

The Hierarchy of Needs Analysis on Brianna Jackson In *On the Come Up* Novel by Angie Thomas

Syarifah Fairuz Shafira Alaydrus¹, Nita Maya Valiantien², & Fatimah M.³

^{1,2,3}English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences

Mulawarman University

Email: syarifahshafira@gmail.com

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas tentang kebutuhan seorang karakter bernama Brianna Jackson di novel *On the Come Up* karya Angie Thomas. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori hierarki kebutuhan Maslow dan teori karakterisasi Kenan. Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif, penelitian ini mengambil pendekatan psikologis untuk mengetahui apakah Brianna berhasil memenuhi semua kebutuhannya, serta mengetahui penggambaran karakter tokohnya berdasarkan caranya memenuhi kebutuhan-kebutuhannya. Kehidupannya yang sulit sebagai gadis berumur enam belas tahun selalu menjadi tantangan untuk Brianna, bahkan dalam mencukupi kebutuhan-kebutuhan terdasarnya. Dari hasil analisis, Brianna berhasil memenuhi kebutuhan fisiologi, kebutuhan rasa aman, kebutuhan kasih sayang, dan kebutuhan penghargaan. Sementara itu, kebutuhan aktualisasi dirinya gagal terpenuhi karena beberapa tindakan Brianna tidak sesuai dengan karakteristik aktualisasi diri. Dari lima belas karakteristik aktualisasi diri, yang terdapat pada karakter Brianna hanya lima. Delapan karakteristik lainnya tidak terpenuhi karena bertentangan dengan perilaku Brianna, sedangkan dua karakteristik lainnya tidak ditemukan. Namun, berkat eksplorasi tindakan-tindakan Brianna dalam memenuhi kebutuhannya, penggambaran karakter Brianna di novel pun terungkap. Brianna adalah karakter yang argumentatif, impulsif, percaya diri, dan bertekad, juga selalu berusaha semampunya dalam menjamin kebutuhan-kebutuhannya, terlepas dari sesulit apapun keadaannya.

Kata kunci: hierarki kebutuhan, karakter, karakterisasi

ABSTRACT

This research discusses the needs of a character named Brianna Jackson in *On the Come Up* novel by Angie Thomas. The theory applied for the study is the hierarchy of needs theory proposed by Maslow and characterization theory by Kenan. Under the umbrella of qualitative research, this study used the psychological criticism approach to find out whether Brianna is able to fulfill all her needs and her character portrayal based on how she fulfills her needs. Living as a struggling sixteen year-old girl always challenges Brianna to attain even her most basic needs. The analysis revealed that Brianna manages to satisfy her physiological need, safety need, love and belongingness need, and esteem need. However, her self-actualization need is failed to be fulfilled due to some of Brianna's actions being unfit as a self-actualizing person. Brianna possessed only five out of the fifteen necessary characteristics for self-actualization. The other eight characteristics were unfulfilled since they contradicted with Brianna's behavior. Meanwhile, the other two were not reflected. Nonetheless, the exploration of her actions in fulfilling her needs also unveils the way Brianna's character is portrayed in the novel. It turns out that Brianna is an argumentative, impulsive, confident, and determined character who always tries her best in securing her needs no matter how hard things get for her.

Keywords: hierarchy of needs, character, characterization

A. INTRODUCTION

People live to satisfy their needs because a lack of something in their life will drive them to seek and fulfill that necessity. In his book entitled *Motivation and Personality*, Maslow proposed

his theory known as the hierarchy of needs. It explains the humans' needs or desires divided into five stages that have to be satisfied in accordance with their order. The hierarchy consists of physiological need, safety need, love and belongingness need, esteem need and self-actualization need (35). These needs are bound to appear in all human beings and have to be secured.

In this matter, characters in literary works are no exception. They are equally expected to possess these needs or desires, considering characters ought to reflect the characteristics of real people. Abrams also corroborated by stating that literary characters have temperament, desires, morals, and motivations for their actions, just like human beings in reality (33). Hence, as the phenomenon of human behavior is brought up in literature, the characters' satisfaction with their desires can be revealed with Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory.

Among many literary works that explicitly depict human behavior, *On the Come Up* novel by Angie Thomas offers an interesting portrayal of a young dreamer. This novel tells the journey of a sixteen-year-old girl named Brianna Jackson in achieving her dream as a rapper, and the way she deals with her daily struggles to be able to adequately meet all her basic needs: food, personal safety, affection, recognition, and accomplish her full potential as a person. The researcher is interested in analyzing Brianna's character in fulfilling her needs and how her character is represented in Angie Thomas' *On the Come Up* using Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory. Therefore, this research has two purposes. The first purpose is to reveal how Brianna Jackson fulfills her needs as represented in *On the Come Up* novel by Angie Thomas. The second one is to find out the portrayal of Brianna's character based on how she fulfills her needs in *On the Come Up* novel by Angie Thomas.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Literature

Literature is a social phenomenon that records an author's personal view and ideas regarding the real world using language as the medium. Wellek and Warren defined literature as rather expressive because it attempts to relay the tone and attitude of the author, to express what they want to address (12). Literary works represent the motives, feelings, desires, and thought process of the author based on his/her own experiences. It also can be said as a cultural and historical phenomenon which is possible to be evaluated based on its production and reception (Klarer 1). Hence, it can be said that literary works are forms in which people pour out their thoughts which represents real life situations through creative writing, then put it out there to be remembered through time.

2. Novel

Novel is a prose narrative that tells a story of the human experience through its characters and complication of plot or chain of events. In a way, novel provides a depiction to look at people in society. As Abrams explained it, novel is "characterized as the fictional attempt to give the effect of realism by representing complex characters with mixed motives ... interact with many other characters, and undergo very plausible and everyday modes of experience." (192). In other words, characters in novels are meant to imitate real people and the complexities of everyday experience, as well as to express messages about certain issues depending on the author's intents and motives. As an extended narrative, novels are different from short stories or novelettes because it provides a greater diversity of characters, greater complication of plots,

development of settings, and deeper exploration of characters and motives (Abrams 190). The important elements in novel are plot, characters, narrative perspective or point of view, and setting (Klarer 14).

3. Character and Characterization

As specified by Abrams, characters are the persons portrayed in a dramatic or narrative work who provide particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities as readers understand them through their dialogues and actions in the story (32). Furthermore, a term that is used to refer to the way an author describes the characters' portrayal is known as characterization (Kenan 59). Surely, every character possesses their own traits that make their identity or differentiate them from one another, and these traits can be known through indicators that the author relays through the text, like narration and dialogue. In her book entitled *Narrative Fiction*, Kenan stated that two fundamental types of these indicators are direct definition and indirect presentation.

a. Direct Definition

Direct definition is when the traits of a character are uttered pointedly with an adjective, an abstract noun, some other sort of noun, or part of speech. If the narrator, or another character, describes a character in a clear-cut manner through dialogues, such as naming the latter's quality, then it can be counted as direct definition (Kenan 59-60).

b. Indirect Presentation

Indirect presentation refers to the way the traits of a character are displayed in several other ways instead of being directly mentioned. The indicators of indirect presentation can be implied through action, speech, external appearance, and environment. The indicator through action varied from act of commission (something performed by the character), act of omission (something the character should do but does not), and contemplated act (something unintended or unplanned done by the character). As for speech, it can be implied either in the form of conversation or silent activity of the mind (Kenan 61).

4. Psychological Criticism

Psychological criticism in literature is applied in an attempt to understand characters in literary works. It provides explanations for an in-depth understanding as to why characters behave the way they do. Dobie affirmed that as readers ponder over a character's motives and relationships, the questions that arise in their minds are correspondingly the same with the ones they may ask about a friend or family. They question the character's motives, intents, desires, and so forth (53). It is because literature and psychology share a remarkably strong connection as they both deal with human beings and all their complexities. Just like people in real life, characters in literary works possess feelings, emotions, and each of them has their own experiences just like real people. Therefore, psychological criticism is used to be a basis for an insightful character analysis in literary works.

5. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory

According to the hierarchy of needs proposed by Maslow, one cannot possibly focus on fulfilling the next stage of his need if he fails to at least relatively fulfill the lower one (Feist and Feist 280). Thus, the more a lower need is gratified, the more chance of the higher needs may surface (285). Maslow arranged these needs into five hierarchical stages, starting from physiological need, safety need, love and belongingness need, self-esteem need, and self-

actualization need. According to Maslow as cited in Feist and Feist, a person may be simultaneously motivated to fulfill two or more levels of needs at the same time (291).

a. Physiological Need

Physiological need is the lowest need of the hierarchy or the most basic need of human beings. Feist and Feist summed it up as the need for food, drink, oxygen, maintenance of body temperature, and so forth, which are necessary for the body to survive (281).

b. Safety Need

Safety need refers to the need of protection from threatening situations such as war, terrorism, criminal assault, illness, fears, anxiety, natural disasters, and from so many other things that endangers one's being—both physically and mentally (39). Therefore, this need can be satisfied with things like a safe house, law, a promising job to support their finance, and anything else that can assure their freedom or peace of mind and stability in life.

c. Love and Belongingness Need

Love and belongingness need refers to the need for interpersonal attachment with other people, such as friends, partners, and family (Maslow 43). It is a known fact that humans are social beings, and having bonds with other individuals makes a significant impact on survival, because having a source of emotional support can help people during difficult times.

d. Esteem Need

Esteem need is classified into self-esteem and esteem of others. Maslow explained self-esteem as the need for strength, achievement, adequacy, competence, confidence, independence and freedom in terms of self-expression. Meanwhile, esteem of others is the need for reputation, respect, status, fame, recognition, importance, dignity, etc. (45).

e. Self-Actualization Need

Self-actualization is the hardest need to achieve because it can only be gratified once all the previous needs relatively—or mostly—have been. Maslow said that it is “people's tendency to become actualized in what they are potentially.” Naturally, after they steadily secured the lower needs, they crave for their best potential in what they already are, uniquely and idiosyncratically, and wish for nothing but what they are fitted for as an individual (46).

There are fifteen characteristics that indicate self-actualizing people: more efficient perception of reality; acceptance of self, others, and nature; spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness; problem-centering; the quality of detachment or the need for privacy; autonomy; continued freshness of appreciation; the peak experience; *gemeinschaftgefühl* or social interest; profound interpersonal relations; the democratic character structure; discrimination between means and ends or right and wrong; philosophical, unhostile sense of humor; creativeness; and resistance to enculturation (153-157).

6. Previous Research

In order to validate this study's reliability, this study is supported by several previous research journals that used a similar approach. The first is a journal article entitled “An Analysis of Sarah Kenyon's Motivation Through Her Needs in Mary Higgins Clark's *All Around the Town*,” written by Monika Dwi Maghfirah, Singgih Daru Kuncara, and Chris Asanti. This research discussed *All Around the Town* novel by Mary Higgins Clark, with the aim to find out if Sarah Kenyon, the main character of the novel, was able to fulfill all her needs by employing Maslow's theory of hierarchy of needs and then applying Hippocrates' four temperament theory to find out Sarah's character portrayal.

The second research journal article is entitled “Psychological Impacts of Discrimination on the Characters as Seen in *On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas” written by Nurulzada Aini Putri, Femmy Dahlan, and Mariati. This research by Putri, Dahlan, and Mariati focuses on discrimination and the psychological impacts which affect the characters.

The researcher’s exploration of previous research found that there had been no study research which focuses on the representation of Brianna Jackson’s needs in using Maslow’s hierarchy of needs theory as represented in *On the Come Up* by Angie Thomas. As a result, this research filled the gap by exploring Brianna Jackson’s character’s needs with the help of some previous researches with similar approach and object.

C. METHOD

1. Research Design

There are two research methodologies known as qualitative research and quantitative research. Qualitative research is defined as the quality description of a situation, whereas quantitative research concentrates more on the numerical values of the situation (Kothari 3). Kothari claimed that “qualitative research is specially important in the behavioral sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behavior” (3). In this case, this research used qualitative method because it seeks to explain the behavior of the main character named Brianna in *On the Come Up* novel by Angie Thomas.

Moreover, under the umbrella of qualitative research, the researcher used psychological criticism to unravel Brianna Jackson’s character. Psychological criticism is applied when readers try to understand characters in literary works as it provides a basis for an in-depth and more insightful analysis of the characters. Many theories can explain the human’s behavior and Abraham Maslow’s theory of hierarchy of needs is one of them. In this matter, this research specifically used Maslow’s theory of hierarchy of human needs because it seeks to explore Brianna Jackson’s needs in *On the Come Up* novel.

2. Data and Data Source

Data are the information needed to answer or resolve the research problems, and the source may be taken from books, the internet, past journal researches, lectures, interviews, and so on, and it manifests the topic of discussion (Deshpande 94). In this case, the data of this research are words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs from *On the Come Up* novel by Angie Thomas as the data source, that relate to Brianna’s needs and her character portrayal.

3. Data Collection

The data collection was done by observing the novel thoroughly. First, the researchers read the novel to get a comprehensive understanding of the character’s behavior, the situation, and the story in general. A careful reading was needed to not miss any important data that was related to the study, which was how Brianna’s needs were fulfilled as portrayed in Angie Thomas’ *On the Come Up* novel. Then, the researchers took important notes from the narration, dialogues, sentences and paragraphs that represented Brianna’s character and needs. The data were sorted to make it easier for the researchers to do the analysis.

4. Data Analysis

The analysis was carried out after the data had been collected. This research is a qualitative research, hence it gives a quality description of how Brianna Jackson got her needs fulfilled in

Angie Thomas' *On the Come Up* novel. Dobie stated that critics who are interested with psychological criticism can start with taking notes and writing a paragraph to describe the selected character before anything else (72). It can be interpreted as identifying how the character is like. In this case, it means to mark all the dialogues and narration that represents the kind of attitudes Brianna shows in her attempts to fulfill her needs. Brianna's behavior was explored based on Maslow's theory to find out if the character is able to satisfy all her needs. Then, the researchers revealed whether Brianna succeeds in fulfilling all the needs or whether she fails in fulfilling any of them. Afterwards, her character portrayal based on how she fulfilled her needs is discussed.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Brianna Jackson's Needs as Represented in *On the Come Up* Novel by Angie Thomas

a. Physiological Need

Brianna was a sixteen year-old girl from a financially struggling family. For them, even fulfilling basic necessities like food was sometimes a struggle due to their low income. Thankfully, in spite of the difficulties, Brianna was able to fulfill this need mainly with the help of her mother who always made sure to provide food for her no matter what. Brianna's way of fulfilling her need for food is in the following data:

"...You hungry? We have some sausages left over from breakfast. I can make you a sandwich."

"No thanks. I ate at Malik's." I plopped down on the sofa (Thomas 241-242).

Brianna's mother wanted to make her a sandwich from some breakfast leftover. However, Brianna refused the offer because she had eaten at her friend's house. Either way, the conversation between the mother and daughter reflected that they did have supplies of food and that Brianna took care of her physiological need.

b. Safety Need

Initially, safety need was also one of the needs that Brianna Jackson struggled the most with. Safety need can be satisfied with things that can assure the person's sense of mental and physical security, stability, and well-being. In Brianna's case, she could hardly achieve financial stability at the start because her family was poor. Nonetheless, Brianna was able to finally live in better circumstances by the end of the story, and had her safety need secured.

"Whatever, boy," says Mom. "We also came to a decision. Your grandparents offered that all three of us stay here until we get on our feet. I accepted." "I told your grandparents I'd help with household expenses, but this would mean a lot less bills to worry about." (Thomas 419).

The dialogue above was said by Brianna's mother. From the dialog, Brianna, her brother, and her mother would be staying in Brianna's grandparents' house until they were back to financially stable on their own. Other than being financially comfortable, her grandparents were also known to be living in a pleasant house, which surely would assure Brianna's comfort even more.

c. Love and Belongingness Need

If there was a need that Brianna seemed to hardly have a problem with, it would be love and belongingness need. In the novel, Brianna had always been surrounded by family members

who always deeply cared for her. Among all her family members, Trey, Brianna's brother, was the one she spent the longest time with.

When Jay first got sick, she would disappear into her room for days on end. Trey couldn't reach into all of the kitchen cabinets, but he always made sure I ate. ... Then when we moved in with Grandma and Granddaddy, he still took care of me, insisting that he read me stories every night and walk me to and from school every day. If I had a nightmare about those gunshots that took Dad, Trey would run into my room and comfort me until I fell asleep (Thomas 361).

In the excerpt above, Brianna explained in details about how her brother had always been there for her practically all her life. Their father died when they were little and there was a period of time when their mother was in a very bad state of mind, but Trey had always accompanied and comforted Brianna, making sure she was taken care of.

d. Esteem Need

Brianna's goal was to be a good, well-known and successful rapper. In order to be a good, well-known, and successful rapper, Brianna was required to have confidence in herself, as well as to get recognition by other people about her talent. The following data proved Brianna's accomplishment in having self-esteem, showing that she had confidence.

Not just that, but I gotta go up against a somebody. Stupid as that song is, everybody knows Milez and they're already cheering for him. I'm a nobody in comparison.

But I'm a nobody who can rap (Thomas 29).

Brianna was about to battle in a freestyle rap competition. It was her first time participating, meanwhile her opponent was an already known rapper. Brianna said that even when she was still a nobody compared to him, she had the talents to rap. It indicated that she had confidence in herself to win that battle despite her lack of popularity. According to *Oxford Dictionary*, confidence refers to belief in one's own abilities to do something successfully ("Confidence" 89). This means that Brianna obtained one of the requirements of self-esteem need: confidence.

The next data showed Brianna's reputation or esteem of others. On one morning, after Brianna got on her school bus, she immediately got praised for her rap performance by one of her friends.

"You killed it in the Ring. ... Saw the battle on YouTube. My cousin texted it to me. He said you got next."

Dang, I got folks talking like that? I definitely had the Ring talking. I could barely get out of there last night without somebody telling me how dope I was. It was the first time I realized I can do this (Thomas 50).

Brianna was astonished to find out that people were talking about her performance, and then remembered that practically everyone from the battle had told her about how impressive she was. This showed that Brianna had a good reputation because of her talent, and the acknowledgement she got from people boosted her confidence.

e. Self-Actualization Need

Self-actualization is so difficult to achieve that this need is at highest top of the hierarchy of needs. Other than the fact that a person has to mostly succeed in satisfying the four lower needs, there are fifteen characteristics that Maslow found on self-actualizing people such as more efficient perception of reality; acceptance of self, others, and nature; spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness; problem-centering; the quality of detachment or the need for privacy; autonomy; continued freshness of appreciation; the peak experience; *gemeinschaftsgefühl* or social interest;

profound interpersonal relations; the democratic character structure; discrimination between means and ends or right and wrong; philosophical, unhostile sense of humor; creativeness; and lastly, resistance to enculturation. The analysis of these characteristics on Brianna is in the following sections:

1) More efficient Perception of Reality

Having this characteristic means Brianna had to have a good tolerance of ambiguity, because a self-actualizing person is less afraid and more comfortable with the unknown or possible problems. It turned out that Brianna actually did not have this quality. In fact, she felt uneasiness when faced with something which she was not sure of the result. This was portrayed when Brianna was being hesitant to upload her self-written song on the internet:

Two, as dumb as this will sound, I'm scared. To me it's like putting nudes online. Okay, maybe that's a stretch, but it's like putting part of me out there that I can't hide again (Thomas 114).

Brianna showed her unsureness as she explained the reason why she had not uploaded her song. She even compared it to the feeling of putting nudes online to emphasize how personal the song was that people would immediately see a part of her through that song. Brianna's reluctance of exposing it to the world in fear of the outcome was contradicting with how a self-actualizer would actively seek for the unknown because it excites them.

2) Acceptance of Self, Others, and Nature

In the novel, there are some parts in which Brianna had not met this aspect as there were moments where she appeared to be unable to accept her reality. Like in the following data, when Brianna was wandering around her neighborhood after her mother got fired:

"Whaddup, Li'l Law," a guy shouts from inside a raggedy car as I cross the parking lot. Never seen him in my life, but I wave. I'll always be my dad's daughter if nothing else. He should be here. Maybe if he was, I wouldn't be wondering how we're gonna make it since Jay doesn't have a job (Thomas 76).

In her little stroll, Brianna was greeted by a stranger who referred to her as Li'l Law, as Law used to be her late father's stage name. The reminder of her father made Brianna wish that he still had been there, and that maybe if he had been, they would not be struggling. This indicated that Brianna could not accept reality and she was anxious because of it.

3) Spontaneity, Simplicity, and Naturalness

Brianna had showed her spontaneous act when she was given unfair treatment by people. After Brianna posted her song online that talked about the stereotype and injustice that she and her other black people experienced regularly, that song immediately got a lot of attention. And while it was received very well among the black people, many white people were against it. Hence, Brianna did not stay quiet about it and spoke up through her social media live broadcast. The following excerpt is her message to the people who were against her song:

"So, Ms. Reporter," I say, "and anybody else who wanna call 'On the Come Up' this, that, or whatever the hell else. Do it. Hell, get the song taken down if you want. But you'll never silence me. I got too goddamn much to say." (Thomas 267).

In her speech, Brianna referred to a reporter, because previously, the reporter had portrayed her song negatively. Brianna was angry that people who did not understand her intentions in the song were trying to get it taken down, when in fact, it was her way of speaking up. Brianna's action here is fitted for being spontaneous in expressing her emotions.

4) Problem-Centering

Problem-centering means people are mostly focused on important matters outside themselves which have no relation with themselves. In the novel, most of the time, Brianna was just concerned about the problems regarding herself. Her friend, Malik, suggested Brianna to release the video of her getting physically assaulted by their school security guards. The school security guards were known for always giving the black and Latinx students unjust treatment, and Malik thought if Brianna's video was released to the public, the security guards would get the punishment they deserved. Brianna refused to be the poster child for the issue.

“Who knows what could happen though once I post the video?”

Oh, I know what could happen. It could end up all over the news and social media. People all over the world will watch me get thrown onto the ground. Eventually, it'll be forgotten, because guess what? Something similar will happen to another black person at a Waffle House or Starbucks or some shit, and everybody will move on to that.

I'd rather forget that it happened at all. Besides, I don't have time to worry about that stuff. My family doesn't have heat (Thomas 152-153).

Brianna was against the idea because she thought letting the world see the video would be pointless. She desired to simply disregard it, even though it could potentially aid herself. Brianna even added that worrying about it was not her priority because her family was struggling. Her behavior was in contrast with the quality of being problem-centered, whereas people with this characteristic would often prioritize tasks that are unselfish as they are more concerned with problems which affect mankind in general rather than themselves.

5) The Quality of Detachment or the Need for Privacy

This characteristic refers to the way a self-actualizing person has the ability or tendency to be alone without feeling lonely or discomforted. This was not the case for Brianna, however. Despite having her love and belongingness mostly satisfied already, she was still worried of possibly drifting apart from her best friends when they did not spend time with each other as much anymore. It is shown in the following data:

“Y'all are the ones with little time for me because you've got other people. For the record, I'm okay with that, but I won't act like it doesn't sting. Plus, y'all been hanging out together without me, researching Rapid.”

“I figured you had too much other shit going on to worry about that,” says Sonny. “We know your family's struggling right now.”

“Is that all? Or do—” I can't believe I'm going to say this. “Or do y'all not wanna be associated with me?” (Thomas 275).

Brianna confronted her best friends who seemed to be distancing themselves from her. Brianna admitted the fact that they left her out hurt her. This showed that she was not comfortable with the space given to her. Instead of embracing solitude, it caused her anxiety.

6) Autonomy

Self-actualizing people are autonomous and independent, especially in the aspect of their growth. Brianna was not qualified to fit this characteristic because most of the time, she depended on other people to fulfill her needs. There is one example of her needing validation from others regarding her passion in rapping:

I should be used to this, as much as I let him and Malik hear rhymes I wrote, but I'm always afraid to show people who know me that other side of me. What if they don't like it? (Thomas 133).

Brianna was talking about how she was hesitant to show her rapper side to other people, in fear that they might not like it. It was the opposite way of thinking of a self-actualizing person, who would not be bothered by such thoughts because to them, the determinants of satisfaction come from their inner-individual instead of the society.

7) Continued Freshness of Appreciation

This characteristic refers to people's amazing capability to continuously appreciate the basic things of life. They do not take their blessings for granted or complain about insignificant things. Brianna was the opposite. When her mother took her to a food giveaway, Brianna was embarrassed by the fact that they were poor enough to rely on giveaways. Then, she felt like the situation got worse when she saw her previous competitor was also there.

I've always had this theory that God is a sitcom writer who loves to put me in ridiculous situations. Like, "Hahahaha, not only does she have to beg for food, but she has to do it in front of Milez. Hilarious!"

This show needs to go in a new direction (Thomas 162).

Brianna described her current situation as ridiculous, implying that God was unfair to her for making her beg for food in the presence of Milez. Her last sentence also indicated that she wanted a different path for her life. Brianna did not appreciate the fact that she got to have food at all. Instead, she was focused on her personal discomfort about the situation.

8) The Peak Experience

Peak experiences are unexpected moments where people feel a sense of pure bliss, pleasure, and satisfaction. There are some moments that Brianna experienced that fit the idea of peak experiences. One of the moments was when Brianna felt a moment of bliss after she performed as an already known rapper in her neighborhood. She received bewildering reactions from the audience because they liked her performance so much:

There's an explosion of cheers.

"Bri! Bri! Bri!" they chant, and my name rocks the room. "Bri! Bri! Bri!"

... When I was little, I used to stand in front of mirrors with hairbrushes and imagine crowds chanting my name. Yet I don't think I could've imagined *this*. This feeling. See, for the first time in my life, I know I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. I'm doing what I'm supposed to do. Hell, what I was made to do. (Thomas 441-442).

Brianna was in disbelief seeing the amount of cheers and praises from the audience. She was incredibly happy because she got even more than she expected and stand in where she had always desired to be. She implied that she knew where her place was, because she had known the goals and direction she wanted to be in the entire time, and she had achieved it.

9) Gemeinschaftsgefühl

A self-actualizing person has this characteristic because they possess a feeling of affection and caring towards human beings in general. Brianna did not seem to have this quality. She was not a social person, and it was depicted in the following data:

I swear, we can't go anywhere without her striking up a conversation with a complete stranger. Jay's a people person. I'm more of a "yes, people exist, but that doesn't mean I need to talk to them" person (Thomas 161).

When her mother was talking with a stranger, Brianna noticed the difference with her in the aspect of socializing. She claimed that she was the type of person who just acknowledged other

people's existence, and did not have the desire to interact with them. Her indifference behavior conflicted this characteristic which suggested a sense of connectedness in humanity.

10) Profound Interpersonal Relations

Generally, self-actualizing people have great compassion for other people, but their close friendships are usually restricted to only a few. Brianna did not really have compassion for people in general. However, she belonged to a group of friends which only consisted of limited number of people as her best friends.

See, Sony and Malik have their groups at Midtown. Unfortunately for me, Sonny and Malik *are* my group (Thomas 58).

Throughout the story, Brianna had only had Sonny and Malik as her close friends that she truly trusted and relied on. Sonny and Malik were both very important friends in Brianna's life as she felt deeply connected with them.

11) The Democratic Character Structure

This value was not reflected at all in Brianna's character. So, whether she had this characteristic or not was unknown.

12) Discrimination Between Means and Ends or Right and Wrong

There was no data for this characteristic as this was another quality that could not be found in Brianna's character.

13) Philosophical, Unhostile Sense of Humor

In *On the Come Up* novel, Brianna showed a behavior which indicated that she had unhostile sense of humor once. It was when Brianna hung out with her aunt and her aunt's friend around their neighborhood. Trey, Brianna's brother, showed up in his work uniform, and their aunt immediately took notice and pointed it out.

"... You the pizza boy? C'mon, Trey. Really?"

Scrap busts out laughing.

I don't see a damn thing funny though. It took my brother forever to find something, and nah, making pizza ain't "goals," but he's trying (Thomas 92).

Brianna's aunt asked Trey about his work uniform in clearly belittling and insulting manner. Scrap, her aunt's friend, then laughed at what she said. Brianna did not join them. In fact, she did not find the funny part in what her aunt said as she realized that her brother's hard work was not something to laugh at.

14) Creativeness

As an aspiring rapper and songwriter, Brianna definitely had creativity in her. She was talented in writing lyrics and rapping, and did not even have a problem with doing both on the spot. One of the data which represented this quality of hers is in the following quotation:

My ideas are spread out like puzzle pieces. Now I gotta put them all together into something that makes sense.

The beat starts again. I nod along. There's nothing but me, the music, and Miley.

The words have strung themselves together into rhymes and into a flow, and I let it all come tumbling out (Thomas 37).

This moment occurred during Brianna's freestyle battle. Her ability to sort out ideas and transformed them into rhyming words that flowed together came from her creativity in art and music. This proved that Brianna possessed the quality of creativeness.

15) Resistance to Enculturation

This refers to the way self-actualizers will not blindly goes with rules created by other people. Contrary to this definition, Brianna was the type that was still hesitant when it came to the matter of seeking changes. There was a moment in the novel wherein Brianna explained about some rules that black people in her neighborhood had to follow due to the perceptions of people about them. These rules are in fact problematic since they were based on prejudices, but Brianna would still obey them.

Usually when we go somewhere in Midtown-the-neighborhood we gotta abide by the rules. They're unspoken but understood:

1. If you go in a store, keep your hands out of your pockets and out of your backpack. Don't give them a reason to think you're stealing ...

Thing is, sometimes I follow the rules and still deal with crap (Thomas 146).

Brianna specified that she obeyed those rules despite still having to deal with some problem even after doing that. The rules were unofficially created by the society. If Brianna had the quality of resistance to enculturation, she would not have complied with the rules. Instead, she would have fought for it to change. Thus, it was certain that Brianna did not possess this characteristic.

2. Brianna Jackson's Character Portrayal Based on Her Needs as Represented in *On the Come Up* Novel by Angie Thomas

a. The Portrayal of Argumentative

Brianna's character was an argumentative person. According to *Oxford Dictionary*, argumentative is defined as somebody who is fond of arguing or expressing disagreement over something ("Argumentative" 19). In the novel, Brianna faced so many things that threatened her needs' security. She often handled it by speaking up for herself that ended up with her arguing. For instance, when the security guards of Brianna's school wanted to conduct a random search on her:

"Hand over the bag," Long says.

Oh, shit. My candy stash. If they find it, I could get suspended for selling on campus. Considering how much I've been suspended over other stuff, shit, I may get expelled.

"Hand. Over. The. Bag," Long says.

I swallow. "I don't have to—" ... "No!" (Thomas 59).

Brianna kept refusing and proclaiming her argument against the guards' request, displaying the quality of argumentative. Further, this characterization of Brianna was shown through indirect presentation, specifically indicated by her speech. The reason Brianna argued with the guards was done it in attempt to protect her safety need. Apparently, Brianna had been selling candies on campus to make money for herself and help her family, but selling stuff was against her school's rules. Hence, because the situation endangered her status as a student, she argued with the guards instead in hope that she could secure her bag.

b. The Portrayal of Impulsive

The next characteristic that was found in Brianna's character was that she was an impulsive person. Impulsive refers to when someone acts suddenly without thinking carefully about the outcome of the action ("Impulsive" 222). The characterization of Brianna's impulsivity was shown for the first time during her first rap battle. During that battle, Brianna's opponent, Milez,

rudely mentioned her late father in his rap lyrics. It got Brianna angry, and she almost got disqualified by trying to start a fight with him in the battle ring.

Aunt Pooh drags me to the corner. “The hell is wrong with you?”

“You heard that shit?”

“Yeah, but you handle him with your bars, not your fists! You trying to get disqualified before you start?”

I breathe extra hard. “That line—”

“Got you like he wanted it to!”

She’s right. Damn, she’s right (Thomas 32-33).

Brianna’s aunt reminded her that she was supposed to get back at him with her rap instead of with her fists. Finally registering what she just did, Brianna realized that she had handled the situation foolishly. This characteristic was indirectly presented through her action (act of commission) and her speech or conversation. In this moment, it can be said that Brianna’s impulsiveness was displayed in relation to her love and belongingness need, because the reason of her anger was because someone disrespected her late father.

c. The Portrayal of Confident

Brianna was portrayed as a confident character. Brianna’s confidence mainly came from her skills in rapping as she believed that it was something which she was really good at. As stated in *Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary*, confidence means a solid trust that one has in their abilities or good qualities (“Confidence” 89). The representation of Brianna’s confidence was shown during her first rap battle.

Not just that, but I gotta go up against a somebody. Stupid as that song is, everybody knows Milez and they’re already cheering for him. I’m a nobody in comparison.

But I’m a nobody who can rap (Thomas 29).

Brianna acknowledged that she was still a nobody compared to her opponent. But, she claimed that she had the skills to compete despite being one. It means that her opponent’s status did not bother her because she believed in her own abilities to compete with him. This indicated that Brianna possessed confidence, as it was indirectly presented by her speech or silent activity of the mind. And, in relation to confidence being one of the indicators of one’s self-esteem, it can be said that her confidence helped her fulfill her esteem need.

d. The Portrayal of Determined

Lastly, Brianna was portrayed as a determined character. Having the quality of determined means showing serious will or wish to do something successfully (“Determined” 122). The representation of Brianna being a determined person was displayed when she talked about her determination to win her first rap battle competition:

I might have to kill somebody tonight.

It could be somebody I know. It could be a stranger. It could be somebody who’s never battled before. It could be somebody who’s pro at it. It doesn’t matter how many punch lines they spit or how nice their flow is. I’ll have to kill them (Thomas 3).

Brianna stated that she wanted to kill whoever was going to go up against her in the battle. Not literally killing somebody, but she wanted to win over her opponent later. She did not even care about how good her challenger might be, she was just determined to beat them with her own rap skills. Brianna’s determination was portrayed through indirect presentation here, as it was indicated by her speech that was happening inside her head. Further, this portrayal of

Brianna's determination was shown through her attempt in fulfilling her esteem need, especially recognition, as the reason she wanted to win the battle was to prove herself.

D. CONCLUSION

After analyzing Brianna Jackson's character in *On the Come Up* novel using the hierarchy of needs theory, the researchers found that Brianna was able to satisfy her physiological need, safety need, love and belongingness need, and esteem need. She had faced obstacles in her attempt to fulfill these needs. However, due to her strong will and the help of other characters like her family and friends, she could reach and meet the four needs. Unfortunately, she could not fulfill her self-actualization need because she failed to meet a lot of its characteristics. Among the fifteen characteristics, those that were found in Brianna's character had only been five: spontaneity, simplicity, and naturalness; the peak experience; profound interpersonal relations; philosophical, unhostile sense of humor; and creativeness. As for the other eight: more efficient perception of reality; acceptance of self, others, and nature; problem-centering; the need for privacy; autonomy; continued freshness of appreciation; social interest; and resistance to enculturation, had not been found in her character because her behavior turned out to contradict these qualities. Meanwhile, the last two characteristics: the democratic character structure and discrimination between means and ends, had not been reflected at all. In addition, through the exploration of Brianna's needs, it was found that Brianna's character was portrayed to be argumentative, impulsive, confident, and determined. Most of the portrayals were found through indirect presentation: speech (conversation and mind) and action (act of commission).

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