

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After reading and analyzing the protagonist of the novel, the present writer sees how the author, Maya Angelou, gives a clear portrayal of the protagonist from almost every stage of her age. The portrayal of the protagonist gives the present writer the extracts of black people's life during 1930s and 1940s in America.

The present writer thinks that the author wants to give descriptions about the black people's life at that time in America, through the story of a little black girl. The author also brings out some moral lessons from the portrayal of Maya, one of them is that she tries to tell the readers to love themselves the way they are. It can be seen from her childhood when she thinks being black is ugly and being white is beautiful.

The author divides the portrayal of the protagonist into two stages of age, childhood and teen period. The present writer thinks that these two stages of age are the most important stages in human's life, because these two stages influence greatly one's development toward maturity.

From Maya's portrayal during her childhood, the present writer finds that Maya's characteristics development are so much influenced by the social condition around her, particularly the relation between black people and white people during 1930s. At first, little Maya thinks that being white is beautiful, just like what she sees on television, but then as she grows older she changes into a person who is proud of being black. Maya's portrayal also cannot be separated from the strong religious custom of black people. Although at first she feels restrained by this custom, in the end she is able to accept and follow the strong religious custom. Domestic sexual harassment also becomes an important issue in this novel and influences Maya's characteristic development. Before she is raped, she is a cheerful, happy and confident little girl. The event changes her into a lone and quiet girl, but then she is portrayed to be able to recover from her trauma and gains back her happiness and confidence. Maya is also portrayed as a very smart girl and she can continue developing herself as she gets older.

From Maya's portrayal during teenage period, the present writer finds that her characteristics develop as she grows more mature. She is portrayed to be able to open herself for the relationships with men after the traumatic event which is caused by a man. She changes into someone who has a better opinion toward men, as she begins to see goodness in some men. Maya is also portrayed as a responsible girl when she can deal and learn from her mistake. A significant change in the development of her characteristics happens when she becomes an independent girl and her independency develops as she gets older.

From her characteristics in both stages of age, the present writer sees how Maya's characteristics develop as she grows older and make her become more

mature. From the analysis of the portrayal of the protagonist, the present writer finds that Maya is a round character because her characteristics continue to develop and make her lifelike. The present writer also admires Maya for her fights in life to find her self-identity. The present writer can learn much about the life and condition of black people in America at that time through the portrayal of Maya.