

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the portrayals of the protagonists in both novels, I find that the authors realistically describe the experiences of white trash protagonist; they give clear portrayals of the protagonists in every chapter. Smith creates Francie as the protagonist so bravely; she has successfully shifted the protagonist from her conformity at a workplace to pursue her dream. Smith gives an interesting story to read, which is to encourage people to continue life.

However, Allison creates the protagonist in a different way. She tells everything so openly without hiding anything. Some people perhaps feel uncomfortable when reading it, because sex abuses and cruelty are shown here. However, it makes me easy to see the portrayal of the protagonist because I can easily feel what the protagonist feels. The most important is the process in pursuing happiness. It may fail or succeed in the end, depending on the character of the protagonist in facing life.

I discover that A Tree Grows in Brooklyn has many values which make this book valuable. The moral lesson in this novel teaches me to face life optimistically, although the society and the situation do not support you. Francie, as the symbol of self-reliance, achieves happiness in the end. There are problems in the process to achieve freedom. The first is gender. It is seen that all over the world men are superior to women. Women as the symbol of weakness cannot get higher positions than men. But nowadays, women are rising from their destiny. They create their own destiny; they are presidents, directors or singers. Francie is a girl who achieves her success as a writer. She can raise her position to be the same as men. The second is conflict. Each person in this world always faces difficult situations which come from family and society. The real character will be used in solving the problems, whether it is good or not. It will decide if one person is able or unable to overcome the situation. By positive thinking and confidence in himself, he is brought to a higher level in this life to be more mature. Very often, family or society does not support his action. They think they are right but they are not always right. This is human. Although the society has a bad effect on him, he will not be influenced as long as he has a good way to face it.

Different from the first author, Allison creates the protagonist in a pessimistic way. She shows many situations which do not encourage the character or me while reading it. There are sex abuses, cruelty and unhappiness. Nevertheless, I appreciate her incredible story, which is based on her life and I can learn more about Bone's life. Sometimes I feel the loneliness like Bone in this life. That situation makes me think

that I do not live alone because I have God. God is always beside me and leads me through all my life. Thus, I want to share the love of God and I want to help other people to solve their problems. Allison is very open in describing the character. I get the moral lesson; love is needed to encourage someone in achieving freedom. Bone experiences too much heartache from her family; especially from her stepfather, who destroys her mental development.

There are some similarities. Both of the novels are autobiographical, both of the characters are female and considered as 'white trash', their parents are impure white, and both of the characters look for happiness. The differences are that Francie has many good characters but Bone has not, Francie's process to achieve success is more interesting than Bone's is, Francie succeeded getting happiness but Bone fails.

From the discussion on the portrayals of the protagonists, Francie in A Tree Grows in Brooklyn and Bone in Bastard Out of Carolina, it is obvious that both of the authors portray their lives through their protagonists. They give a clear description about the characters and what their attitudes accomplish in their lives. Finally, I believe that they expect the readers to try to achieve their desires based on their true-self in order to gain a worthy life.