

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed Go Tell It On The Mountain, I find the protagonist, John Grimes, to be a dynamic character. The changes are triggered by searching for love and acceptance from his family, especially love and acceptance from his step-father. At first, the author portrays the protagonist as a hardworking person and as obedient. The protagonist works hard in his study and obeys all of his step-father's strict rules, as he has to give a good impression in front of the whole family. The protagonist thinks that by giving a good impression he will be rewarded with what he wants: love and acceptance from his family.

However, finding there are no rewards after all of his efforts to gain love and acceptance from his family, especially from his step-father, the protagonist changes and becomes a resentful person. His feeling of resentment also turns the protagonist from an obedient person into a rebellious person. As signs of his rebellion, the protagonist breaks his step-father's rules, refuses to have salvation in God, and allows himself to have wrong feelings of being attracted to a person of the same sex.

In the end of the novel, the protagonist turns into a religious person. The protagonist meets with God. In the meeting, the protagonist wants his soul to be saved. God's love renews and changes his heart so that he feels no more hatred towards his step-father. God's love fulfills his needs of fatherly love and acceptance that he has longed for so long.

Having analyzed the changes in the character of the protagonist, I find that the purpose of the author in creating the character of the protagonist is to reflect on his own life. Through this reflection, I also believe that the author wants to explore something new as a black writer in this novel. The author raises new topics about family role, religion, and the search for fatherly love. I believe these topics are considered new ideas in black writing in the era of the civil rights movement when most black writers were concerned with the idea of racial prejudice, social status and political inequality in their writings.

Analyzing this novel helps me realize the important role of the family in shaping someone's characteristics. Family is the closest group in a society and the first group to teach the basic rules of life. People who come from dysfunctional families are more likely to experience problems in the development of their personality. I believe that to develop a healthy personality, family love and acceptance is very important. The protagonist in this novel becomes a very clear example of how a person develops negative characteristics, as he becomes resentful and rebellious, because of the lack of family love and acceptance.

I also find that it is very important for people to have the presence of God in their life. I believe that the presence of God can bring dramatic changes. Most people do not realize that they need God to help them. From this novel, I learn

that some problems in life and a hope for a better life are factors which can bring people closer to God. I can see this from John Grimes' experience when he meets with God. John Grimes' need of love and acceptance is fulfilled when John Grimes believes in God and surrenders his life into God's hands. Not only does God fulfill John Grimes' inner need, but God also changes John Grimes to become a religious person.

Personally, I think this novel interesting because I find this novel is written by a black writer who writes about a young black boy's life who lives in the black society. I believe it is very important to see a black author describing the character of their own race. I learn from this novel that the struggles which happened to the black people are not only those related to racial prejudice and social status, but also some personal and psychological problems just like the ones experienced by non-black people. This emphasizes that black people are humans just like people of other races and that they experience similar struggles as other people in the world.