An International Peer-Reviewed Journal ; Volume-4, Issue-2, 2022 www.ijoes.in ISSN: 2581-8333; Impact Factor: 5.421(SJIF)

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Young Hope: Traversing the journey of adolescent hope and change in Lara Williamson's *'A Boy called Hope'*

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Article received: 15/01/2022, Article Accepted: 23/02/2022, Article Published: 26/02/2022, DOI:http:/dx.doi.org/10.47311/IJOES.2022.4224

Abstract

The objective of the study is to find out how the aspect of change and hope are an essential part of life in the short story by Lara Williamson 'A Boy Called Hope'. The author elaborates the story of young child Dan Hope who deals with the involvement of uncertain changes that is very difficult to handle for a seven-year-old child and destiny plays a topsyturvy ride till he turns eleven. The unpredictability in life can even shake mature individuals. The idea of involving hope is not just about bringing in a change but also the conditioning of mind towards the right choices with the elimination of erroneous choices that can limit the worth of children from being responsible and mature for their imminent future. Children's literature has always acknowledged children in the norms of moral values, imagination, creativity, and lots of child developing qualities. Therefore, the study will focus considering the research gap, on the importance of change and hope in the short story 'A Boy Called Hope' with substantial references in literature that draws one's attention to this primary concern in contemporary times.

Keywords: Hope, Change, Adolescence, Concern, Values, Future.

INTRODUCTION

Association of the aspects of hope, and change are the two prime keys for the imminent future of adolescence. It's difficult to give credence to change. Especially when it comes to adolescence. it's very complex for children to believe the process of change and persuasion of hope, which leads to disappointment and hopelessness.

With the birth of life, there come uncertain events that have a difference in importance for everyone. Some, search as death open off a family member, are major and involve a dramatic level of changes and appeal. In contrast, many events are minor and may exert relatively little impact on their own. (Bruce E. campus, 1987)

In Ancient Greek mythology, pandora's box is a story that represents the evolution of hope in a set of epic poems by Hesiod, which was identified as the theogony and works and days. The story describes the act of creation of mankind that was given in responsibility to the titan brothers Prometheus and Epimetheus. To encourage the development of mankind Prometheus stole fire from the almighty Zeus, being aware as it was a serious crime. He knew that the fate of his brother and humankind is in danger so, he advised Epimetheus not to accept any gift from God. Even Epimetheus assured him that he won't accept any gift from the gods. Following the circumstance, Zeus devised a plan against Epimetheus and humanity. The almighty Zeus ordered Hephaestus to create the first woman 'Pandora'. She was drenched with spectacular gifts as Aphrodite gave her unparalleled beauty, grace, and desire; Hermes gave her the power of words; Athena clothed her and taught her to be debt with her hands; Poseidon bestowed her with a pearl necklace that would prevent her from drowning. Apollo taught her to play the lyre and sing; the almighty Zeus gave her a foolish, mischievous, and idle nature. Last but not least Hera gave Pandora the wildest gift amongst all, Curiosity.

Before delivering Pandora to Epimetheus Zeus gave her a box as a gift to carry with her, he specifically notified that the gift is for humankind, and you shouldn't open it at any cost. Soon after Hermes was asked to deliver pandora to Epimetheus. Astonished by her beauty Epimetheus fell in love with Pandora. Over time, their love grew stronger, and they both married. With the transit of time, Pandora's curiosity about the box grew intensely.

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One day out of curiosity she opened the box and a black mist with all the creatures of misery started approaching out the box, she tried to close the lid but was unable to do so because of the strong evil mystic force. Struggling she reached the box and at the end, she found a glooming blue light 'Hope'. Before that period mankind was in a world of pure happiness without any sorrow and conflict. With the gift of pandora's box to mankind that was filled with evil and a seed of hope that gives strength to man not to give up life when facing evils and obstacles that afflicts mankind. With hope, the almighty Zeus managed to extend the punishment on the human race forever. From that time Hope became essential to survive the evils spread across the globe. The spread of dark mist which had uncertainty in life, envy, cruelty, greed, Disease, hunger, sorrow, war, vice, toil, the necessity to work, jealousy, famine and passion, hatred, strife, worry all the evils that converted righteousness of mankind to wickedness and cruelty. Hope after that phase acts as the straws on which mankind is grasping.

'A Boy Called Hope' by Lara Williamson is completely based on the uncertainty in life that is faced by a boy going through the period of adolescence. when there is uncertainty in life we talk about changes, physical changes, social changes, and emotional changes. The aspect of physical change is essential for the development of a child into a mature adult.

Adjustment disorders are typically associated with less severe symptoms, a lower level of impairment, and a reasonably good short-term prognosis when compared to other psychiatric disorders (Greenberg et al., 1995; Kovacs et al., 1994).

Similarly, the story 'A Boy Called Hope' by Lara Williamson gives a very brief account of the social and emotional changes in the life of Daniel's hope which leads him to hopelessness and denial of the changes happening. Dan in the story keep's holding on to the past. The love for his father who abandoned him at the age of 7, increased at the period of adolescence when he turned 11. He needed a role model for support to fit into the world which made him think about his father more intensely. His mother forgot the past and started a new relationship with another man-made dan and her elder sister grace was uncomfortable which led to disagreement and obviously into the adjustment disorder according to the situation. In the story, Lara deliberately included all the essential aspects that affect the development of a child during adolescence and the consequences that forbid a child to embrace change and to load life over with hope for a victorious future.

LITERATURE REVIEW

'A Boy Called Hope' is a heart-warming story by Lara Williamson, where Dan is in tremendous pain and wants to get his father back in the family. Dan's mother and father separated when he was seven years old. His father left the family because of another woman. When Dan turned 11, he was desperately in need of a father figure, so he tried to contact his father through sending emails; he kept on doing missions like his idol Sherlock Holmes finding his father's address. He tried every possible way to get in touch with his father again and tell him whatever happened he's through it and wants him back in his life. In this story we see a child going through adolescence and the factors that are going to build his state of maturity are overpowered by his emotions which leads Dan to hopelessness. he finds it's very difficult to adjust to the changes which are going through in his life like his mother having a relationship with another man, his sister being bossy, a slight rift in his friendship with Christopher, and the most devastating feeling that his father didn't love him at all. These situations display adjustment disorder, Lack of acceptance of change, and hopelessness in the adolescent boy, Dan. The entire scenario indicates the presence of the theory of adolescence, adjustment disorder, dismissal of charges, and lack in the inducement of hope to evolve in life.

The primary text 'A Boy Called Hope' by Lara Williamson gives a detailed scenario on the complication of the topic that focuses on child development. Passing practically through the emotional and social changes is a difficult task for children and pursuing hope is an even more strenuous piece of work. The primary text presents various happenings in the story that gave out relevant questions to be asked and acknowledged like, how to overcome the complications which this paper aims to survey with the theme of insights in changes and persuasion of hope in adolescence through textual analysis.

The secondary text gives the research that has been done previously on the theories and the themes which cover vast topics included in this research proposal and are described as followed:

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Stress and life events during childhood and adolescence. Promoting hope in children and adolescents. Helping your child through early adolescence. Adjustment disorder and the course of the suicidal process in adolescents. An analysis on hope as a psychological strength. Emotional and cognitive changes during adolescence. Families: influence in children's development and behavior, from parents and teachers' point of view. Physical and psychological effects of the changes in adolescence. The role of hope in academic and work environment: an integrative literature review. The age of adolescence. The research described above has given out the theories and analysis on various factors Included in this paper. The most concerning topics from the story are adolescence, acceptance of changing life events, and the maintenance of hope have been described in the above research proposals.

Although the first use of the word "adolescence" appeared in the 15th century and came from the Latin word "adolscere," Which meant "to grow up or to grow into maturity" (Lerner and Steinberg, 2009, p.1), it wasn't until 1900 for the first president of the American psychological association g Stanley Hall was credited with discovering "adolescence". (Henig, 2010, p.4).

So, right from the beginning to the development of the theories of adolescence the up-gradation has been continued in the concept and have made it clear in a comprehensive manner which describes adolescence as the most difficult period of human life and has the interrelation with the insights into acceptance of changes and persuasion of hope in children that this paper aims to inspect.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research project is to conduct a thematic analysis on a child novel 'A Boy Called Hope' a story full of humor and fiction. Rather than humor and fiction which is considered a crucial part of a child novel there is an additional concept that is, the refusal of accepting change and lack in the persuasion of hope in children is seen. Which can be a very important theme related to child development in the actual world. In the story, the boy Dan hope is described as a funny and likable boy who tackles the questions in his life bravely. Dan's determination to carry on with life in the situation he faced when his parents separated from the day, he turned 7 and reached the age of 10 is remarkable. When Dan turned 11 things became more uncertain in his life. During the phase of adolescence, it became more difficult for Dan to accept the fact that his father doesn't love him, he abandoned the family because of another woman and will never come back to them. The desire to have a complete family made Dan acquit about whatever his father did. He was ready to forgive and forget whatever happened in the past by his father. But he had no clue from his father's side. After seeing his father on the television, Dan tried emailing him, he organized search operations like Sherlock Holmes for the search of his father's residence. He secretively went on the residence and tried to peep inside in search of his father and the people he lives within. He also participates in a competition to impress his father where he is the guest of honor. The ignorance from his father starting from not replying to his emails till the day of departing midway from the competition by seeing Dan made him hopeless. he could barely sleep at night, had terrible dreams, the reluctance of appetite, lack in decision making, he experienced self-consciousness, he became even more emotional just because of denial from his dad to accept him as his son and to come back to his life as well as in the family.

The discussion of the scenario in the above paragraph clearly states some crucial objectives that are listed below:

To find out how the aspects of change and hope are an essential part of life in the story by Laura Williamson a boy called hope.

To find out the social and emotional changes that affects Dan in the story.

To find out incidents and characters in the story that represents the way of keeping hope alive.

The possible questions that can be processed through the objectives are:

What are the circumstances which made Dan disagree with the change in his life? What are the incidents that made Dan hopeless? What were the social and emotional changes seen in Dan's behavior? How can adolescence be an integral part of Dan's behavior? What are the incidents that represent hope? Are there any characters that resemble as a hand of hope for dance acceptance to change and persuasion of hope?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology that is involved in this research paper comprises the listing of various undertakings such as:

The assembling of primary data that is the child novel itself a boy called who written by Lara Williamson. The primary data source gives significant study about the

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themes and theories that can be absorbed from the story for a comprehensive study. The collection of secondary text is the pre-existing research materials by various authors on the theme of this research topic. Book review and interviews were carried out to be a descriptive source of secondary data. Obtaining resources through an online source such as websites that have information and description on various segments that are involved in the topic of this research paper. Detailed textual analysis of both primary and secondary text. Finding out fragments to prove the validity of the research objective and give out a considerable answer. Conceiving the primary text throughout the Research study on the chosen topic can lead to substituting the findings from the actual theme. With the help of thorough reading, it was easier to categorize the findings as per the theme of the paper. Discussion on the topic that hasn't been explored in the secondary texts. With regards to the project objective which is chosen as the theme institute a detailed conclusion.

The methodology used in the research project is entirely qualitative. The research focuses on primary data that is the textual analysis of scenarios relevant to the theme with the analysis of characters that reflects association with the topic. Some fictional elements are considered the Most prominent and evident resource for proving the factors that affect the topic of this research project.

The research by Vasiliki Yotsidi simply gives one notification that is, a little bit of hope can go a long way, as positive or hopeful thinking increases the capacity in children to overcome a particular obstacle or accomplish a goal in life. Positive energy can boost the power of decision-making, it can take control over the emotional aspects of the mind. Positive energy provides a peaceful mind and joy within the lifestyle. Self-talk boosts up confidence and provides endurance and strength to face the uncertainty in life with the persuasion of hope during hardships.

Agency thinking, as the first component of hopeful thinking, is the perceived capacity to use one's pathways to reach the desired goals and thus it represents the motivational component of the hope theory (Snyder, 2002). These self-referential thoughts involve the mental energy to begin and continue an effort using a pathway through all stages of the goal pursuit. High-hope people embrace self-talk agency phrases such as, "I can do this", or "I am not going to be stopped" (Snyder, LaPointe, Jeffrey Crowson, & Early, 1998). (Vasiliki Yotsidi, Aggeliki Pagoulatou, Theodoros Kyriazos and Anastasios Stalikas, 2018). (p.386)

These are some relevant Findings that are related to the primary text that is the story 'A Boy Called Hope' by Lara Williamson. The aspects of change, persuasion of hope, adjustment disorder during the period of adolescence have been written with relevance to various pre-existing research.

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

Lara describes Dan as a wonderful kid in the story who is funny and liked by everyone, he is a boy full of enthusiasm who tackles all the questions that arrive in his life bravely. He was a boy full of dreams that he wanted to achieve. A kid with an imaginary and creative mind. Dan was seven years old when his father left the family at that time, he was very little to realize the importance father figure in life. till the age of 10 things were going well for Dan. When he turned 11 entering the phase of adolescence, he began to realize the significance of a father in his life to fit in the world of reality.

And finally, the biggest dream of all, I want my dad to love me. (p.10)

Dan was 7 years old when his father abandoned the family. At the period of adolescence, the need for a guardian or parental support is very essential for child development. In the three major years, Dan faced every problem alone. His mother was also devastated by the pain therefore Dan didn't even share what he felt about his emotional status. It's difficult for Dan to accept the fact that his father left him all alone for this long period. the lack of acceptance and the need of a person to fulfill his loneliness he tried to contact his father with all the hope he had.

"That man is dead to this family". Word ninja fires a dagger at my back! "And you'd better accept it if you know what's good for you". (p.12)

Grace Dan's sister is 13-year-old. she is also going through the period of adolescence and in anger, she has accepted the fact that their father had abandoned the family and will never come back because she is also a victim of time. she has been waiting all these years for their father to come back home and be a wonderful family

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again burying the past behind. By this notation, she wants to state Dan to forget about their father and move on with his life Similar to what she did. With the above notations, we can see the unpleasant family influence which is one of the most important factors that affects children in the period of adolescence, connecting to the scenario unpleasant parental impact on Dan's and grace's life is seen.

How wrong we were Fast forward years job and children left behind- wham- hello, start TV man. (p.12)

I shrugged because at 7 years old I thought forever would last a week or a month how wrong I did mean forever. (p.14)

The above lines clearly state the lack of decisionmaking for acceptance to change which is directly connected to the concept of adjustment disorder. the fact that Dan knows his father has achieved what he wanted by abandoning his family. The incident can be considered very depressing for a child who's at the age of 11. He thought that family is the priority of an individual, but the scenario didn't work out for Dan according to his ideal thought. His father left home to fulfill his accomplishments and become successful he chose himself rather than the family he made.

Joe told me to write a list of ten things I'd like to happen and treasure it along with the medal of St Gabriel of Our Lady of sorrows. (p.26)

Joe in the story is a caring friend to Dan, by looking at Dan's face She understood that something is wrong with him. She asked about the problem Dan was facing. he lied about the actual circumstance he was going through he made an excuse and came out telling Joe he was having a headache. even though she knew it wasn't something like in headache which he was going through so as a loyal friend she gave the medal of Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of sorrows and asked him to make a list of things that he wants, and the medal will solve the problems and sorrows which is facing by reading the list. Here Joe is a resemblance of hope for Dan as she is helping him to overcome this situation he's going through.

Dad isn't worth it. he walked out right at the beginning when he read the names in the program. he must have seen your name and I'm sorry, but I have to say it like it is dad is no good for us. (p.162)

From sending emails, finding the address, lurking at his father's office and residence then did everything just to contact how to get in touch with his father again he thought by seeing him his father would be emotional and come back to his life again. he also participated in a school program but right after seeing the names in the program list his father walked out of the Amandine hotel. When grace told Dan about his dad walking out, he broke into tears with stress and sadness inside his brain and heart he ran out from the front door of the hotel. The incident from the story states that the child is completely unable to realize the change that has happened in the past three years and is unable to accept change.

"No," mom says. "They both belong to us. Surprise, surprise: Twins." (p.188)

Dan's mother has been hiding the truth about her pregnancy with Dave. she knew that her children would find it difficult to accept the relationship in such an exaggerated form. as it clarifies that now big Dave will be the father figure for both of her children. throughout the time grace and Dan, both misunderstood Dave cheating on their mother. Grace and Dan accepted that they sneaked inside Dave's house to find evidence about his wife and his son. After some time, Dan found out that Dave lived with his sister and his son who was Christopher his close friend. He was also abandoned by her mother. This incident made Dan happy to accept the reality that his mother loved Dave and he was a good person. he also agreed on shifting residence for Dave to their house as he would get a brother and a best friend altogether at one place. The time passed by and after some time Dan's mother gave birth to two beautiful twins. The birth of the newborn babies brought happiness and hope in the family to live happy in the coming future. they even named the babies faith and hope. So, here we can see that the characterization of the newborn babies brings on hope in the family After so long.

"Malcolm Maynard, one of our presenters, died in the early hours of this morning after a short illness" His career started when he was a journalist for a local newspaper, and he worked his way up eventually moving into television too much success. Malcolm Maynard is survived by his wife, Barbara Ann Maynard, and his son Jeremy. Our condolences go out to the family. (p.190)

Everything was going great after the birth of Dan's twin sisters. He was happy and accepting the reality

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about his father and overcoming other hopelessness bravely but one afternoon he saw unfortunate news for him on the television that his father is no more. A huge tidal wave of sorrow builds inside him. Dan's feet were gripping off the edge. Dan got so frustrated by hearing the news that he ripped off the cushions and magazines he kicked off the coffee table hard and how old with a heavy heart that his dad is dead, soon after his mom came running and covered him under her arms, but Dan was out of grip he ran down the road before she could even utter a single word. He kept on weeping while his feet dragged him towards the bridge. He sat on the bridge and cried about how hard he wanted his dad to love him. He even thought about the dream where he saw a comforting hand coming forward towards him. A hand which he can hold on for life. Soon after Dave came running towards him and he stretched his hand towards Dave and said I may not be the one to replace your dad, but you can have my son if you want me. Dave then gently weeps away Dan's tears using his thumb. After wiping his tears when Dan gave another hand to Dave to pull him in, it was the replica of the dream which he used to see, and the hand belongs to Dave it didn't belong to his dad. big Dave then turns his face and smiles at Dan. Here Dave has been represented as the father figure and a light of hope which helped Dan throughout the changes even if he wasn't accepting him as his father. Big Dave gives Dan a Lantern made of rice paper to say goodbye to his father by writing a letter despite all the pain in his heart Dan you that everything was going to be fine.

A white feather. Falls from nowhere. A white feather. Like a solitary snowflake. A white feather. In an empty night sky. A white feather. Floats on the breeze. A white feather. An angel's calling card. (p.202)

Moving towards the end of the story as Joe talked about the white feather falling over her head, similarly, the white feather fell upon Dan when he was walking back to his house with a piece of hope in his heart. He then knew and decided to keep his father awake in his memories and accept the reality about the circumstances which he faced in past months. In these lines, white weather is the resemblance of hope. Big Dave becoming the father figure for Dan changed his insights about the changes he was going through and made him pursue hope in the period of adolescence that he was going through.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TOPIC

'A Boy Called Hope' by Lara Williamson has given a brief account of the aspects that are essential for dealing with change and persuasion of hope during the period of adolescence. Certain factors initiate the importance of the topic itself,

Environment plays an important role in the development of children as it combines the physical and psychological. When it comes to the environment various factors affect the acceptance of changes that can be considered as the geographical conditions in which a child lives the relationship between his peers and parents. A good institute that provides extraordinary education, a loving family which gives emotional and social support can be considered as a good environment for persuasion of hope when dealing with stressful events in the period of adolescence and growth.

Health plays an important role in the development of physical and internal organs a healthy diet and a proper schedule of living can give out results for better selfesteem and the developing quality to handle uncertainty.

Family influence is the most essential and crucial among all the factors on which a child's development depends, as we saw in the story the separation of Dan's mother and father gave out Certain factors which connect to the family influence which can be considered poor in the story. To overcome the influence parents should be keenly observing the Childs activities. They should be involved in spending time with the family members all together and that will help the child develop a sense of sharing problems in times of threat. a friendly relationship with children can balance out the act of neglect. Being involved with your child in little activities can help them to create a deep meaningful conversation with the parents.

Learning and reinforcement involve the building up of a child in the aspects of mental intellectual emotional and social beliefs to show that they can fit into the world of mature individuals. The repetition of activities helps children to define and solidified the lessons learned by a particular exercise. Practice is the main motive of An International Peer-Reviewed Journal ; Volume-4, Issue-2, 2022 www.ijoes.in ISSN: 2581-8333; Impact Factor: 5.421(SJIF)

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reinforcement so that a child can be encouraged to give out better results.

The following factors can initiate the development in a child for decision making when it comes to except change. To drive on to changes that include adolescence, hope is the factor that acts as a fuel for the development of child to adult and an adult two a mature individual.

FINDINGS

From the textual and qualitative analysis done on the basics of the topic insights into change and persuasion of hope by children during the period of adolescence these are the relevant findings that have been deduced:

Driving into the depths of changes and hope the entire paper gives out the idea that change is an inevitable process. To overcome the factors that affect the well-being and stability of life, we require hope for everyone and especially adolescents.

There is ample example about the social and economic changes in the story '*A Boy Called Hope*' that has been described as the primary text analysis.

According to the title, the story focuses on the generation of hope even in an extreme situation. In the Analysis of the text, the events have been explained briefly why hope is essential for the development of a mature individual from adolescence.

Some of the topics that should be considered in further research have been observed. The scrutiny of the research journal represents different assets in adolescent literature such as learning disabilities, power and repression, older people, profanity, and the use of literature for helping adolescents cope with problems but, none of the research portrayed the aspect of hope in adolescent literature. At the time of analysis of resources, it was difficult to find hints on depression in early adolescence even after the exaggeration of disorders that becomes chronic and take the shape of depression it wasn't specified clearly. depression was specifically named as adjustment disorder in the factor that affects child development even if it is the stage where a child possesses the act of suicidal thoughts. In some research, the factors of emotional change were discriminated among the genders.

CONCLUSION

Change is inevitable and it brings a gift of hope with it. Adolescence is a period in a human's life that deals with most of the changes that are physical, emotional, economic, psychological, and many more. Even mature individuals sometimes find themselves drowning in the sea of changes holding on to a log of wood which represents hope. The story '*A Boy Called Hope'* by Lara Williamson is the perfect display of changes faced by an 11-year-old boy. The research has established examples of depression in children regarding the events in the story.

Working on the aspects of hope that comes with the help of positive energy can bring enthusiasm, joy, selfesteem, endurance, confidence, boldness, decision-making power, and the ability to perceive hope in difficult times. Moving on with life knowing about the uncertainties but not the events can make it clear to hold onto hope in difficult situations. The research has also established picking up role models or an incident to prevail hope in the environment a child lives in. The contribution of the study gives a clear idea of choices in the acceptance of change and hoping for a better future in shaping adolescence to mature adulthood.

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An International Peer-Reviewed Journal ; Volume-4, Issue-2, 2022 www.ijoes.in ISSN: 2581-8333; Impact Factor: 5.421(SJIF)

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