

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to draw a conclusion from my analysis of the novel. This thesis has presented the analysis of three inner conflicts and two social conflicts through Tally, the protagonist in Scott Westerfeld's novel, *Uglies*. Tally's first inner conflict is whether she has to betray her friend Shay or not. The second inner conflict happens when she is to tell the true reason why she comes to the Smoke. She experiences the third inner conflict when she has a dilemma whether to ignore Shay's feeling or to ignore her own feeling for David. Moreover, Tally's first social conflict happens between Tally and Shay regarding their different opinions toward the authorities' plan to force everybody to have a plastic surgery. Finally, the second social conflict occurs when Tally opposes the authorities regarding their enforced obligatory operation.

I find that all of the inner conflicts are about betrayal. In the first inner conflict, Tally decides to betray her friend, Shay, by taking the authorities' offer to reveal the Smoke's location in order for her to be turned pretty. In fact, Tally has promised Shay that she will keep the Smoke's location as a secret. However, the authorities offer her the worst choice she can imagine: find Shay or never turn pretty at all. In the second inner conflict, Tally does not have the courage to tell

the real reason she has come to the Smoke: she has betrayed her friend by agreeing to be a spy in the Smoke. When Tally gets to the Smoke, she starts to like the place but the idea that she is a spy there keeps bothering her. In the third inner conflict, Tally betrays her friend, Shay, by being together with David, although she knows that Shay has a feeling for David, too. Shay seems to suspect Tally when she asks Tally about the special someone who has given Tally the pendant. Nevertheless, as the feelings between Tally and David grow stronger, Tally decides to go with David.

On the other hand, both social conflicts have to do with having different ideas. In the first social conflict, while Tally agrees with the operation to make people pretty, Shay disagrees with it and does not want to get the operation. Tally always admires pretty people as she thinks they are very attractive while Shay thinks they are boring and people should keep their natural looks. Similarly, the second conflict is about disagreement between Tally and the authorities regarding the operation to make people pretty. At first, Tally is dying to be turned pretty. Every night Tally look out of her window, watching the pretties partying all night in New Pretty Town. Being pretty is what all the uglies dream for. But after Tally gets to the Smoke and is told about the secret behind the operation, she completely changes her mind about her wish for the operation and her plan for helping the authorities to reveal the Smoke. The authorities' real intention of making all the citizens have the operation is not only to make them pretty but also to make them docile so that they are easily controlled.

The protagonist, Tally, experiences inner conflicts regarding betrayal. Tally also experiences social conflicts regarding having different ideas and opinions.

Difference of ideas and betrayal in the novel are both connected to acceptance, something which is very important for most youngsters. The first inner conflict is about acceptance by peer group. When Tally betrays her friend, Shay, it is because Tally wants to be turned pretty to join her friend Peris and to be accepted in New Pretty Town. The second inner conflict also concerns acceptance by peer group. Tally is confused whether to tell her new friends or not about her reasons why she is in the Smoke. She does not tell the true reasons because she wants to be accepted by her new friends there. The third inner conflict is about acceptance of others and acceptance of self. Tally and David start to like each other. David thinks that she is beautiful and what is inside is more important than the outer looks. David can make Tally feel beautiful without the operation. Then, Tally can see that David is somehow beautiful regardless of his imperfect look. The first social conflict is about acceptance by peer group and acceptance of self. Tally fights with Shay over the operation. Tally wants to be pretty so as to join her previous best friend, Peris, and to be accepted in the New Pretty Town. However, to Shay, they should accept themselves the way they are. Shay has no problem with the way she looks. She wants people to have self-respect for themselves. The second inner conflict is about acceptance of others. The authorities want the citizens to have the operation to make them look similar to one another and to make them docile. The authorities cannot accept the people the way they are. The people cannot have their own individualities.

I like the story because it is a very meaningful story that makes me think about beauty, self esteem, peer pressure, appearance and individuality which, in my opinion, are important issues that most young adults struggle with. At first, I

find the authorities' idea to make people equal by turning all the citizens pretty and to look the same is appealing. There is no war, no hunger, and no poverty. There is no racism or discrimination and no fight over religion simply because everyone is the same. There is no basis for hatred. However, if you think it through again, you will find it a bit frightening to imagine how people's minds are changed and they will live their lives by doing the same things every day without any personal desire to do anything different.

I think the story in the book is enjoyable and easy to follow yet it is unpredictable. The story is set in a believable and well thought futuristic world. Westerfeld's writing is wonderful and he describes everything interestingly unique and detailed. What I like is how Westerfeld comes up with such imaginative ideas about a futuristic world, when everything can be recycled and anything you need comes out of the wall in your room. I like the smart names of the places he created, like the Rusty Ruins, which is a dead city where the people used too much metal to build their city, which now has turned rusty. The Smoke is a place all the runaways go to settle down, where they get back to nature and cut down trees and burn them. I think it is very creative of him. I also like the futuristic technology devices, like the hoverboards (transportation system that looks like a flying skateboard working over a metal gird and magnets to stay up), hovercars (they work the same way as the hoverboards but in car form), and bungee jackets (devices to help you to escape burning buildings). My overall thought of the book is that it is excellent. It is an easy book to get through and toward the end of the story, a lot of things happen, such as battles, a love triangle, and tested friendships.