

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing Valerie Martin's Mary Reilly, I would like to draw some conclusion. Mary Reilly is a story about Dr. Jekyll's housemaid, who has bad experiences in the past. She has a problem with the development of her characteristic as an adult because of her bitter past. Her cruel father abuses her when she is a child and later her characteristics become different from normal people. As an adult, Mary is portrayed as an insecure person, an introvert, and a workaholic.

Mary is portrayed as an insecure person because she always feels threatened every time. Her traumatic experience has a lasting effect so that she suffers from a trauma which causes her to become an insecure person. Even in a good situation, she always feels threatened as if her cruel father will come back and torture her again, though her father is not physically there to hurt her.

She is also portrayed as an introvert because she knows that her traumatic experience is not a story to share to others. She prefers being silent and not gossiping with the other maids in the house. The only way she can express her

mind is by writing a journal about everything in the house including how she deals with her past.

She becomes a workaholic because of the way she deals with her past. She wants to keep her mind occupied every time she is in the house. She keeps herself busy with the works in the house; she manages to prevent herself to reflect about her past. Her being workaholic is a compensation for distracting herself from thinking too much about her bitter past.

Those three characteristics are the effect of her traumatic childhood and this helps reveal the theme of the novel: “bad experiences in the past may cause one to have negative traits”. Mary becomes insecure, introvert, and a workaholic mainly because her bad experiences in the past cause her to have these negative characteristics.

The issue of abuse is very common nowadays. It can happen to anyone and the victims are mostly children and women. Shown in an article, the abused victims are usually like being described in the quotation below:

Many people who are abused distrust others. They may feel a lot of anger toward other people and themselves, and it can be hard to make friends.

They often have trouble sleeping, eating, and concentrating. They may not do well because they are angry or frightened or because they can't concentrate (“Abuse”).

I find that the description of abused victims above is similar with Mary’s characteristic. The main cause of those characteristics is the abuses that people

receive and the memory of their traumatic experience. I believe that a person like Mary is physically and mentally hurt and also has trouble to deal with her life.

In my opinion, Mary as the abused victim is a very unique character. Even though the traumatic experiences in her past has a lasting effect on her life and influences the development of her characteristic as an adult, she still struggles to survive. The bitter past does not make her give up her life. She moves on.

Finally, I conclude that Valerie Martin's Mary Reilly is a good novel to read because the author's way of portraying the character is very clear. However, when I read this novel, I feel as if I read a diary of an abused victim, who tries to survive from her past memory. It has opened my mind about how hard it is to struggle in life with traumatic experiences from the past. This novel is also good to read which is equal to Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, because the readers will know more of the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde through Mary Reilly's point a view as a housemaid in Dr. Jekyll's house.