

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading and analysing the protagonist of the novel, I see how the author, Wally Lamb, gives a clear portrayal of the protagonist in every chapter of the novel, from what the protagonist feels and needs to solve the problem, thoroughly. It is how Wally Lamb portrays the protagonist, Dolores that makes this novel worth reading and analysing. Wally Lamb obviously has successfully depicted the protagonist from the point of view of a woman despite although he is a man. In this case, he has helped me to analyse the protagonist's portrayal with clear descriptions of the characteristics and the changes along with the events happening to the protagonist throughout the novel.

He describes Dolores as a person who has to face many problems such as her parent's divorce, her rape trauma, her obesity problem and her depression. While in the real life, it may be a rare occurrence for a person to experience such a combination of problems, but Lamb has successfully managed to portray the challenges Dolores has to suffer realistically and her struggles against these difficulties and reach a conclusive portrayal of Dolores in the end as a brave, open, and admirable character.

I find that Dolores is depicted firstly as a sympathetic and hostile girl in the first part of the novel, *Our Lady of Sorrow*. Her characteristic evolves to an insecure, remorseful, unconfident and even extremely desperate person in the second part of the story *Whales*, because she is haunted by her rape trauma and obesity problem. Lamb concludes the story well in *The Flying Leg* with a happy ending with the changes of Dolores's characteristics from negative traits to a self-accepting, mature and courageous lady; therefore, Lamb succeeds in presenting a full portrayal of Dolores as the protagonist of the story.

I conclude Dolores is a dynamic character because there are changes of her characteristics in the novel, from negative and suspicious, or even neurotic to a positive, brave and admirable woman. I admire Dolores for her effort and struggle in life from being a fragile girl into a woman who has courage to love again and face the world bravely despite the sad past she has had before.

I discover that from the portrayal of Dolores in the novel, Wally Lamb is trying to convey his insight as positive reference and while helping the readers to learn further to understand about life. He also wants to show that life is not an easy process; there are many things that may happen, the unexpected and undesirable events, but one should stay strong and ready to face what is going on in life. There are always difficult times in life as in the case of Dolores, but in the end, Lamb portrays that happiness will come sooner or later. Therefore, another purpose of Lamb in portraying this protagonist is to present to the readers the importance of optimism and positive thinking.

After analysing this literary work, from the portrayal of Dolores, I learn a lot about the importance of one's personal appreciation of life, of what one

experiences even if it is something negative. Besides, it takes a great courage to embrace or face one's sad events in life which might haunt forever if one decides to run away from them.

How Thayer becomes the support to Dolores, I also learn that sometimes one cannot face life alone, human beings will always have the needs to love and to be loved, to have someone supportive and compassionate to support one to be stronger in facing problems.

Lamb has managed to present his purpose in portraying the protagonist well, as the presentation of Dolores has given me as one of the readers positive insights about positive thinking, strength and most of all, about life.