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LEE HARKER'S CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN "LONGLEGS" MOVIE

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Abstract: This article examines Lee Harker's character growth in movie "Longlegs", concentrating on her emotional journey and the significance of family ties. The study looks at how Harker's tragic history and psychic talents influence her identity as an FBI agent, drawing on Hurlock's theory on emotional determinants. The movie is divided into three sections, each of which shows a different aspect of Harker's personality as she faces Longlegs, the serial murderer. The results demonstrate how Harker's journey exemplifies more general concepts of morality, autonomy, and the effects of hereditary trauma. The emotional burden of her family history affects her decision-making and interpersonal interactions while she conducts her inquiry, highlighting the significance of emotional intelligence in overcoming hardship. Ultimately, this approach emphasizes how important story is as a tool for examining nuanced human experiences in both literature and film. The article's focus on Harker's character arc illustrates the importance of storytelling in forming social ideals and interpersonal relationships while also enhancing our knowledge of how tales reflect and impact views of trauma and personal progress.

Keyword: character, character development, movie

INTRODUCTION

Literature is the art of creating written or spoken expressions that represent the intricacies of human experience, emotion, and imagination. It transcends time and culture, providing insight into the thoughts, difficulties, and goals of people from many origins. Literature, from ancient epics and oral traditions to modern novels and poems, reflects society and provides insight into human lives. "Literature is essential to educating the imagination as it illustrates the unlimited range of the human imagination and extends readers' personal visions of possibilities" (Rahayu, 2009, p. 1). This argument emphasizes literature's importance in promoting empathy via the depiction of complex characters, rich imagery, and thought-provoking plots. Readers might recognize similar experiences by connecting with lives other than their own, creating a broader understanding of

diverse points of view. "Literature offers valuable insights and can shift people's perspectives on topics" (Adiyat et al., 2016, p. 1). This sympathetic involvement not only improves individual comprehension, but it also allows for more meaningful connections with the world at large.

In addition to providing amusement, literature has a significant impact on society and fosters critical thinking. It disrupts norms, stimulates social movements, and gives marginalized people a voice. Literature, whether published in fiction or nonfiction, poetry or theatre, promotes contemplation, imagination, and dialogue, improving our understanding of ourselves and our surroundings. By challenging dominant views and questioning society ideals, literature helps audiences to think critically about their surroundings. Lai (2011) as cited in (Carla, 2020), explained that in the literature, the most often listed critical thinking dispositions include open-mindedness, fair-mindedness, the predisposition to seek reason, inquisitiveness, the desire to be well-informed, flexibility, and respect for (and readiness to entertain) others' opinions. It acts as a change agent by encouraging people to question their ideas and seek different perspectives. In this sense, literature not only entertains but also encourages people to take on important social concerns and campaign for justice and equality. "Literature gives us an itemized review of human encounters, permitting us to associate on fundamental degrees of want and feeling" (Mitravinda, 2020, p. 3).

The timeless appeal of literature in capturing the depth of human experience finds a natural extension in films, which convert these rich storylines into vivid visual storytelling, forming a compelling bond between the two genres. The connection between literature and movie reflects two strong narrative genres that have affected human culture over ages. Both provide unique possibilities to investigate human emotions, thoughts, and experiences, bringing individuals together across time and location. Despite their differences in form, both literature and movies contain many themes such as love, struggle, identity, and transformation, and they frequently influence one another. "Film and literature are two different things with a similar goal to create sublimity in human imagination and understanding" (Nagnath, 2016, p. 2). Many successful films are adaptations of literary texts, transforming textual storytelling into visual experiences. As Divyani et al. (2023) said, movies are often based on fictional scripts or adaptations of literature. This relationship emphasizes storytelling's significant effect on the human experience. Both mediums are critical in defining societal ideals, maintaining cultural history, and generating discussion about the world around us. This interaction between the two mediums enhances our cultural environment by providing diverse interpretations of universal topics and encouraging discourse between various forms of artistic expression.

Although often perceived solely as entertainment, movies play an important role in the realm of literature; not only does it provide entertainment, but it also serves as a powerful medium for narrative, eliciting strong emotional responses and prompting introspection. "Films also capture the same like literature but due to its visual and sound effect, it got wide popularity" (Nagnath, 2016, p. 2). Nagnath's statement emphasizes movies unique capacity to reach a large audience through deep sensory experiences. "The film is a description of the narrative of human life that is presented through the role of players in various action scenes supported by visual effects and musical accompaniment" (Simanjuntak, 2020, p. 1). Movies, like written works, engage viewers through the power of storytelling; however, they do so through two distinct yet complementary mediums: the written word, which conveys complex ideas and emotions, and visual imagery, which

brings narratives to life in dynamic and compelling ways. As Setiawan & Puspita (2022) stated, watching a movie allows viewers to immerse themselves in the lives of the characters and form their own opinions on the events shown. This interplay between text and images not only improves the storytelling experience, but it also allows films to explore issues and characters in ways that touch strongly with audiences, frequently creating lasting memories that remain beyond the viewing session.

Characters are one of the most important aspects of any film; They act as mediums for listeners to relate emotionally to the narrative. "Character helps fiction writers enter, tell and shape the novel and stories, express ideas, and drive and develop plot" (Andriana & Rohmah, 2019, p. 2). Character has a vital part in the construction of a literary work since the author constructs characters as human perfections that carry all of the events that occur in humanity (Anggraeni et al., 2022). Hence, rather than being passive players, character actively move the tale forward with their actions, decisions, and growing personalities. In a story, there is a process of developing a character so that their personalities become genuine, which may explain the behaviour of characters from people, the environment, and everyday life, allowing the character to evolve (Aganingrum et al., 2021). This makes character development one of the most important components of narrative, particularly in cinema, as spectators may observe the characters' emotional and psychological journeys first-hand. Viewers identify with these characters because of the effort used to design their backstories, conversations, and personalities, making them approachable and interesting. Character development, a crucial aspect of screenwriting that cuts across genres and styles, helps to establish this relationship.

Several elements impact character development in movies, all of which help to create a compelling and engaging narrative. Character creation begins with determining a character's type and creating a complete profile that covers their background, problems, goals, and conflicts. These components form the framework for the characters' actions and decisions throughout the narrative. Additionally, character development dives into the unique difficulties each character faces – ranging from interpersonal issues like strained familial connections to psychological struggles including internal demons or anxieties. "Character development described the changes experienced by someone seen through the storyline or conflict faced by the character" (Asmiaty et al., 2022, p. 2). These can involve interpersonal conflicts, such as difficult familial or love relationships, as well as psychological conflicts, such as facing personal demons or addressing anxieties. Each difficulty provides possibilities for growth and transformation, serving as a springboard for the character's development throughout the entire story. "The development that characters experience is essential and permanent, not just a strange attitude change that will change again tomorrow" (Zarawaki et al., 2022, p. 4). This enduring nature emphasizes how important character development is to narrative curiosity.

Character development in movies is an interesting subject to explore since it is a fundamental aspect of storytelling that defines the narrative and interests' people. Well-developed characters bring tales to life by demonstrating development, change, and complexity, allowing viewers to identify with their difficulties, feelings, and decisions. This technique encompasses real-life experiences and emotions, making characters feel genuine and relevant. Furthermore, studying character development provides insights into filmmakers' creative decisions, such as language, acting, cinematography, and directing, all of which contribute to constructing a character's journey. It also emphasizes how tales reflect society ideals, cultural standards, and psychological intricacies, making the research applicable in both academic and entertainment settings. Finally, character

development enhances storylines by developing interesting, complex characters whose progress captivates and motivates audiences.

One of the previous studies, written by Gede & Negara (2024) that focused on character development of the main character in joker movie has similarities in discussing character development and its implications within narratives. The article focuses on the character development of Arthur Fleck, who becomes the Joker. It investigates the numerous causes of this shift, such as physical, social, familial, and emotional aspects. The research uses psychological theories to understand these impacts, eventually revealing how Arthur's personality changes throughout the narrative.

Longlegs is a movie that focuses heavily on character development, notably via the protagonist, Lee Harker. Harker's character develops as a crucial figure, and her growth gives vital context for the greater story. Her journey has a huge influence on the film's plot, making her arc crucial to comprehending the film's ultimate meaning. *Longlegs* was written and directed by Osgood Perkins, an American writer and director noted for his distinct, atmospheric approach to horror and psychological narratives. Osgood combines stunning imagery with emotional depth to create slow-burn narratives about sorrow, isolation, and the unexplained. His famous works include *The Blackcoat's Daughter* (2015) and *I Am the Pretty Thing That Lives in the House* (2016), both of which received critical acclaim for their haunting tone and unique storytelling.

In *Longlegs*, Perkins creates a unique dynamic between the characters. The titular serial killer, played by Nicolas Cage, is defined as a deranged performance who combines glam rock flair, androgyny, and obsession. His character not only performs awful atrocities, but also represents themes of dedication and the consequences of misplaced ambition. Perkins wanted to investigate the concept of stories given by parents to children, a topic that mirrored his own experiences with family and concealment. The conversation between Cage's character and Agent Harker (played by Maika Monroe) expands on this issue. Both characters exist on the periphery of society, representing how people deal with personal demons and external impressions.

From the start, Harker is presented as a woman troubled by her past, particularly the tragedy of her youth involving a horrific killer known as "Longlegs." This image depicts both a physical menace and the psychological wounds that continue to haunt her psyche long after those events have transpired. Harker's telepathic skills are both a blessing and a disadvantage for her as an FBI agent. While they enable her to see beyond the ordinary as she investigates a string of horrible crimes, they also subject her to excruciating emotional suffering. The film's supernatural elements imply that the killer has a malevolent influence over his victims' families, leading them to perform heinous crimes. This setting provides a foundation for a thorough examination of Harker's character, who must not only solve the murders but also confront her terrible history and delicate family dynamics.

Understanding Lee Harker's character development requires investigating not only the storyline but also the complexities of cinematic storytelling. Her personal hardships, the trials she endures, and her interactions with the film's other characters all influence her development over time within this narrative framework constructed upon suspenseful disclosures about identity linked profoundly within horror clichés common yet creative at the same time. Furthermore, this research is especially pertinent in today's film industry, as character-driven storytelling is increasingly popular. With viewers increasingly demanding interesting and sympathetic characters, films like *Longlegs* emphasize the value of nuanced narrative. In a cinematic world that frequently stresses

visual effects and fast-paced action, emotionally rich characters like Harker provide depth and long-term appeal, contributing to the film's lasting influence. This study will look at how Harker's character changes during *Longlegs* and how this growth relates to the film's main themes. It will look at significant events, decisions, and emotional shifts to see how cinematic approaches like directing, acting, storytelling, and visuals work together to build Harker's character development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature

Literature is the skill of conveying life via words that appeal to our own sense of beauty; written records of a race; or the artistic record of life, which excludes much of our writing (Long, 2004). This statement conveys the essence of literature as a medium that not only reflects but also elevates the human experience via the skilful application of words. It encourages readers to explore other ideas and emotions, resulting in a better understanding of life's intricacies. While Purba et al., p. 2 (2024) explained "literature is a personal human expression of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, passions, conviction in some form of life, resurrected with charm through language instruments and portrayed in written form." This viewpoint emphasizes the author's intimate relationship with their work, implying that literature reflects individual and collective experiences fashioned into narratives, poetry, and prose.

"The term "literature" truly shines when referring to creative writing, where the author's imagination takes centre stage" (Gede & Negara, 2024, p. 1). This demonstrates the transforming force of creativity in literature, in which the author's imagination not only affects the story but also transports readers to imaginative realms and profound discoveries. Creative writing enables the examination of ideas that are difficult to describe in daily language, allowing for experimentation and invention.

Based on the theories, literature is a powerful medium that reflects and elevates the human experience, blending creativity and personal expression to explore complex ideas, emotions, and narratives through imaginative and skilful use of language.

Movie

"A movie is one of many well-known literary works and it is considered as a form of art to tell a story in the motion picture produced by using camera and background" (Habriani et al., 2022, p. 2). This concept emphasizes movie's unique capacity to combine diverse artistic elements – such as visual imagery, sound, and narrative structure – into a unified storytelling experience. Unlike traditional literature, which is based exclusively on written words, movies engage numerous senses, providing an immersive experience for the spectator. Movie's visual and audio components work together to generate emotions, convey themes, and transport viewers to different worlds, making it an effective narrative medium.

"The movie is also considered as a medium of effective communication against the target masses, because of its audio-visual nature, namely: lies in the power of vivid images and sound" (Pratiwi et al., 2022, p. 2). This element of movie as a communication tool is especially important in today's media-rich environment, as movies may reach a wide range of demographics. The combination of spectacular visuals and captivating sounds can have a long-term influence, making complicated ideas more accessible and relevant. This audio-visual format enables filmmakers to deliver concepts that resonate on both emotional and intellectual levels, resulting in a stronger connection with the viewer.

While Sardiana et al., p. 2 (2024) explained that "the film is visual media communication that can contain various kinds of messages as follows; moral messages and other information." This demonstrates movie's adaptability as a medium for addressing a wide range of subjects and issues. From social justice and environmental problems to personal growth and relationships, movies can be used to explore moral quandaries and societal challenges. Filmmakers can stimulate contemplation and dialogue in their audiences by conveying these themes through interesting narratives and relatable characters, urging them to explore alternative perspectives and take action in their own lives.

Based on the theories, movies are a powerful art form and communication medium that combines visual and auditory elements to create immersive storytelling, effectively conveying complex ideas, emotions, and messages to diverse audiences while addressing various subjects, including moral, social, and personal themes.

Character

"Character is a human representation that is useful in constructing the storyline of a tale to be shown in a film to be watched" (Pratiwi et al., 2022, p. 2-3). This statement emphasizes the importance of characters in narrative, as they serve not only as plot vehicles, but also as manifestations of the author's desired ideas and messages.

Zarawaki et al., (2022) explained that character building is crucial for conveying the author's message and ensuring audience comprehension. Well-developed characters enable viewers to build emotional connections, promoting empathy and understanding, so increasing the overall impact of the tale.

Nurgiyantoro as cited in Aulia Rahmah et al., (2021), identified four types of characters depending on their characterization: primary and peripheral characters, protagonists and antagonists, flat and round characters, and static and changing characters. Each of these categories serves a specific function within the narrative structure. Together, these classifications give a framework for understanding how characters perform inside a tale, eventually improving the storytelling experience and expanding the audience's connection with the film.

Character Development

According to Petrie and Boggs as cited in Zarawaki et al., (2022), character development produce important changes in personality, attitude, or view on life as a result of the story's action. This method is more than just a backdrop to the story; it is a key element that propels the storyline and interests the viewer. Characters that go through major development frequently connect more profoundly with viewers because their travels reflect the nuances of real-life situations.

"Personality development is dynamic. It means that during individuals are still increasing their knowledge and want to learn and add experience and skills, they was more mature and steady personality" (Fajar & Melati, 2024, p. 2). This point emphasizes the continuous nature of character development, implying that, just as people progress in their own lives, so do fictional characters. Their development is influenced by a variety of circumstances, including their relationships with other characters, the obstacles they confront, and the decisions they make during the story.

While Sardiana et al., p. 2 (2024) explained "character development can also refer to the changes that characters experience during a story as a result of their actions and experiences." The idea highlights characters' active engagement in crafting their own

destinies. As the plot progresses, their decisions and reactions to circumstances result in dramatic and far-reaching transformations. This transformation not only enriches the character, but it also adds to the story's thematic complexity, allowing listeners to think on their own lives and the possibility of human improvement.

Based on the theories, we can conclude that Character development is a dynamic process where changes in personality, attitude, or perspective, driven by actions and experiences within the story, enrich the narrative, reflect real-life complexities, and engage viewers by highlighting growth through relationships, challenges, and decisions.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative approach to investigate Lee Harker's character development in the movie *Longlegs*. According to Bhangu et al., p. 1 (2023), "qualitative research methods refer to techniques of investigation that rely on non-statistical and non-numerical methods of data collection, analysis, and evidence production. Descriptive qualitative research seeks to interpret and analyse events in their natural context, thereby gaining comprehensive knowledge about complex human behaviour, emotions, and relationships. QD focuses on the direct and rich description of experiences or happenings, retaining a tight relationship with the material without wandering into significant theorization or abstraction (Ghorbani & Matourypour, as cited in Hall & Liebenberg, 2024). This approach is ideal for studying character development as it allows the researcher to thoroughly explore the narrative aspects and psychological and emotional changes that build a character over time.

The movie *Longlegs* was chosen as the data source for this study because of its complex narrative structure and the depth of Lee Harker's character arc, which create a fascinating case study for character development. *Longlegs* provides a distinct set of psychological and emotional complexity that lend themselves well to a descriptive qualitative approach. The technique also focuses on understanding how and why Harker acts and transforms, allowing for a thorough examination of the underlying themes and tensions that drive her character's journey. Rather than relying on numerical statistics, the study evaluates the visual and narrative aspects of the film, providing insight into Harker's development and the variables that drive it. Through multiple viewings of this movie, the researcher analysed key moments, dialogue, and character interactions that contribute to Lee Harker's development. A qualitative lens helps explore topics such as trauma, fear, resilience, and identity. Harker's relationships with other characters, their impact on her development, and how her past relates to the film's larger plot are critically examined.

Using this method, the study collected data by observing and describing key scenes, character interactions, and important moments in the plot. These observations are used to create a comprehensive picture of Harker's development, paying close attention to how her internal and external challenges shape her story and contribute to the film's overall narrative.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This article explored how characterization, conflict, and character development impact the primary character. We used Hurlock's theory about personality development that influenced by various factors. Hurlock (1974) identified eight aspects that determine personality development; Physical, intellectual, emotional, social, achievements, gender,

education, and family. In this study, we divided into 3 determinants: Intellectual, emotional, and family.

In *Longlegs*, Lee Harker's character goes through a deep and horrific transformation as she deals with her family's traumatic past and the nefarious forces that dominate her existence. These factors add to her inner issues and affect her behaviour throughout the movie. Harker is first shown as a capable FBI agent with an unusual aptitude for pattern recognition, but her trip reveals her deepest flaws and the extent of her involvement with the film's antagonist, Longlegs. This movie separated in three parts. Each part developed the story while simultaneously providing a better insight of Lee's complicated psychology, traumatic background, and battle against external and internal pressures.

Intellectual Determinant



Figure 1: Investigation of Longlegs' cases

Intelligence helps individuals adapt to life's challenges and overcome obstacles. The way he applies his intellectual capacity will decide how successful his adjustment will be. His ability to change significantly impacts his character development (Hurlock, 1974). Individuals with better intellectual capacities are more likely to handle problems successfully and are frequently seen positively by others, which can improve their social relationships and self-esteem.

Longlegs' opening act In *Longlegs*' first act, Lee Harker is presented as a highly brilliant FBI agent with outstanding pattern recognition abilities. Her intellectual determinant is demonstrated by her ability to comprehend difficult material and draw connections that others might overlook. Lee's critical observational skills and analytical attitude enable her to unravel evidence about the serial murderer, Longlegs, distinguishing her from her colleagues. Her intellect is more than simply academic; it is reflected in her capacity to hyper focus on details, indicating a strong devotion to her job. This emphasis allows her to interact with the case on a deeper level, revealing the complexities of the killings and demonstrating her intellectual prowess early in the movie.

As Lee's investigation grows, her intellectual talents are tested. She discovers connections between Longlegs and a series of killings that span decades, requiring both critical thinking and innovative problem-solving abilities. Lee's ability to synthesize apparently incongruous knowledge demonstrates her cognitive flexibility. When she goes to her childhood home, she encounters troubling memories that hamper her inquiry. This experience serves as a catalyst for her intellectual development, forcing her to confront

her past and present. Lee's ability to see patterns becomes critical when she deciphers Longlegs' coded communications, demonstrating how her intelligence can be used to solve crimes as well as address mental trauma.

Longlegs' final act reveals Lee's intellectual resolve at its highest point as she navigates the difficulties of both the case and her familial dynamics. Her capacity to combine information from a variety of sources, including crime scene evidence, interview insights, and her own psychic intuitions, suggests a high degree of cognitive function. Lee's terrible childhood, along with the stresses of the research, drives her to use her brain in unusual ways. The facts concerning Longlegs' relationship to her family cause Lee to reflect critically on her identity and history, resulting in major personal growth. Finally, her intellectual quest culminates in a crucial confrontation with Longlegs and Ruth, in which she must apply what she has learned during the inquiry to protect herself and those she loves.

Emotional Determinant

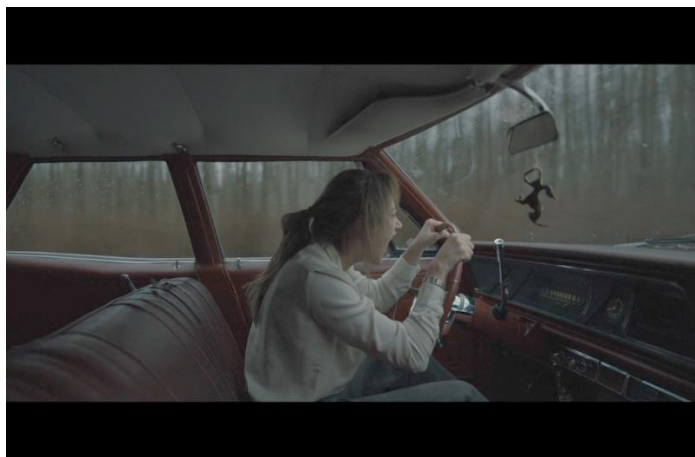


Figure 2: Emotional screaming

Emotional determinants play an important role in creating a person's character since emotions have a direct influence on personal and societal adaptations. Emotions may enhance a person's life and drive positive societal and personal changes. Alternatively, they can make life difficult and prevent changes (Hurlock, 1974).

In Longlegs' first act, Lee Harker is shown as a young FBI agent who is not just clever but also severely troubled by her past. Lee's psychic powers have always been a double-edged sword: although they offer her with insights into criminal minds, they also continuously remind her of her tragic childhood encounter with Longlegs. This emotional burden is reflected in her behavior; she displays a tough veneer, concealing the turbulence boiling under the surface. The weight of her unresolved tragedy casts a pall over her persona, implying that she is struggling with feelings of fear and worry even as she begins her professional path.

As the investigation develops, Lee's emotion grows more complicated. Lee's interactions with victims' families elicit strong emotion and grief, revealing her sympathetic side despite her austere exterior. However, when she discovers linkages between Longlegs and a string of killings, the strain mounts, leading her emotions to swing between resolve and despair. The return to her old home is a watershed event; it compels Lee to confront unpleasant memories that emerge, demonstrating how

unresolved emotions may undermine one's capacity to operate well in high-stress circumstances. This confrontation with her history exposes layers of dread and vulnerability, demonstrating how trauma affects emotional regulation. Furthermore, Lee's hesitation to disclose information about Longlegs with her colleagues represents an internal conflict between her professional responsibilities and personal demons, confusing her emotional landscape.

Lee's emotional struggle reaches a key point in the movie's conclusion, when she faces both Longlegs and the unpleasant realities about her family. The stakes rise as she struggles with feelings of betrayal and resentment toward Ruth, as well as the physical threat posed by Longlegs. This conclusion demonstrates how facing deep-seated concerns may lead to empowerment and emotional healing. The tension rises as Lee must make difficult decisions about her mother's role in Longlegs' crimes, requiring her to reconcile her love for her family with the brutal reality of their shared history. This scene captures the heart of Lee's emotional journey: she must confront not only outward tragedies, but also internal problems that have created her personality.

The data is relevant to the previous research carried out by Gede & Negara (2024). As the Joker, Arthur Fleck personifies the effects of both personal trauma and social mistakes. Because he was abused and unloved as a youngster, his emotional path is characterized by emotions of rejection, loneliness, and despair. As he struggles with his identity and looks for approval in a society that consistently rejects him, this inner upheaval shows itself as his transition into a villain. A powerful insight on how unresolved emotional grief may result in destructive action is provided by the Joker's journey into madness.

In Longlegs, Lee Harker also battles emotional issues stemming from her horrific early encounters with Longlegs. She is continually reminded of the horrors she experienced by her psychic powers, which are both a blessing and a hardship. Lee attempts to face her history while juggling the demands of her job as an FBI agent define her emotional journey. She shares Arthur's sense of loneliness and anxiety, which makes it difficult for her to interact with people and carry out her work responsibilities.

Family Determinant



Figure 3: The killer controlling Ruth

People frequently learn about relationships, communication, and emotional expression for the first time in their families. In contrast to dysfunctional family dynamics,

which can result in insecurity and make it difficult to build good connections outside of the family, positive family interactions can provide security, trust, and a strong sense of identity. There is a lot of evidence that familial factors play a major role in determining a person's self-concept both as an adult and as a kid, and that in the early years of life, spouses and children have just as much of an impact as parents and siblings (Hurlock, 1974).

Longlegs begins with a brief introduction of Lee's complex family dynamic. The film begins with a flashback of her infancy, as she encounters a mystery figure covered in pale makeup, foreshadowing the gloomier themes that will dominate her life. This early experience is critical because it sets the tone for Lee's subsequent interactions and perceptions. According to Hurlock's view, early life events have a substantial impact on personality formation; hence, this meeting foreshadows the emotional anguish that would result through her family's connection with Longlegs, a vicious killer whom influences Ruth into devil worship. Ruth's identity is crucial for establishing Lee's identity. Ruth, a mother who has fallen to Longlegs' influence, creates an environment of fear and mysticism. This brainwashing not only affects her own ideas, but it also causes Lee to be confused about trust and morals. Based on Hurlock, familial interaction is essential for appropriate development of personality; despite this, Ruth's manipulative behavior inhibits this communication, creating an environment in which Lee struggles to distinguish between good and evil.

As the story progresses, we observe how disputes among the Harker household effect Lee's emotional state. The film depicts Lee and her mother's poor relationship as a result of unsolved tensions. For example, Ruth's involvement in Longlegs' malicious ambitions fosters a toxic environment in which trust is lost. Hurlock highlights how solving conflicts within families has a substantial impact on personality development; consequently, Lee's reluctance to face her mother about her conduct causes feelings of shame and doubt. Lee shifts among devotion to her mother and a yearning for autonomy, mirroring an internal conflict typical among people raised in dysfunctional situations. Ruth's psychological manipulation exacerbates the dispute and complicates their relationship. According to Hurlock's thesis, children frequently emulate the behaviors of their parents; thus, Lee's issue with self-identity may be linked back to her mother's conduct and a lack of positive examples within the family. The usage of dolls during Longlegs serves as an effective metaphor for manipulation in familial ties. Dolls represent both innocence and manipulation; they depict the tangled dynamics of love that may exist within families. Longlegs use these dolls as tools of psychological torture, emphasizing the concept that even seemingly harmless actions can conceal malevolent intentions. This manipulation distorts Lee's notion of loyalty and safety in familial relationships. Hurlock's theory emphasizes how symbolic images can influence personality development, therefore the dolls serve as both physical objects and mirrors of Lee's emotional battles. They symbolize her anxieties and fears about her family dynamics, as well as reminders of Longlegs and Ruth's dominance over her.

As the story arrives at its final chapter, the end result about familial impacts turns into strongly obvious when Lee finds out the entirety of Ruth's involvement with Longlegs. The distinction that Ruth had been giving possessed dolls within the pretence of being presents from the church breaks down any remained illusions Lee had possibly known about her mother's plans. This turn of events appears to be a major turning point over Lee; she has to reconcile the devotion she has left for her mom with the awful actions Ruth committed towards harmless family. Hurlock's theory indicates that such occasions

can lead to major shifts in perceptions of themselves and development of identity. For Lee, the realization encourages her to face not only the threat that comes from Longlegs yet also the lie from someone she relied on implicitly. The major inner pain increases when Lee has to decide an excruciating decision: rescue Ruby Carter or defend herself from Ruth's future manipulation. In this key point, she decides to shoot her own mother in order to avoid another murder, demonstrating how deeply ingrained familial bonds may become warped in the face of terrible circumstances. This behavior supports Hurlock's claim that familial dynamics can drive people to make significant sacrifices or decisions which reshape their identities.

This is relevant to the previous research by (Gede & Negara, 2024). Because of his family's history of violence and neglect, Arthur feels abandoned and has a strong desire for approval. He struggles to deal with the truth of his mother Penny's mental illness and the secrets she conceals about his background, even as he yearns for her love and acceptance. Arthur feels confused and unstable as a result of this dynamic as he finds it difficult to comprehend who he is in the context of a dysfunctional family.

In the same way, Lee Harker and her mother Ruth had a tense and unclear connection. Lee's comprehension of familial devotion is complicated by the environment of suspicion created by Ruth's cryptic warnings concerning Longlegs. Lee is forced to face the effects of her mother's decisions on her own identity when she looks into the killings connected to Longlegs and discovers upsetting facts about her family's past. According to Hurlock's hypothesis, these familial pressures may cause internal difficulties as Lee balances her need for independence with the emotional burden of her family's troubled past.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Lee Harker's character development in "Longlegs" is a profound investigation of the complexity of human emotion and personal evolution. The video depicts Harker's varied trauma difficulties, familial connections, and the unique obstacles provided by her psychic talents as an FBI agent using a descriptive qualitative approach. The narrative's separation into three parts provides for a more in-depth knowledge of Harker's character, highlighting her development as she encounters the adversary, Longlegs. This voyage underlines not just her tenacity, but also the film's greater themes of autonomy and morality, which run throughout.

Furthermore, Harker's key decisions and the influence of her dark background shape her identity and maturation. The movie encourages audiences to consider the nature of personal agency in the face of hardship, as well as the moral quandaries that arise from such battles. By diving into Harker's character journey, "Longlegs" emphasizes the value of narrative in literature and film as a tool for exploring and comprehending the nuances of the human experience. Through Harker's journey, the film eventually delivers a captivating tale that challenges viewers to ponder the devastating impacts of trauma and the opportunity for transformation in the search of self-discovery. It implies that despite the devastating effects of past experiences, humans have the capacity for resilience and self-discovery. This suggests that by confronting their inner struggles, individuals can redefine their identity and find meaning, illustrating the universal themes of healing and personal evolution.

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