
**An Analysis of The Main Character on A Novel Titled “It Happened One Summer”
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Universitas Widya Dharma Pontianak¹aliciagisellejg@gmail.com, ²friska_dita@widyadharm.ac.id**Abstract**

This study analyses the character development of Piper Bellinger in a book titled It Happened One Summer by Tessa Bailey. This research focuses on Piper’s character development after getting sent to Westport as a punishment from making a scene, using Freud’s (2010) psychoanalysis. Using qualitative approach, data were collected by writing down things related to the character. Freud (2010) characterized id, ego, and superego as components of human psychology. These components play a big role in understanding character development. The analysis discovers two points about Piper Bellinger. At the beginning of the story, Piper’s id drives her, and the id is the cause of her immature and impulsive acts. She does anything to be famous, and she has no dream to pursue. After being sent to Westport, Bellinger then changes and is driven by her superego, which considers everything based on moral values. She realized that fame is hollow and loveless.

Keywords: *main character, characterization, character development, plot, psychoanalysis*

INTRODUCTION

This research introduces the background to explain why analyzing characters in literature is meaningful, especially in understanding their behavior, personality, and growth. It also outlines the problem formulations that guide the focus of the study and what questions it aims to answer about the character analysis. Furthermore, this research states its objectives to show what it seeks to achieve through the analysis. By presenting the background, problem formulations, and objectives together, this study builds a clear foundation for examining Piper Bellinger’s characterization and psychological development in the novel, offering insights into how literary and psychological theories can be used to understand a character more deeply.

Literature is a term that people have been used for since the eighteenth century, referring broadly to written works that possess artistic and intellectual value. The word literature itself derives from the classical Latin term *litteratura*, which means “writing” (Abrams & Harpham, 2015). However, within the field of literary studies, literature does not merely refer to any form of writing, but specifically to fictional, creative, and imaginative works that express ideas, emotions, and experiences through language. One prominent example of literary writing is the novel. As Hawthorn (2022) explains, a novel is a narrative form characterized by the presence of a plot that constructs and presents a story, whether it sets for the past or the present, it features characters whose actions drive the narrative forward. Furthermore, Forster (1927) emphasizes that a novel possesses a storytelling aspect, indicating its function to narrate events and experiences in a structural manner to its readers. This research uses a novel of *It Happened One Summer*. In agreement with Forster (1927) the novel has the aspect of telling a story of how the main character meets the love of her life. Thus, combining both theories above, a novel combines characters, events, and various narrative elements to represent and explore aspects of human life, society, and history. In brief, a novel is not only a mere form of entertainment but also serves as a medium through which authors reflect upon, critique, and imaginatively reconstruct the realities of the past and the present.

The existence of characters is a fundamental and inseparable element within a novel. According to Abrams & Harpham (2015), characters are people who present in a narrative work, and through their actions, dialogues, thoughts, and interactions, readers interpret their moral, emotional, and intellectual qualities. Similarly, Hawthorn (2022) asserts that characters are an essential component of a novel, as they not only stay in the narrative world, but also shape and drive the development of the plot through their decisions and behaviors. By synthesizing both perspectives, it is understood that characters have a function as the lifeblood of a novel. They do not merely exist as names within the text, but rather, they possess human qualities, personalities, and motivations, which are enabling them to perform roles that mirror those of real people in society.

Since characters behave and act like real people, characterization becomes an important subject to analyze in some literary studies. Egri (1942) introduces psychoanalysis as an approach of characterizing characters based on a deeper observation, and he explains that psychoanalysis focuses on examining the hidden causes behind emotional experiences for the purpose of understanding characters' behaviors more deeply. Similarly, Freud (2010) describes psychoanalysis as a method that seeks to uncover thoughts, desires, and feelings that hide within the mind unconsciously. By using psychoanalysis as an approach, readers and researchers are capable to understand the repressed emotions, unresolved conflicts, and unconscious motivations that influence characters personality, behavior, and development throughout the story. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of how characters past experiences, hidden fears, and inner conflicts shape their choices and interactions with others. Therefore, psychoanalysis becomes a significant choice to analyze character development in more detail and comprehensive manner, for this research analyzes the character development of a fictional character.

This research centers on Piper Bellinger, the main character of Tessa Bailey's "It Happened One Summer" and analyzes her psychological growth and personal transformation. Piper raised in Los Angeles by her mother and an emotionally distant stepfather, Piper grows up without the presence of her biological father, who died in a fishing accident. This early loss contributes to her constant need for validation, which she seeks through social media and attention-seeking behavior. A pivotal moment occurs when, after facing public humiliation from her boyfriend, Piper makes an impulsive decision that leads to her being sent to Westport. Removed from her glamorous lifestyle, she is challenged by a simpler environment that forces her to reassess her values and identity. Her experiences in Westport helped her to develop emotional maturity, empathy, and a clearer sense of self. By examining Piper's journey, this study explores how Piper finds herself by undergoing character development.

Tessa Bailey is a famous American author in contemporary romance. She writes emotionally engaging stories with humor, realistic relationships, and vivid characters. Her style includes modern dialogue and plots that explore complex emotions. As a New York Times bestselling author, she gains both commercial success and critical praise. Her novel "It Happened One Summer" is one of the best books in New York, combining romance, humor, and personal growth to create a relatable and heartfelt story. Hence, this research will analyze the following problems.

1. How is the characterization of Piper Bellinger portrayed in the book titled It Happened One Summer by Tessa Bailey?
2. In It Happened One Summer by Tessa Bailey, how do the character's struggles and her responses reveal her deeper personality and drive the story forward?

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative method to examine the psychological development and characterization of Piper Bellinger, the main character in Tessa Bailey's "It Happened

One Summer". It focuses on Piper's transformation from a superficial young woman into someone who shows emotional maturity, depth, and a stronger sense of identity. The novel is selected because it reflects themes such as love, finding oneself, personal growth, and emotional healing. Piper's character, shaped by the lack of a father figure and her constant need for attention, is analyzed through Freud's psychoanalytic theory, specifically the concepts of the id, ego, and superego.

The primary data for this study comes directly from the novel. The researcher reads the novel several times to understand the plot, identify key changes in Piper's character, and classify her behaviors based on psychoanalytic theory. The analysis explores her development as a round character by highlighting her emotional growth and increasing awareness in herself throughout the story.

This study supports literary analysis by showing how Bailey creates a character who represents deeper themes of identity, love, and transformation. It also explains why the story connects with today's readers. Since the novel contains mature content, it is recommended for readers aged 18 and above.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This research also presents the findings and discussion, which are organized based on the problem formulations stated earlier. The findings show the results of the analysis related to Piper Bellinger's characterization and psychological development in the novel. Meanwhile, the discussion explains and interprets these findings in detail by connecting them to the theories used in this research. By presenting the findings and discussion according to the problem formulations, this research ensures that each research question is answered clearly and that the analysis remains focused, systematic, and relevant to the objectives of the study.

A. Findings

In this chapter, the researcher presents the results and discussion. The findings are divided into four sections: Piper's type character according to Forster (1927), a description of Piper Bellinger, her initial characterization, and her developed characterization. On the other hand, the discussion is divided into two parts, each of which is related to research problems. The research results are presented as follows.

1. Piper's Characterization According to Forster (1927)

Based on Forster's (1924) theory, Piper can be identified as a round character because she shows significant changes in her personality, thoughts, and behavior throughout the novel. Forster explains that a round character is complex and capable of growth, showing different sides that make them appear real and human. At the beginning of the story, Piper is portrayed as a glamorous, carefree woman who only cares about parties, attention, and social media fame. However, as the story progresses, she starts to realize the emptiness of her lifestyle and begins to value deeper relationships, responsibility, and love. For example, when she chooses to help her family and learn about her late father's life, it shows her emotional growth and maturity. Her willingness to adapt to a new environment and her ability to reflect on her own flaws also prove that she is not limited to one trait. Therefore, Piper is a round character because she transforms from a superficial party girl into someone who understands the meaning of family, love, and true happiness, showing depth and development that fit Forster's definition.

2. Description of Piper Bellinger

Piper Bellinger has collective descriptions. As a twenty-eight-year-old glamorous girl, Piper has a pair of baby-blue eyes, rose gold-hair, a tall body, and a sun-kissed skin. She lives in a luxurious life in a mansion with no job, and she has no dream to pursue than attending parties and squandering her daddy's money. Since she loves documenting her life on social

media, she is famous and a socialite with many exes. Moreover, she pays attention to her appearance by putting on makeup and dressing up. Hence, illustrations of Piper bound in a paragraph as above. The research provides some dialogues taken from *It Happened One Summer* to verify some illustrations regarding Piper Bellinger, and dialogues as follows are analyzed using direct and indirect characterization.

- a. *"Piper Bellinger looked down at her lipstick-red, one-shoulder Valentino cocktail dress and tried to find the flaw but came up with nothing. Her tastefully tanned legs were polished to such a shine, ..." (p. 1)*
- b. *"This wasn't her first breakup, right? She'd done a lot of the dumping, often unexpectedly." (p. 3)*
- c. *"At twenty-eight, Piper was not old. But she was one of the oldest women at this party." (p. 3)*
- d. *"This was Piper's career. Partying. Being seen." (p. 3)*
- e. *"She assumed the bill went to her stepfather's email or something?" (p. 3)*
- f. *"... sweeping rose-gold hair over her shoulder." (p. 4)*
- g. *"Boring. Getting older. Not a director or a pop star. Just a pretty girl with a millionaire stepfather." (p. 4)*
- h. *"You play dress-up and spend your daddy's money. You don't have to learn anything." (p. 5)*
- i. *"But you definitely need a brain that functions beyond how many likes you can get on a picture of your rack. There's more to life than that, Piper." (p. 5)*
- j. *"Life is what I'm documenting through photos." (p. 5)*
- k. *"She has a reputation as a good time. Someone to covet. An 'It girl.'" (p. 6)*
- l. *"... Piper was taller ..." (p. 14)*
- m. *"... contrast to Piper's baby blues." (p. 14)*
- n. *"Piper and Hannah had attempted to creep in through the catering entrance of their Bel-Air mansion." (p. 18)*

On point (a), Piper takes good care of her appearance, where her skin is shinely sun-kissed. Piper is gorgeous at twenty-eight years old, as on point (c). As supports on point (f), she has that shine and baby blue eyes on point (m). Imagine a lady dressing so elegantly with a tall body on point (l), numberless suitors are paying attention to Piper as reveals on point (b). Also, shows by the point (k), Piper is a socialite and a trend-setter as she has the title as an *"Its girl"*.

Piper loves partying, as shows on point (d). She does not have a dream than exposing her life on social media, as shows on points (g, i, and j). Supports by points (e, g, and h), Piper source of income is her stepfather's money. She is a true princess with such luxurious lifestyle and living in a mansion as appears on point (n).

3. Early Characterization of Piper Bellinger

This research applies Freud's theory of the id, ego, and superego to analyze the characterization of Piper Bellinger in the novel. Freud's psychoanalytic theory explains that human behavior is shaped by three fundamental components of the mind. They are the id, which contains basic desires and instincts; the ego, which uses reason to balance these desires with reality; and the superego, which represents moral values and societal rules. By using this theory, the research aims to explore Piper's inner psychological processes that shape her actions, decisions, and development in the story. This approach helps to reveal not only her visible traits and behaviors but also the deeper motivations and conflicts within her mind, allowing a more complete understanding of her characterization as a complex and realistic character.

- a. Piper needs attention and real love. She uses social media to get attention by posting pictures. She never had a boyfriend who loved her in a way true love should, for instance, commitment. She fell in love with a guy who saved her from stepping on a puke. She loves that guy so much, but Adrian embarrassed her in front of everybody at a party.
 - 1) *"... Enough to draw man's eye..."* (p. 1)
 - 2) *"Adrian had saved her from stepping in vomit at Rumer Willis's birthday party. As she'd stared up at his chiseled chin from her place in his arms, she'd been transported to Old Hollywood. ... It was the beginning of her own classic love story."* (p. 2)
 - 3) *"I can't believe you're throwing it all away like this,"* (p. 2)
 - 4) *"He stared at her for several seconds. Honestly, it was kind of nice. It was the most attention she'd gotten from him since almost slipping in puke."* (p. 4)
 - 5) *"She just wanted to exit the party as inconspicuously as possible and go have a good cry."* (p. 4)
 - 6) *"You've been afforded every opportunity, given anything your heart could ask for, and all you have to show for it is a digital existence. It means nothing."* (p. 19)
- b. Piper does not have a purpose other than partying, and it shows on point (4). Piper is not interested in working to find more money because she is already rich. Having fun is the only thing Piper knows, for all she ever needs is love and attention. She has everything, and she does not find a reason why she must work.
- c. Piper thinks she has a best friend, Kirby. Kirby told the police that Piper is the one who is making all chaos. Piper trusts Kirby. However, everything fell apart after Kirby posted a picture of Piper dancing naked in a condition of being not sober.
 - 1) *"It's too late for this sweetheart. Your friend with the purple tip already named you as the ringleader."* (p. 10)
 - 2) *"She and Piper were friends, but not good enough for her to lie to the police. The foundation of their relationship was commenting on each other's social media posts and enabling each other to make ridiculous purchases, like a four-thousand-dollar purse shaped like a tube of lipstick."* (p. 11)
 - 3) *"There it was. The picture she'd posted early this morning, at 2:42 ... Kirby, the traitorous wench, had snapped it using Piper's phone."* (p. 16)
- d. Piper wants to be noticed by her love. Piper grows without a loving father who pays attention to her growing process. She tries to find a love to fill the hollowness in her heart, but she never gets it. Love is all she wants.

"My boyfriend dumped me. And he ... didn't even look me in the eye the whole time. I guess I just wanted to be seen. Acknowledged. Celebrated instead of ... disregarded. You know?" (p. 11)
- e. Piper is not mature and acting like a child. She spends her father's money. As shown on point (5), her lifestyle also has become stuck to spending her father's money. She also does not get much support from her stepfather as a mentor of life. That mistake makes Piper grow up carefree.

"She'd grown up in Bel-Air. Vacationing and throwing pool parties and rubbing elbows with famous actors. This was the only life she knew. None of her friends worked. Only a handful of them had bothered with college. What was the point of a degree? To make money? They already had tons of it." (p. 21)

The dialogue above shows that Piper is not mature. She does not pursue anything, she thinks if the goal is to make more money, she has money already.
- f. Piper decided to take revenge for Adrian by breaking into a pool, and followed

by helicopter, and nudity. Piper wanted to make sure that Adrian regretted breaking up with her, especially for humiliating Piper on public. She does not think the consequences of her actions bring her to jail. All she thinks is she must make a scene.

"I had a breakup. A public one. And I didn't want to be labeled social media pathetic, right?"

So I mass texted hundreds of people and broke us into the rooftop pool at the Mondrian. It got out of control. Like, police helicopters and fireworks and nudity out of control." (pp. 88-89)

- g. Piper does whatever she wants. She does not think what would happen if she did that action. Piper thinks it is fun to break into a pool with about 200 people. She thinks the scene brings no harm, but she ended up in jail.

"... I got arrested and almost cost my stepfather the production money for his next film. He sent me here with barely any money to teach me a lesson ... and force me into being self-sufficient." (p. 89)

- h. Piper does not think twice. Daniel is her stepfather. Daniel loves Piper as his own by providing Piper with money. He was angry when he saw the news and gave some talks. Piper does not know if the action she took is wrong, and that proves her immaturity as shown on point (b).

1) *"The owner of the Mondrian is financing my next film. ... He's not happy about last night, to put it quite mildly. You made his hotel seem like it lacks security. You made it a laughingstock. And worse, you could have burned the ... place down."* (pp. 21-22)

2) *"I didn't know. I ... I had no idea who owned the hotel."* (p. 22)

- i. Piper does not load her mind with her father's lessons to stop going to parties and spending his money. Daniel is a busy man and always working. He rarely pays attention to Piper, and she does not see Daniel to have a special part in Piper's heart. Hence, Piper does not listen.

1) *"I thought you learned your lesson a long time ago, Piper. Or lessons, plural, rather. You were still flitting around to every ... party between here and the valley, but you weren't costing me money or making me look like a ... idiot in the process."* (p. 19)

2) *"Mentally listing all of the galas and fashion shows that would happen over the course of three whole months, Piper got to her feet and sent her mother a pleading look. 'Mom, you're really going to let him send me away?'"* (p. 25)

- j. Piper is afraid, because she does not want to go to Westport for three months. As a punishment, Daniel, her stepfather, sent her to go to Westport. There, she will need to learn how to survive and get out of her comfort zone. As shown on point (c), Piper does not want to go to Westport. In the novel, Piper will miss so many parties and events for the whole three months.

1) *"Normally I would tell anyone who demanded something from me to ... but I can't ignore my gut feeling that you need to learn to fend for yourself for a while."* (p. 25) Daniel told Piper.

2) *"What do you mean by 'fend?'"* (p. 25) Piper replied.

3) *"I mean you're getting out of your comfort zone. I mean you're going to Westport."* (p. 25)

4) *"Mom, you're really going to let him send me away?'"* (p. 25)

Piper does not know much about her father. All she knows is her father has passed away and her mother married Daniel when she was four years old. Daniel told Piper that her father lived in Westport, and he left a bar for Piper and Hannah in Westport. Because of that, it is a great chance for Piper to know something that she has been supposed to know since long time ago.

- k. Appearance is number one for piper. Going to Westport, Piper looks beautiful on wearing her big hat and a lipstick purse. It is stated as follows. The desire to look beautiful is part of id.
"It was the one in the floppy hat who caught his eye right away, purely because she looked the most ridiculous, a lipstick-shaped purse dangling from her forearm, wrists limp and drawn up to her shoulders, as if she was afraid to touch something." (p. 31)
- l. Piper is attracted to Brendan. Brendan is an attractive man, for he has a pair of green eyes. He is also taller than Piper. She thinks Brendan is handsome.
 - 1) *"... Piper's eyes widened when he reached his full height."* (p. 38)
 - 2) *"For a split second, she'd found the silver-green eyes under the band of that beanie kind of captivating."* (p. 39)
- m. She flirts. Piper's flirting skill is not always shown. However, it is fun to do it in front of Mr. Gloom.
 - 1) *"... she'd done what she did best when a man seemed interested. She did a little stationary flossing."* (p. 39)
 - 2) *"It was as natural as breathing, the subtle hip shift. Finding the light with her cheekbones, drawing attention to her mouth and sucking his soul out with her eyes. It was a maneuver she normally performed with a high success rate. Instead, he'd only looked pissed off."* (pp. 39-40)
- n. Since breaking up with Adrian, Piper became overthinker. Adrian stabbed her with his words. She is innocent because she only wants to do what she wants. She just does not have person to look up to in her life, a father figure. As she thinks Adrian loves her, he harshly uttered hurtful comments on Piper. Overthinking is her partner.
"Multiple voices drifted back to her, tightening the nape of her neck. 'You play dress-up and spend your daddy's money. You don't have a reason to learn anything. There's just nothing to you, okay? You have no drive to go anywhere. Or do anything. Why would you when this life I've provide you is always here, rewarding lack of ambition with comfort and an excuse to remain stagnant?'" (pp. 42-43)

4. Developed Characterization of Piper Bellinger Superego

- a. Piper does not chase a married guy. Commitment is special for Piper. Because of that, she does not want to break it, especially for Brenden who she thinks has married.
"... She might have noticed the gold band. He'd seemed to purposefully flash it at her, and as she was not definitely not the type to go after someone who was taken..." (p. 40).
- b. She does not like the way Brendan behaves, but she is trying to be nice to him. Brendan treats Piper like she cannot do anything or survive in Westport. He thinks Piper is spoiled. He also hated it when Piper came to Westport and claimed that it No Name belongs to her. Brendan has a special connection to the bar since he is one of the people who spend his days in the bar after long days of fishing. That is why Brendan is rude to Piper, and Piper calls him Beast and Mr. Gloom. However, no matter how rude Brendan is, Piper tries to be friendly to him.
"Piper rolled her shoulders back one by one and decided to try being friendly to the beast, at least one more time." (p. 40)
- c. Piper loves clean rooms, and a clean house. No Name is an old place and left by Henry Cross who has died years ago. No one cleans the place. Cobwebs, dust and rats are everywhere. In moral, Piper hates it. She was shocked to see the condition of No Name for the first time.

- 1) *"Piper's eyes tracked along the ceiling, and she lost count of the cobwebs. There had to be an inch of grime on every surface-and she hadn't seen the bathroom yet. The one window looked directly at the brick wall of the building next door, so the musky odor couldn't even be aired out."* (p. 42)
- 2) *"What was it? A mouse? Weren't they supposed to be cute? Piper scrambled onto the top bunk with a yip, Hannah hot on her heels. They met in the middle and clung to each other, Piper trying not to gag."* (p. 44)
- 3) *"They'd been cleaning since midafternoon, and the studio, while still irreversibly grungy, looked much better. And Piper could admit to a certain satisfaction with making her own progress."* (p. 68)
- d. Even though Piper does not think Brendan is friendly, she thinks he has value for being faithful to his wife. He avoids any contact with Piper. The wedding ring on Brendan's finger proves it. Piper admires a loyal man just like Brendan.
"It was kind of admirable of him, wasn't it? To be aggressively faithful to his wife? If she ever got married someday, she hoped her husband would do the same." (p. 40)
- e. Piper has become a frequent overthinker. Adrian and Daniel tell her some criticisms of Piper. It is great for Piper to rethink their words, for she learns not to make the same mistake and improve her life. Her life is beyond social media and partying. Overthinking is a mirror for Piper to help Piper change herself. From point (b) to (e), Piper and Brendan become closer, and he wants Piper to be his girl.
 - 1) *Multiple voices drifted back to her, tightening the nape of her neck. You play dress-up and spend your daddy's money. You don't have a reason to learn anything. There's just nothing to you, okay? You have no drive to go anywhere. Or do anything. Why would you, when this life I've provided you is always here, rewarding your lack of ambition with comfort and an excuse to remain blissfully stagnant?"* (pp. 42-43)
 - 2) *"What if her lack of modesty turned him off? Did he really create a profile just to follow her?"* (p. 107)
 - 3) *"If her sister was right, why was she picking bad apples on purpose?"* (p. 109)
Piper is afraid that Brendan will be a guy who loves to break her heart, just like Adrian.
 - 4) *"Why was she nervous this little old man was going to turn her down?"* (p. 114)
Piper will help Abe to climb the porch every morning.
 - 5) *"Who does this LA party girl think she is, coming in here and trying to fill the shoes of a born-and-bred fisherman's wife?"* (p. 233)
- f. Piper thanked Brendan for helping her and Hannah bring their stuff upstairs. Piper and Hannah brought many heavy items from Los Angeles. It must be very heavy. Brendan helped them bring the suitcases upstairs. She thanked him.
"Anyway, thanks for the warm welcome Mayor Doom and Gloom." (p. 45)
- g. Piper insisted on cooking a meal for Hannah even though she does not know how to cook. Hannah, her little sister, insisted on going with Piper to Westport, and Piper thinks making her sister a home-cooked meal is the best way to take care of her. It is also another way to say thank you to Hannah.
"It's mainly for Hannah. ... To thank her for coming with me. She didn't have to. ... I have people to look out, too." (p. 53)
- h. Piper fears hurting her mother by asking questions about her father, Henry Cross. Her mother is still sad when the names Henry Cross and Westport come into her head. Piper does not dare ask anything that makes her mom sad. All these years, she just let it pass.

"There are barely any memories for me to forget, ... I was four when we left, and after that ... it wasn't spoken about. Not because I wasn't curious, but because it hurt our mother." (p. 54)

- i. Piper feels sorry for Brendan. She does not know if Brendan's wife has passed away, but Piper accidentally mentions her. She feels bad for Brendan and her actions.

"Piper paled, her eyes ticking to the center of his chest. 'I didn't mean ... Is she ...?' 'Yeah ... gone.'" (p. 56)

- j. Her morale is starting to work. She did not play with her phone outside for a walk. Playing on the phone while walking is dangerous and can prevent you from enjoying your time in the real world. It is very wise of Piper to stop looking at her phone.

"There was also something to be said for not looking at her phone as she walked. If she'd responded to comments on her post, she might have missed the woman putting fresh fish into the window of her shop, two seagulls fighting over a French fry, ..." (p. 61).

- k. Piper feels responsible for Hannah. Since coming to Westport, her little sister has never tasted a good meal. Hannah does not want Piper to cook, but Piper insists. Piper is a good sister.

"Even if we could find a way to stretch our budget to cover takeout for every night, you should have home-cooked meals. ... I'm the big sister, and I will see that you're properly nourished. Plus, you cleaned the toilet from hell. You've earned dinner and sainthood, as far as I'm concerned." (p. 67)

- l. Piper's morale is starting to grow. She is making a coffee for Brendan while he fixes her door. Piper shows gratitude by making him a hot coffee to drink before he goes fishing.

"Brendan grunted and set to work, apparently having decided to ignore her. Fine. Just to spite him, she let the pillow drop and went to make coffee." (p. 95)

- m. Piper feels shy. Hannah is making fun of her, and Brendan gives Piper his attention to her head bump. She notices that Brendan cares for her. She wants to be perfect and never thought Brendan paid attention to her bump.

"Brendan no like Piper boo-boo. Brendan fix.'... 'Oh, shut up,'" (p. 112).

- n. She waits for her visitor as a sign of respect. Brendan has fixed the lock on her door. He heads to leave the bar, and Piper watches him as he goes to the door.

"While watching him head to the door..." (p. 113).

- o. She helps Abe. He loves reading the newspaper on his porch. However, he cannot climb the porch because he is getting older. Hence, Piper decides to help him every day.

"Hey, Abe. I have a flexible schedule here, and the museum is only a quick walk. So...like, I don't know, if you wanted to sit outside and read your paper more than twice a week, I could walk over and help you climb the porch." (p. 114)

- p. Piper starts to pay attention to her environment. She rarely looks at her phone and is less eager to upload selfies on social media. Piper has changed by preferring real scenery to social media.

"Piper found herself relaxing, enjoying herself, and the rest of the week went by faster than expected." (p. 114)

- q. She adapts. She starts to have a routine, something to do with her life. Before this, it was all just parties.

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- 1) *"She went out on her run Friday morning, finishing up outside the hardware store where Abe waited, a rolled-up newspaper tucked under his arm. ... with a promise to meet him again tomorrow morning."* (pp. 114-115)
 - 2) *"You're dealing with a whole lot of new information in your own way, ... Nothing wrong with that. You're adjusting. I wish I had more of that mentality."* (p. 142)
 - 3) *"I don't think you'd survive one night in that apartment. Piper, I wouldn't even have stayed there. I've slept in bunks with unwashed men for weeks on end. But you stuck it out. And you smiled at me when I was being a bastard. You're a good sister, too."* (p. 143)
 - 4) *"... He witnessed her growing comfort, day in and day out, because she had a grandparent. Noticed the way she'd begun weaving Opal into conversations without sounding stilted or awkward. She was trying new things and succeeding."* (p. 167)
 - r. Mick suggested Piper sees Opal, her grandmother. Piper would not know if she had a grandmother in Westport if she had not listened to Mick and visited Opal. *"I'm Opal Cross. I'm your grandmother."* (p. 116)
 - s. Piper feels touched. Opal happily tells Piper that she is her grandmother. Piper feels Opal loves her so much. *"I'm your grandmother. Those words sounded like they were meant for someone else. People who got ugly knitted sweaters on Christmas morning or fell asleep in the back of a station wagon after a road trip to Bakerfield."* (p. 116)
 - t. She feels guilty for Henry. Although he has passed away, his memories and his family are in Westport. They still remember him after 22 years.
 - 1) *"Henry Cross hadn't been some phantom; he'd been a flesh-and-blood man with heart, and he'd love them with it, Maureen, Piper, Hannah. Opal. Had they been a part of his final thoughts? Was it crazy to feel like they'd deserted him?"* (pp. 119-120)
 - 2) *"He was a determined man. Loved to debate. Loved to laugh when it was all over. ... Your father loved you to pieces. Called you his little first mate.' The feeling Piper had been missing at the memorial ... it rode in now on a slow tide, and she had to blink back the sudden hot pressure behind her eyes."* (p. 120)
 - 3) *"When I was talking to Opal, I started to thinking how unfair it is that Henry's own family never grieved him."* (p. 125)
 - 4) *"I never would have known about her, either, if we hadn't come here. She's just been sitting in her apartment all this time, grieving my father. Knowing that kind of makes my life in LA feel like make - believe. Blissful ignorance."* (p. 141)
 - 5) *"Me and Hannah went to see the memorial for Henry, and I didn't know what was I supposed to feel, but I didn't think it would be just nothing. It stayed that way right up until today when we found a whole collage pf pictures in the bar. Behind some plywood. He was laughing in one of the photos, and that's when ... there was finally recognition."* (p. 141)
 - u. She can finally use her moral sense. She starts to think of all her actions. Breaking into a pool is wrong. If she had not caused chaos at the Mondrian, she would not have ended up in Westport. *"How did this happen? How am I spending my Saturday dividing up garbage? Reckless behavior. A night in jail... Rude."* (p. 148)
 - v. She does not want to spend money on expensive items anymore. She thinks it is not right and that money is valuable. She prefers simple things now. *"I think Daniel's lesson worked. ...I think I might appreciate money now, Brendan."* (p. 300)

w. Fame is empty. It is plain. People will love you because you are beautiful, but once if you do something wrong, they will hate you. Fame is hollow.

- 1) *"... Since coming to Westport. Since meeting Brendan. What she'd thought before was living life to the fullest had actually been living life for other people to watch. To gawk at. She wouldn't lie to herself and pretend one month had completely cured for her deeply rooted yen for attention. For praise. For what she'd done interpreted as love. Now, though? She was participating in her own life. Not just posing, and she was really seeing it now. She was really looking."* (p. 307)
- 2) *"In the dressing room while trying on jeans, it didn't even occur to her to snap a selfie in the mirror. She just wanted to be there, in the moment, with this man. Because the way he made her feel was three million times better than the way three million strangers made her feel."* (p. 307)
- 3) *"A month ago, this unexpected windfall of notoriety would have been the greatest thing that ever happened in her life. Now it mostly left her hollow."* (p. 311)
- 4) *"She didn't want to have her picture taken and plastered all over social media. There would never be anything wrong with having a good time. Or dancing and dressing how she chose to dress."* (p. 373)

B. Discussion

This researcher will examine the issues in the study. These issues include Piper Bellinger's character formation, as well as her various challenges and responses, to provide a deeper insight into how she is portrayed in the novel. The following explanation will outline these aspects in a structured manner in relation to the research objectives.

1. The Character Development in Piper Bellinger

Piper Bellinger is first portrayed as an immature and impulsive woman. Her life in Los Angeles feels empty and colorless because she cannot find true love there. Although she wants love, attention, and meaningful connections, she does not know where to find them or how to search for what makes life meaningful. As a result, she spends her time chasing fame and going to parties. Finding true love is difficult for Piper because Adrian breaks up with her in public, leaving her feeling rejected and ashamed. After this breakup, she holds a large rooftop party with 200 guests to make Adrian regret leaving someone as famous as her.

However, when she moves to Westport, her life begins to change. It takes her a month to realize Westport is where she truly belongs. In this small town, love is everywhere. She feels seen and appreciated by the people around her, and she meets Brendan, a strong and committed man who gives her genuine love and attention. This relationship, along with her new routine in the community, makes her shine with positivity and maturity.

Based on the findings, 14 pieces of data show Piper's id in her early characterization, reflecting her impulsive actions. In comparison, 23 pieces of data show her superego in her developed characterization, which indicates moral values guide her decisions. Therefore, Piper grows from someone driven mainly by her id to a woman who acts wisely and follows her sense of what is right.

2. Struggles and Responses of Piper Bellinger

The book illustrates two problems. The first one is when Piper uses taxpayer money to cause chaos on a hotel rooftop, sends police helicopters, and drinks nakedly. The second problem is when she has to choose between Los Angeles and Westport. Hence, Piper Bellinger encounters two challenges.

Piper handled the first situation by staying in jail for hours and then going to Westport to live there for three months with a humble amount of money to survive. Her first night

was difficult, because the room where she slept was dirty and untouched for years. However, she chose to stay and saved her money to order a ticket back to Los Angeles. It took her a month to adjust, and she loved every moment in simple life.

The second problem Piper faced was choosing to stay in Los Angeles or Westport. She fell in love with Brendan, a fisherman in Westport. However, her life in Los Angeles is fun and full of shopping and parties. She is famous, but she loves Brendan very much, and she finds color in Westport. Piper is in Westport.

In conclusion, Piper Bellinger was adapting to Westport and becoming a part of it. Her once hollow life has become sparklingly bright.

CONCLUSION

This research summarizes the main findings related to Piper Bellinger's character development. Initially depicted as an impulsive and immature woman driven by her id, Piper seeks fame and indulgence in Los Angeles, as shown by her reckless actions, such as misusing public funds for a party. However, her character gradually evolves after relocating to Westport. She adapts to a modest lifestyle, develops emotional depth, and forms meaningful relationships, especially with Brendan. The analysis has found 14 instances reflecting her id in the early stages and 23 instances of superego as she begins to make morally guided decisions. Faced with the choice between her past glamorous life and a simpler one, Piper ultimately chooses Westport. This transformation highlights her growth into a mature individual guided by moral awareness and emotional fulfillment, confirming the psychological progression explored throughout the study.

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