

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the theme of Fallen Angels, I would like to draw some conclusions in this chapter. I find that the inner and social conflicts in this novel help reveal the theme. It has been stated in the previous chapter that the theme of the novel is one's maturity may develop through involvement in war.

In analyzing the conflicts, I am of the opinion that Richie's conflicts are related to his maturity or his quality of behaving in a sensible way like an adult because of his involvement in war. All Richie's conflicts make him manage to grow more mature, his personality or his behavior changes from indifference to concern about everything around him; he can make decisions and think positively through his experience in war, while before going to war he is just a childish boy who often runs away from problems. He does not actually solve the problems that plague him when he leaves, but he has grown from his experiences and starts on the path to manhood and maturity; he can be positive in his thinking and in his attitude. The sensibility, positive state of mind, sensitivity and decisiveness he did not have before are learnt and obtained from his experiences in war.

Richie's first inner conflict, whether he should go to college or get himself involved in war, helps him to grow mature. He grows more mature when he has positive thoughts about war and his ability to answer unsettling questions about himself; his decision to go to Vietnam is mentally involved with war. He

has also shown his maturity through his decisiveness and consideration, which is a circumstance because of war.

On the resolution of the second inner conflict, whether he should write a letter to his mother or not, Richie grows more mature. He realizes that his mother is the only precious relative and wants to start a better relationship with her. His mercy to forgive his mother and his willingness and motivation to repair the relationship with her represent his sensitivity in the importance of family relationship in times of hardship due to war.

The third inner conflict, whether to write a letter to his brother or not, also shows his maturity through his pride of patriotism. His positive belief and sensibility about being a good soldier and a good person also represent his maturity which develops because of his involvement in war. Richie's capability to manage the situation has proven his maturity again which can only be obtained from his involvement in the war squad. His sensibility and understanding the condition and circumstances of the different of races and their cultures, especially in a squad where everyone is crude and straight in comment, has also proven his maturity in managing such diversity in the squad for he sees that the importance of unity in war is shown in his experiences in war.

The resolution of the first social conflict in different perceptions between the whites and the Vietnamese also has shown Richie's maturity. The replacement of Richie's indifference to his surrounding with a sensible way, attentiveness and caring attitude also represents his maturity which he learns from his involvement in war.

I find that all Richie's experiences and his conflicts make him more mature than before. This leads me to the theme of the novel that one's maturity may develop through involvement in war.

The conflicts that Richie experiences deal with the conflicts within himself and his society. I find that the way Richie takes is something that takes a lot of courage and will for a person to make a decision to get involved in war for it takes a great risk of life along with the stress that might come along in the battle. His decision shows that Richie is a person who wants to reach his desire. If a person has a strong will and effort, then he might reach his desire.

In my opinion, Walter Dean Myers portrays Richie as someone who experiences many problems and doubts about his future. The character of Richie makes the novel become suspenseful, fascinating and at the same time heartbreaking. I also find that in the story, Richie's conflicts make him grow more mature than before and he has grown from his experiences and starts on the path to manhood and maturity, which makes him positive in his thinking and in his attitude. The sensibility, positive state of mind, sensitivity and decisiveness he did not have before are learnt and obtained from his experiences in war.

I finally conclude that Walter Dean Myers is undoubtedly an excellent novelist who describes the life of soldiers in the war, all the daily routines, the fears, and thoughts in a brilliant way. All the information is taken from true stories, information, and war tactics. He is skillful in delivering his messages to the readers.