

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit and analysing the characteristics of Jeanette, the protagonist, I come to the conclusion that the novelist is successful in portraying the protagonist.

At first, Winterson portrays the protagonist as an innocent and obedient girl who is very religious. She is also portrayed as a dependent girl. These characteristics are mostly found in Chapter One and Chapter Two of the novel. Her obedience can be seen through her action whereas her devotion to religion can be seen through her thought. Speech in revealing that the protagonist is dependent. The novelist also uses reaction to describe that the protagonist is obedient.

The fact that the novelist uses various techniques helps the reader understand the protagonist's changes from an innocent, obedient, religious, and dependent girl into a critical, persistent, secular and independent woman.

The novelist gives the reader a clear description of Jeanette's characteristic as an independent young woman through her reaction when she has a dilemma. This happens when she must either admit her sin and repent or leave her parent's house and leave on her own. Jeanette's reaction towards the two choices clearly describes that she has become an independent young woman. All these techniques

enable the reader to understand clearly the protagonist's early characteristics as well as her changes into a critical, persistent, secular, and independent.

Winterson has managed to present the characteristics of the protagonist very well; the presentation of Jeanette has given the readers a new perspective, particularly on the way one is supposed to go to one's life.

Through the portrayal of the protagonist, the novelist succeeded in showing that there are times when one's way of life does not come up to one's expectation. The novelist shows the reader reality through the novel that everyone is, at some time in their life, occasionally confronted with many choices. Sometimes one must choose whether to stay with 'a ready-made' world that maybe safe but which limits one's freedom or to go beyond the conventional norms, which may sometimes be even beyond common sense.

Jeanette's decision to leave home and live independently implicitly shows that one's future lies in whatever decision one has made in one's life. Although the novelist shows that the protagonist of Oranges are Not the Only Fruit wants to be independent, she never mentions explicitly that the reader should be independent like her protagonist, Jeanette.

Jeanette Winterson's portrayal of the protagonist of Oranges are Not the Only Fruit gives the reader a clear understanding about how to deal with problems in life. It also contains a clue that one should be fully responsible for one's own future. One needs a lot of courage, determination, and strong will to decide whatever path one wants to choose.

It is possible that this novel is partly based on the novelist's life. It is not a coincidence that the novelist names her protagonist after her own first name,

namely Jeanette; she may have wished to be as independent as Jeanette in deciding what she wants to be. Moreover, her strict Pentecostal Evangelist background provides the background of this novel.