

## The Characteristics of Main Character in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) Novel by Jeff Kinney

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### ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis karakterisasi yang terdapat pada sumber data yaitu pada novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) karya Jeff Kinney. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori-teori Peterson dan Seligman (2004) yang terbagi menjadi enam jenis tipe karakteristik yaitu pertama adalah kebijaksanaan dan pengetahuan, kedua kemanusiaan, ketiga Keberanian, keempat keadilan, kelima kesederhanaan, dan terakhir transenden. Pada pengumpulan data, peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif dan kualitatif untuk mempermudah dalam mengumpulkan data yang akan dianalisis. Dalam novel ini terdapat 3 tokoh utama yaitu Greg Heffley yang dimana salah satu tokoh penting dalam novel ini dengan memiliki karakteristik yaitu seperti kebijaksanaan dan pengetahuan, kemanusiaan, dan transendensi, kemudian ada karakter Rodrick Heffley, yaitu kakak laki-laki Greg yang memiliki ciri-ciri karakteristik seperti kemanusiaan, keberanian, keadilan, dan transendensi, yang terakhir adalah Rowley Jeffersons, seorang teman baik dari Greg Heffley yang mana sangat dekat dengannya dan memiliki ciri-ciri karakteristik seperti keberanian, kemanusiaan, keadilan, kesederhanaan dan transendensi.

Kata kunci: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, karakter, novel, tokoh utama

### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the type of characterization contained in the data source, namely the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) novel by Jeff Kinney. This study used the theories of Peterson and Seligman (2004) which were divided into six types of characteristics, namely first is wisdom and knowledge, the second is humanity, the third is courage, the fourth is justice, the fifth is simplicity, and the last is transcendence. In data collection, researchers used descriptive and qualitative methods to make it easier to collect data to be analyzed. In this novel, there are 3 main characters, namely Greg Heffley who has one of the important roles in this novel by having characteristics such as wisdom and knowledge, humanity, and transcendence, then there is the character of Rodrick Heffley, Greg's older brother, who has the following characteristics: humanity, courage, justice, and transcendence, the last one is Rowley Jeffersons, a good friend of Greg Heffley, who is very close to him and has characteristics such as courage, humanity, justice, modesty, and transcendence.

Keywords: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, characteristics, novel, main character

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### INTRODUCTION

Literature itself has many types of forms, one of which is novel. The novel itself is a work of fiction that offers a world, which contains a dream life model, an imaginative world, which is built through various intrinsic elements such as events, plots, characters (and characterizations), settings, points of view, and others; all of which are, of course, also imaginative according by Nurgiyantoro (2012: 4)

Characters in literature are ordinary people or humans in general, especially related to how to determine their own destinies through thoughts, words, and actions. This theory articulates that dialogue, actions, and comments are verbal representations of people or have the most important dominance in literary works to produce character interactions around them. (Edgar V: 1983).

The main character is the character who tells the story in the novel in question. He is the most talked about both as a perpetrator of the incident and as a victim of the incident. Even in certain novels, the main character always appears in every incident, and according to Nurgiyantoro (2012: 177), on every page of the story concerned.

The novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) will be used as a data source for this study. The novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) is a children's novel written and illustrated by Jeff Kinney. It is the first book in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. The book is about a boy named Greg Heffley and his attempts to become popular in his first year of middle school. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* first appeared on FunBrain in 2004, where it was read 20 million times. The abridged hardcover adaptation was released on April 1, 2007. The book was entitled a New York Times bestseller, among other awards and praise.

As a researcher, the researcher took several examples and references from several articles to help carry out this research by looking for similarities and differences between this article and other articles. The first article that will help researchers is entitled "Types of Characterization in The Friends with Benefits Film " written by Juniarta, et al. (2021). The researchers wrote this topic with the aim of finding the characteristics of each character in the Friends with Benefits film using the theory of Warren and Wellek (1949). They used a qualitative method by watching a movie, looking at the script, and taking a note. Then, they found that there were three dimensions of the characterization of the main character analyzed in this study: physiological, sociological, and psychological.

The second article was written by Agustina, et al. (2020) with the title "The Monsters Characteristics in Frankenstein Novel By Mary Shelley Viewed From Personality Traits Theory". This article aimed in analyzing the character and characterization of the monster in Frankenstein using the theory from Boggs and Petrie (2008). The researchers used descriptive and qualitative methods to help collect data. Using 5 monsters in the novel, they found out that the monsters are

classified into consciousness because of their ambition.

Lastly, there was an article written by Epa (2019) entitled "An Analysis of the Main Characters in the Novel The Lost Boy by Dave Pelzer". The researcher aimed to understand what is implied in the main character by using the theory of Jakob Sumarji and Saini (1986). The researcher used descriptive and qualitative methods to assist him in collecting data. In his research, he found that the main characters of Dave Pelzer have multi-character that changes as follows: thief, diligent, dream and vision, good self, coward, confident, adapted, happy, reclusive, brave, modest, hothead, annoyed, worried, tense, nervous, faithful, attentive, sincere, open, smart, and worked hard.

There are some similarities between these articles, namely to collect data and help to make it easier to explain the data that has been collected. In the three articles, the researchers both used descriptive and qualitative methods. Then, there were two that used the same data source, namely using a novel and a movie. The difference between these articles is that the theories used by each researcher are different. The first one used Warren and Wellek (1949), the second used Boggs and Petrie (2008), and the last one used the theory from Jakob Sumarji and Sarini (1986). In this current study, the researchers used the theory of Peterson and Seligman (2004) entitled Character Strengths and Virtues: A Handbook Classification.

This study aims to find out the type of characterization that is found in the data source. This study used theories by Peterson and Seligman (2004) who divided into six types: wisdom and knowledge, humanity, courage, justice, temperance, and transcendence which makes a connection to the larger universe and gives meaning used in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) novel. The reason the author took this data is because the author was interested in the main character in this novel. When reading this novel, all the main characters have their own characteristics. In academic terms, finding out a person's character is very important in a story or literary work because the reader will understand how the attitude of the character is described, and how the author brings the

reader to know the figures of the main characters of this novel. So, the author wants to analyze the character as the main point of this novel.

**METHOD**

The research method used was a descriptive qualitative method. According to Ary (2010:425), the qualitative descriptive method refers to a method in which all detailed descriptions of the investigated data are given based on the perspective and experience of the subject. The researchers had to find the most important material as the data and gather some supporting evidence from notes and citations. After that, the data were identified, checked, and classified according to the theory used in the qualitative method. The type of data collected and used in this research was qualitative data. This study used primary data sources that come from reading novels and citing as notes. The data analysis technique used was an interactive analysis technique from Milles & Huberman (2014:20), which includes the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and inference.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**1. Result**

In relation to the problem of finding out the type of characteristics of the main character in the novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007). There are six types: first is wisdom and knowledge, humanity, courage, justice, temperance, and last is transcendence which is found in the novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) based on theories from Peterson and Seligman (2004).

Table 1. Main Character and the Characteristics

No	Character	Characteristics
1.	Greg Heffley	Wisdom and Knowledge
		Humanity
		Transcendences
2.	Rodrick Heffley	Humanity
		Courage
		Justice

		Transcendences
3.	Rowley Jeffersons	Courage
		Humanity
		Temperance
		Transcendences

Based on the table above, the researchers want to explain each type of characteristic. Therefore, the researchers make a discussion that will explain in more detail the types of characteristics of the three main characters above.

**2. Discussions**

In this section, the researcher will do a more detailed explanation of the three main characters in the novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007) where the researcher will take the most important characteristics among other characteristics and will describe them in more detail.

**Data 1. Greg Heffley (Wisdom and Knowledge)**

According to Peterson and Seligman (29: 2004), wisdom and knowledge is a power where one can combine thoughts and knowledge well. One example of wisdom and knowledge is creativity. Creativity itself is something where we can do things in new and productive ways to create concepts and do new things that come from someone's personal ideas.

Saturday  
 The Crossland haunted house really got me thinking. Those guys were charging five bucks a pop, and the line stretched halfway around the school.

I decided to make a haunted house of my own. Actually, I had to bring Rowley in on the deal, because Mom wouldn't let me convert our first floor into a full-out haunted mansion.

The example above is taken from page 53. Greg Heffley is one of the main characters in the novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007), a boy who enters junior high school. He keeps his diary in which one of the examples above is a characteristic depiction of Greg Heffley. So, on the Saturday after Halloween night, Greg, Rowley, and Greg's mother went to the haunted house. Suddenly, Greg has his

creative idea which is an example of wisdom and knowledge. He thinks of making a haunted house, Greg thinks that the organizer of the haunted house can make 5 dollars for each person who comes to the haunted house, and it makes Greg interested.

### Data 2. Rodrick Heffley (Transcendences)

According to Peterson and Seligman (30: 2004), the power of transcendences makes a connection to the larger universe and gives meaning. One example of transcendences in characteristics is humor or playfulness. Humor or playfulness is when someone really likes to make people laugh or make jokes for himself.

A couple of days into summer vacation, Rodrick woke me up in the middle of the night. He told me I slept through the whole summer, but that luckily I woke up just in time for the first day of school.



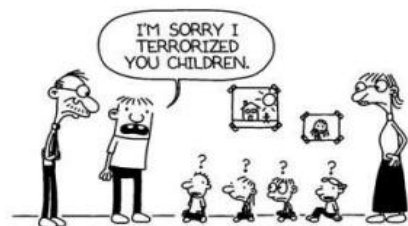
You might think I was pretty dumb for falling for that one, but Rodrick was dressed up in his school clothes and he set my alarm clock ahead to make it look like it was the morning. Plus, he closed my curtains so I couldn't see that it was still dark out.

The picture above is an example of Rodrick Heffley's characteristics which is taken from page 11. Rodrick Heffley is one of the main characters and also the brother of Greg Heffley. The example above shows the depiction of Rodrick Heffley which has a character that has humor and playfulness. Humor and playfulness are one of examples from transcendences. It was the beginning of summer vacation and Greg was still asleep at 3 AM. Rodrick came to Greg's room while waking Greg up and told him if he wanted to fall asleep during summer vacation. It made Greg wake up and was scolded by his father. From all of that, we know that it was a joke made by Rodrick to make him laugh and it worked.

### Data 3. Rowley Jeffersons (Humanity)

According to Peterson and Seligman (29: 2004), humanity is something a person's personal strength that involves feeling to care for and befriend others. One example of humanity is kindness. Kindness is doing good and good deeds for others like helping them take care of them.

Thursday  
Well, I was up all night tossing and turning over this Rowley situation, but I finally made up my mind. I decided the right thing to do was to just let Rowley take one for the team this time around.



The example above is one of the characteristics of Rowley Jeffersons taken from page 183. Rowley Jeffersons is the main character as well as a good friend of Greg Heffley. Rowley has the nature or characteristics of goodness where kindness itself is one example of humanity. The example above is a depiction of Rowley's characteristics in which he is accused of doing things he did not do. At that time, Greg had made a mistake, namely working on a kindergarten child who was affected by worms where at that time he and Rowley were the officers who took the kindergarten child home. Even though Greg had told Rowley the truth, Rowley still apologized to the kindergarten children.

### Data 4. Rodrick Heffley (Courage)

According to the theory of Peterson and Seligman, courage is an emotional strength that involves a desire to achieve goals in the face of opposition, external or internal. One part of courage is enthusiasm. So, enthusiasm is doing something with joy and happy energy, not doing something halfheartedly.

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Hal 274-279

In fact, the only thing that tipped me off that Christmas was coming was when Rodrick put his wish list up on the refrigerator.



The example above is an example of the next characteristic of Rodrick Heffley, brother of Greg Heffley, namely the characteristic of courage, one of which is an enthusiastic person. On page 115, Greg Heffley says that he doesn't know that Christmas is coming if it is not for his brother or Rodrick Heffley who puts down a wishful paper for his parents to prepare for Christmas. From here, we can see that Greg's brother, Rodrick, has a big enough enthusiasm for Christmas. Christmas is a celebration that is quite liked by many people, where we can get what we want. Therefore, Rodrick put the paper containing wishes that have more than one desire to make it happen on Christmas Day.

#### Data 5. Rowley Jeffersons (Justice)

According to the theory of Petersons and Seligman, justice is the strength of various people that underlie the strength in socializing a healthy person's life. One of them is loyalty, namely working well as a member of a group or team in carrying out their duties.

For the first couple of strips, I did the writing and drew the characters, and Rowley drew the boxes around the pictures.



Rowley started complaining that he didn't have enough to do, so I let him write a few of the strips.

Based on the example above, which is an example of Rowley Jeffersons' characteristics, namely justice on page 168, where justice has one meaning, namely loyalty. On the page, it shows how Rowley looks like he really wants to work on the comic as a team where he and Greg want to make comics for the school magazine. Here, Rowley tells Greg a bit if he feels that he is not participating in the comics enough and asks Greg to give him another assignment. We can see that Rowley is very loyal to Greg and also to the comics he made with Greg, he also wants to give the best in his work.

#### CONCLUSION

This study discusses the main characters in the novel *Diary of Wimpy Kids* (2007) by Jeff Kinney, specifically the characteristics of the main character. The data was analyzed by a descriptive qualitative method. Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, there are 3 main characters and 6 characteristics. Each main character has different characteristics based on the theory of Peterson and Seligman (2004). In this case, the researcher found: 1) Greg Heffley has the characteristics of wisdom and knowledge, humanity, and transcendences; 2) Rodrick Heffley has the characteristics of humanity, courage, justice, and transcendences; 3) Rowley Jeffersons has the characteristics of courage, humanity, temperament, and transcendences. In this novel, it tells about a teenager in middle school who has interesting traits and characteristics.

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