

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

Having analysed The Giver by Lois Lowry and Brave New World by Aldous Huxley, I conclude that all conflicts are related to freedom. There are three social conflicts and two inner conflicts in both of the novels that involve the protagonists. All conflicts concern about freedom and are related to the government or the society. Both novels reveal that freedom is an important thing in people's life. Without freedom, people's life will be restricted and yet to get freedom, one sometimes need to make sacrifices, as to what happens to Jonas. He gets his freedom but he cannot meet his family and friends again.

In Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, the social conflicts show that it is difficult to have freedom. Later, some social conflicts are resolved because the protagonist agrees with the other party but some others are not resolved because both parties hold on to their beliefs. An example of a resolved social conflict is when Bernard Marx and Lenina Crown are having a social conflict concerning soma, and it is resolved because Marx gives in to Lenina and finally takes soma. An example of an unresolved conflict is when Bernard Marx and Thomas Ford are having a social conflict concerning their social beliefs.

The inner conflicts show that the protagonist experiences dilemmas in achieving freedom but finally all inner conflicts are resolved. An example of an inner conflict is when Bernard Marx experiences a dilemma concerning his obedience towards Thomas Ford. However, in the end he decides to disobey Thomas Ford.

The same as Aldous Huxley's Brave New World, Lois Lowry's The Giver shows that it is difficult to have freedom. Later, some social conflicts are resolved because the protagonist and the other parties can reach an agreement, but some others are not resolved because both parties hold on to their own beliefs. An example of a resolved social conflict is when Jonas and the Giver are having a social conflict concerning memory. In the end, the social conflict is resolved because the Giver finally gives in to Jonas. An example of an unresolved conflict is when Jonas and his father are having a social conflict concerning Gabriel's release. This social conflict is not resolved because they cannot reach an agreement. The inner conflicts show that the protagonist experiences dilemmas in achieving freedom, but finally all inner conflicts are resolved because the protagonist decides to go against the other parties. An example of an inner conflict is when Jonas experiences a dilemma concerning his decision to keep his job as a memory receiver or not. The inner conflict is resolved because Jonas finally decides to keep his job.

Other than similarities, there are also differences between Brave New World and The Giver. In Brave New World, in fighting for freedom, the protagonist, Bernard Marx depends much on a friend, John, which results in the defeat of the protagonist by the government. However, in The Giver, the protagonist, Jonas fights for freedom by himself, which results in his success in obtaining freedom. Another difference is shown as the protagonist in The Giver shows more consistency in his

ideas about freedom. It is shown in all social conflicts, in which Jonas, the protagonist never gives in to other parties, whereas Bernard Marx in Brave New World sometimes gives in to the other parties, for example when he finally gives in to Lenina Crown and decides to take soma. The differences show that the protagonists' actions have a great impact on the result of what they fight for.

Another difference between Brave New World and The Giver is that Brave New World is categorized as a dystopian novel, in which the society might seem to be perfect because all the inhabitants are well fed or healthy or seemingly happy, yet they are revealed to be profoundly flawed because they limit the intellectual or emotional freedom of the individual, which then trigger the social and inner conflicts among the characters. The novel features characters that awaken to the richness of experience possible outside the confines of the society, but they are either destroyed by the society before they can make any significant changes. I believe that this novel functions as a warning to the reader: do not let this happen to your society.

On the other hand, The Giver is categorized as a utopian novel, in which the society Lowry depicts in the novel is a perfect world as envisioned by its creators. It has eliminated fear, pain, hunger, illness, conflict, and hatred, and all things that most of us would like to eliminate in our own society. But, in order to maintain the peace and order of their society, the citizens of the community in the novel have to submit to strict rules governing their behavior, their relationships, and even their language. Individual freedom and human passions add a chaotic element to society and even the memory of freedom and passion, along with the pain and conflict that human choice and emotion often cause, must be suppressed. In effect, the inhabitants of the society, though they are happy and peaceful, also lack the basic freedoms and

pleasures that our own society values, which trigger the social and inner conflicts among the characters.

Finally, I am of the opinion that it is better to depend on oneself than depending on others, just like what Jonas does in achieving freedom. I also believe that anything is going to be possible when one has strong principles and holds firmly to what one believes in. Finally, I conclude that any conflicts regarding freedom might take place anywhere: at work, among friends and even in the level of government. Resolutions may happen only when the parties finally agree with each other, even though there are times when there are no resolutions to conflicts.