated.

The conflicts in the novel give me an understanding about the racial discrimination that happened in the 1960s, and make me understand the situation about how the black people were treated by the whites. Through Skeeter, Stockett also shows us that not all the white people in the United States of America are discriminative. According to Stockett, the blacks should speak up their mind no matter how dangerous the risks are, with the help of people like Skeeter. I think Kathryn Stockett has succeeded in describing the racial discrimination in the 1960s through the conflicts of the characters in her novel *The Help*.