T.C.

İSTANBUL YENİ YÜZYIL UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROGRAMME

REPRESENTATION OF TRAUMATIC SYMPTOMS IN STEPHEN KING'S *THE GREEN MILE* AND *SECRET WINDOW, SECRET GARDEN*

MA THESIS

HUDA AL-THABETI

20131306014

İSTANBUL, MAY 2023

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ETHICAL STATEMENT

In this project, I prepared my manuscript in accordance with the thesis writing rules of the Institute of Social Sciences at Istanbul Yeni Yüzyıl University and I hereby declare that;

• I have obtained the data, information and documents provided within the thesis within the framework of academic and ethical rules,

• I have submitted all information, documents, evaluations and results in accordance with the requirements of scientific ethics and moral rules,

• I have cited all works that I have used in the project by appropriately referring to my sources,

• I have not made any changes to the data used,

• The work I present here is original, and if found otherwise, I declare that I accept all loss of rights that may occur.

22/ 06 /2023

HUDA AL-THABETI

PREFACE

I would like to provide sincere gratitude and appreciation to my supervisor, Dr. Asghar Heidari, for his continuing support and valuable and academic observations at every stage of the message. I am honored to be one of his students and work with him on my thesis. I would like to thank the members of the Committee, Dr. Gokcen Kara and her valuable observations and presence in the defense session. I would like to offer all thanks and gratitude to Prof. Dr. Günseli İŞÇİ for her contribution and guidance during whole my education. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank my mother for her continued support for me, her love and encouragement, and her faith that I will reach my goal. I want to thank my husband who supported me throughout this period and always encouraged me. Thank you for your continuous support, especially my husband Mohammad Ali Hayder. Thank you for your presence in my life.

İSTANBUL, 2023 HUDA AL-THABETI

ÖZET

STEPHEN KING'IN *THE GREEN MILE* VE *SECRET WINDOW, SECRET GARDEN* ESERLERİNİN TRAVMATİK TEMSİLİ

HUDA AL-THABETI

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Edebiyat ve psikoloji eş zamanlı olarak insanların yaşamında ve başkalarıyla daralmasında hâlâ karanlık olan gerçekleri ortaya çıkarmayı amaçlar. Bu anlamda edebî eserler, gerçeklerin aydınlatılmasında ve okuyucularının aydınlatılmasında önemli bir rol oynayacaktır. Her ne şekilde olursa olsun, birbirinden farklı argümanlara sahip olan edebi eserler, sadece onları yaşamlarına uygulayarak ve onlardan öğrenerek insanların birçok konuyu kavramsallaştırmasına ve gerçekleştirmesine yardımcı olur. Bu çalışma, insan davranışlarının ruhlarından nasıl etkilenebileceğini ve dolayısıyla yaşamlarının buna göre değişebileceğini ortaya koymayı amaçlamaktadır. Bu bağlamda, bu çalışma boyunca Amerikalı çağdaş bir yazar olan Stephen King'in öne çıkan iki eseri incelenecektir. Hem *The Green Mile* hem de *Secret Window, Secret Garden*'daki karakterler ve davranışları çeşitli psikanalitik bakış açılarıyla incelenecektir. Bu çalışma aynı zamanda hikâye karakterlerinin çeşitli durumlarda nasıl farklı şekillerde travma yaşadıklarına açıklık getirmeyi amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Travma, Stephen King, Psikoloji, Edebiyat, Sefalet

ABSTRACT

REPRESENTATION OF TRAUMATIC SYMPTOMS IN STEPHEN KING'S *THE GREEN MILE* AND *SECRET WINDOW, SECRET GARDEN*

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Literature and psychology simultaneously intend to reveal the realities which still remain dark in human being's life and their contraction with others. In this sense, literary works would play a significant role in illuminating the facts and enlightening their readers. In any form with dissimilar arguments, literary works assist people to conceptualize and realize several matters by only applying the works to their lives and learning from them. The present study intends to disclose how human beings' behavior might be affected by their psyche and therefore, their lives might be changed accordingly. In this regard, two outstanding works by Stephen King an American contemporary author are analyzed throughout this work. The characters and their behaviors in both *The Green Mile* and *Secret Window, Secret Garden* are going to be analyzed from several psychoanalytical perspectives. This study also aims to clarify how the characters of the stories experience trauma in various circumstances in divergent ways.

Keywords: Trauma, Stephen King, Psychology, Literature, Misery

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GM: ***The Green Mile***

SW, SG: ***Secret Window, Secret Garden***

INTRODUCTION

Human beings around the world with their sensations are social creatures that everyone is in need of others. This need might differ from one person to another based on their needs and feelings. One may argue how one person would be stronger than others whether physically or power of the mind, but on the whole, analyzing one's personal character and feelings, an analyst might come to the point that he or she has feelings that would make the person weaker to some extent. This might be one issue that brings people to the point of misunderstandings and misjudgments. In order to discuss the matter deeply, one may consider that one specific perspective would not be enough to analyze and discuss human beings' behaviors and manners. They may change in different conditions based on the circumstances that they are located.

Literature and literary works have helped science and have been hand in hand with it to give a clear flashlight in order to make the phenomenon brighter to see and recognizable to understand. One may argue that literature's role in awakening people had been one of the most significant roles and authors and creative producers on this path have suffered a lot. It won't be deniable that in several conditions authors have been threatened with their lives and many have lost their lives only because of reflection of their visions. Therefore, what literary works in different shapes and various time periods have brought to people and society might be valued to a big extent.

Since literary works discuss several issues in the human being's life, one may mention it as a multi-disciplinary study. From psychology to history, policy to religious beliefs, racism to feminism, and classifying the people of a society and suggesting solutions to miseries that might come up with all these issues, literature has seated itself at the top. With all these matters in mind, one might expect that the universe is created to fulfill his/her needs and satisfy them during life. The fact might be that life is full of lessons that one may or, may not learn and pass these experiences to the upcoming generations. Roland Barthes (2011) asserts that "You shouldn't come here expecting a show that will either enchant or disappoint…" (Barthes, 2011, p.10). It might be interpreted from Barthes's statement that human beings should act according to the circumstances that they are in, without expecting any extraordinary event to take place.

Literature is typically considered one of the uninteresting subjects of study because of the complexity of its structure and peculiar use of language. From this perspective, it may not be of interest to students. However, students are not interested in literature because its structure is complicated and difficult to understand. One of the biggest barriers to studying literature is the material itself, which contains vocabulary and texts that may be seen beyond the student's level of linguistic competency (Eagleton, 2008). It has been proposed that activities built around literary texts should be of the kind that promotes logical development, independent thinking, and concern in literary learning. Given the importance of literary theory to our understanding, the effect of literary theory on how we comprehend literary works should be looked at carefully.

Literary texts are often confused by various ambiguities because they are not intended to inform us as quickly and easily as possible. It may be contained in the difference in the conversation itself. It can be said that even in the most complex human experiences people speak using everyday language. That's true, but literature has proven far more successful at doing so. Thus, the literature's difficulties may be the result of the transmission of complex experiences. Through literature, we come across different human practices and get to know each other better. Good writers are very good at expressing such experiences, but they always call for the patience and effort of the reader. Literature needs nothing of us except compassion because how can we know what we really want if we don't see everything that could happen to us in our imagination? How can we know who we really are if there are no characters and fates to compare ourselves to? How can we know what our real life should be like if we can't live hundreds of different ones in our imagination? These might be some of the questions that human beings would come across during their lives but most of them are left unanswered.

Man without a mind would possibly have not a big difference from animals. Since human beings have emotional feelings like many other creatures in the world, and maybe more, their needs and interests differ to a big extent. In general terms, human beings' behaviors and how they perceive the world might be studies not far from their psyche. This field of study, not only is significant and plays a very important role in realizing their needs, but also would study how these needs might be responded to in an appropriate way. The study would need to understand various aspects of their needs and interests based on several aspects of their lives such as their gender, age,

childhood or adulthood experiences, and many others. The idea might be more evident when one faces problems in their life which basically came up because of psychological behavioral distinctions. The current study will focus on how trauma and psychological issues could leave traces in one's life until the end of their life.

Carl Rogers' "coaching psychology" has also been influenced by the humanistic approach. More commonly, it refers to focusing on increasing one's capacities. This also is related to postmodern literary criticism which recognizes that sense develops as the reader communicates with the text itself. Postmodernists claim that human emotions, approaches, and intuitions provide real interpretations and directions for literary works. This is, in fact, the motivation of readers in the literary critique process. It also underlines the need of considering an author's mortality while developing creative notions (Rogers, 1951).

To understand one's traumatic life experiences and make relevance between his/her needs, one should be aware of what their needs might be. Psychology and relevant studies have helped human beings to achieve such a goal. Sandra Bloom (1999) believes that "It is impossible to understand human behavior and the human response to trauma without grasping key insights about the way our evolution has affected us" (p. 2). Based on her analysis of trauma and applying traumatic feelings in one's life, a researcher may intend to recognize what man's evolution is and when it started to take place. They may start to ask many questions that still are left without any proper answer. Literature and literary works hand-in-hand intend to reveal the realities which are going on in society. The characters of any literary work such as novels, short stories, plays, and dramas, for instance, would increase the awareness of any reader or audience to think of the works that they come across throughout their lives. This phenomenon will assist them to come to a better understanding since no one can experience everything in his or her life, therefore symbols, and the characters in any masterpiece will help scholars and researchers to come to a better comprehension. In order to find a good way to realize not only the realities behind any specific action but also reactions against issues in real life, literature deals with human beings, nature, and their psyche.

That would be the study of psychological studies which would pave the way to psychologists in manifesting one's nature and desires to a big extent. The author of any literary work, considering its characters, setting, historical sequences, and even the interaction between characters might intend to convey a message which might not be easily expressed through normal

conditions. That is the literary work, which significantly attracts its readers and leaves traces for them to follow. It is not deniable that throughout history in any literature, authors, poets, and artists played such a role to criticize the political conditions, and social norms, and challenge peoples' beliefs. They might have been jailed and tortured for revealing their outlooks which would end up awakening people.

Literature reveals the realities behind human beings' psyche by referring to lifetime experiences hand in hand with psychology illuminates the path for researchers and scholars. These are done by portraying any art piece such as plays, dramas, novels, short stories, or even music. Novels or fiction might be common ones while discussing literary works in the realm of the academy and academic works. James Berger, a researcher published an article titled "Trauma and Literary Theory" in 1997. He asserts that "Freud attempted a theory of trauma that would account for the historical development of entire cultures" (p. 3). It is interpreted from his arguments that trauma and in other words miserable conditions in life may assist people to have a better realization of the events and achieve developments throughout history.

Trauma and its consequences in human beings' life may be analyzed from different perspectives based on the reasons that one might involve and located. By means of psychological analysis, psychologists dig deep into the phenomenon and study it in detail. In other words, that would be psychology, and studying human beings' behavior analysis that assists one to understand the issue better. Bessel van der Kolk (1943 -) is a psychiatrist, author, researcher, and educator based in Boston, United States who argues that "Many early psychiatrists understood psychological trauma to be the ultimate source of much psychopathology fruit at first regarded many psychiatric problems as manifestations of early childhood traumas" (2003, P.1). This argument illustrates that not only childhood is very important in formulating one's character, but also trauma may be a considerable source for other upcoming pomological problems that one faces in future life.

To dig more about the previous topic, what trauma and misery might be in one's life, and what feelings and senses can be addressed as traumatic ones? Is the idea the same as a disaster? In this sense, James Barger states that "… trauma is not simply another word for disaster. The idea of catastrophe as trauma provides a method of interpretation, for it posits that the effects of an event may be dispersed and manifested in many forms not obviously associated with the event"

(1997, p.5). As it might be interpreted from Barger's statement, traumatic feelings would be 'a method of interpretation' and, therefore, it might vary from one perspective to another and change in dissimilar conditions. The issue might be one of the basic and fundamental reasons for disagreements which would in debates. Arguments among individuals or groups of people might take place because of differences and divergent outlooks.

Discussing the notion of trauma and its consequences on one's psyche, literature and literary context would play a major role in conveying the message to the readers of literary works and researchers. In this respect, Balaev, M. in *Contemporary Approaches in Literary Trauma Theory* (2014) asserts that "… trauma in literature must be read through a theoretical pluralism that allows for an understanding of trauma" (p. iv). Balaev's assentation might encourage a reader to face the phenomenon with open eyes and believe that she/he is on the right path while looking into literary works to realize traumatic acts better. He continues "Fiction provides readers a wealth of thick description of the conditions and characteristics of traumatic experience" (p.137). It would be the author's innovative power of expression in creating the atmosphere to illustrate the issue by proving a well-organized setting, characters, and even appropriate names.

A journalist, named J. Roger Kurts studies the issue in *Trauma and Literature* (2018) and argues that "As a concept "trauma" has attracted a great deal of interest in literary studies the key term in psychoanalytic approaches to literally study, trauma theory represents a critical approach that enables new modes of reading and listening to it is a leading concept of our time applicable to individuals' cultures and Nations" (p.1). Standing on Kurt's side, one may come to the conclusion that the role of psychoanalytical studies and psychological approaches in revealing the targets of literary works is not deniable. It also represents the core message which might be hidden from other lenses and perspectives.

The following study aims to illustrate how literature and literary works assist one to conceptualize and understand the targets of masterpieces. In order to understand and realize the issue, literature is in close contact with studying human beings' psyche and behavior. Therefore, studying literary works from a psychoanalytical perspective would assist the reader and also many researchers to grasp the core idea and content better and find solutions for the problems easily. What one may do in dissimilar situations might have reasons behind it which might be studied by referring back to the person's experiences during their lifetime. It might be said that linear or

historical studies and monitoring one's behaviors in sequence would assist a researcher to find out the phenomenon significantly.

This study also intends to apply psychological theories to two American contemporary literary works by Stephen King. *The Green Mile* (1996) and *The Secret Window, Secret Garden* (1990). King in both these works intends to illustrate how one's memory and experience would affect her/his life. These two works also reveal one's psychological problems that come from others bring up sequences of other miserable outcomes and make their lives inevitably intolerable. Analyzing two novels would assist the readers of this research to have a better realization of literary works and their roles in conveying some significant messages hidden in the novels. No one would deny the role of psychologists' role in paving the path for such interpretations.

The following study also intends to answer the following research questions;

1. How psychology and literature are interconnected?

2. What are the consequences of trauma on the characters of *The Green Mile*?

3. How are physical and mental trauma represented in *Secret Window, Secret Garden*?

3. What is the significance of psychological disorder and trauma in Stephen King's selected works?

1. THE STUDY'S THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The goal of literary theory would be to construct broad concepts of how criticism and literature function and lead the idea to a better realization and understanding of literary works. Peck and Coyle (1984), believe that there has been an increase in such ideas recently, many of which reject the standards ingrained in conventional literary theory and criticism and contradict constructed ideals of literature. In this term, numerous perspectives might be revealed and presented in various kinds of literature, but what remains consistent at the end might be the integrated target that each may follow. Many new types of literary theory and criticism, such as structuralism, formalism, feminism, deconstruction, Marxism, and new history, have emerged as a result of dissimilar visions.

A researcher and translator named Khaled Besbes, argues that “literary text should expose the actuality of the text and reveal the writer’s ideology as well as his/her worldview” Despite the fact that literature and theory are closely related, Bressler, (2007) has a different view. He notes that literary and theoretical interpretations are sometimes seen as two discrete and largely distinct things. According to him, interpretation refers to the actual or genuine meaning of a literary work or literary text, while theory serves as an "alien body" for what literature really is, and an attitude to reading and viewing literary texts. Therefore, theoretical perspective as a tool would become significant and analyzing literary works.

Bressler then notes that interpretations and theories are increasingly converging. From this point, one can conclude that while he states that interpretation and theory are almost independent of each other, interpretation and literary text are quite inseparable. And when interpreting a text, a theoretical point of view emerges, whether it is realized or not, and is supported by the opinion that theory can do nothing without interpretation, and vice versa. Theory and theoretical framework would give a direction through which one can see the phenomenon. Barger (1997) asserts that “A theory of trauma in addition suggests ways of re-conceptualizing important directions in the critical theory itself. In particular, the recent crisis in poststructuralist thought brought on by Heidegger and de Man controversies seems to require a way of thinking about how events in the past return to haunt the present” (p.6). Based on Barger’s idea, traumatic issues

might assist one to find and better way to get rid of them and significant solutions in other parts of life.

Essentially, a mastery of literary criticism is essential to understanding all genres. It is seen as the first step in recognizing the rather difficult and sometimes inspiring concepts, principles, and methods of text analysis. Psychology has been one of the most contentious critical approaches to literature for many readers. Nevertheless, despite the challenges of correct application in interpretative analysis, psychological techniques may be engaging and fulfilling (Barthes., et al, 1977). Freudian thought might be central to literary criticism from a psychoanalytical perspective. As a psychoanalytic critic, he pays specific attention to the motive that an author may find before starting any work. It might be interpreted from Freud's idea that every literary work must have an author's primary motive. Based on his idea, it probably developed in the author's childhood and would soon satisfy some secret desire repressed and thrown into the unconscious, the outward manifestation of this repressed desire becoming his literary work itself.

Literature and psychology have a reciprocal relationship. Literature is created by the human spirit, and literature nourishes the soul. A direct reference to the work is provided by Human Mental Acceptance, which takes into account the human and natural perspective of existence. Contrarily, literature also considers life's realities in order to illuminate the human soul's viewpoint. Both literature and psychology pay attention to fantasies, thoughts, feelings, sensations, and mental and psychological problems. Early writers and poets discovered the spiritual reluctance of an "unwilling conscience" and reflected on many spiritual controversies to find the meaning of this issue in their works (Landyn & William, 1998).

Holland (1990), has believes that psychology concentrates on scientific accounts of behavior. In this sense, Literature provides conditions through illogical events, adds, gothic elements, and completely disregards scientific reason. The world of literature is a combination of fantasy and real sentiments felt by real people. William Shakespeare's Hamlet might be an undeniable illustration of the contrast between mental disorders which can be explained psychologically and superstitious events, a common theme in classical literature. Bearing the discussion in mind, one would find a close connection between psychology and literature.

Trauma in its various shapes and formulations might appear in one's lifetime. This discussion might find its significance while reading Freud's idea about sexual trauma. In this respect, Fletcher (2013) argues that "The repositioning of various diagnostic categories in the newly unified field results from Freud's increasing insistence on the location of the originating trauma in certain sexual experiences, along with the certainly of the conflict…" (p.60). It is interpreted from Fletcher's idea, trauma is not only appeared in human beings' physical conflicts but also it might be portrayed in his/her emotional feelings and senses.

It is been argued that the three levels of the mind, originally proposed by Muslim theorists and later advocated by Freud, are another example of how the formulation of one's character and his/her mind phases might be closely relevant. Theory talks about the *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. ID predominates in early childhood; children get whatever they want without delay or reason. The age at which an individual adapts to their environment and learns the difference between right and wrong is called ego. This level of mind intends to stay within the bounds of social endorsement. However, when alone, it disregards these bounds. SUPEREGO is the strongest of these and keeps other levels in check. This element also knows what is wrong and refuses to be upset (Holland, 1990).

Literature, on all these levels, portrays the idea in a way that it is overly dramatized by humans. Classics depict a character struggling to stay sane when his desires are unattainable or suppressed. Literature might intend to explain that no issue as superego in the literary world exists. Most writings show characters finding ways to satisfy their repressed desires. The philosophical novel, *The Portrait of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde serves as an illustration for this claim. The play contains elements of both drama and psychology and is manipulated by a tumultuous stream of emotions and morally deranged thought processes, intensely portrayed following the hero's insatiable hunger for physical gratification. It also indicates a rapid change in emotions. These two themes have played an important role in shaping personality and its explanations in the light of countless theories and literary works. Each classic builds on the natural psychological processes that have given us the great figures of history (Kirszner & Mandell, 2001).

Several thinkers and scholars have approved the significant role of psychology in analyzing literary works. Therefore, psychological studies concentrating on literature, and literary works would assist the reader not only to have a concrete conceptualization of human beings' psyche in

the process of character analysis for instance but also would give a notable meaning to the text. Thinkers and pioneers such as Adler, Jung, Lacan, Fromm, Reich, and Klein carried on Freud's work and followed his path to some extent. N. Holland, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, and Virginia Woolf were among the authors and literary theorists who contributed to the study of the psychology of literature (Landyn & William, 1998).

In "On the Interaction between Literature and Psychology" published in 2019, a researcher named Daniel Mengistie Yimer brings the discussion and refers to a statement from Holland (1990) and writes "Literature has played a significant role in Freud's discovery of psychoanalysis. It will not be wrong to say that psychologists benefit from the study of literature in their analysis of certain concepts, phenomena, and theories" (p. 34). Holland's assentation makes one realize how close the relationship between the characters of a literary work and their psychological emotions and behaviors might be. It also may reveal that characters of a literary are symbols of a real-life realm in which people may behave dissimilarly on various occasions.

Psychoanalytical theory plays a major role in conceptualizing human beings' behaviors in literary works, and their connections in their social relationships. The phenomenon becomes transparent when an author intends to reveal the realities behind any social connection of the characters. What sociology and psychology may have in common would be human beings, specifically, the characters' social connections in literary works that stay significant. Relevant to the idea Yimer (2019) writes;

> Psychological analysis in a literary text is made based on the four main elements mentioned by Abrams. The psychology-based study of literature aims more at studying the influence of social conditions on the emotions, thoughts, and behaviors of the characters in the story or novel, the analysis of the characters' personalities, the process of a literary work formation, and the psychology of creativity (Yimer, 2019, p. 8)

It might be concluded that the author means people will lose the meaning of their real-life without having social relations. This feature might be specific for human beings compared to other creatures.

Although the characters in the literary works are individuals, on the other hand, they are part of a society and come together and carry one integrative or similar ideologies. Therefore, the language they use to communicate and the setting that they are located in and even studying the phenomenon through a historical perspective, would find its significance. Characters in the stories or novels expressed their emotional behaviors based on their mentalities beliefs, experiences genders, and other separating criteria since everyone is unique, and have a different world. Reactions against any act might be difficult psychology assists, literary, works, and authors to reveal the hidden and dark Faces in human beings' behaviors and personal characters.

In order to realize the close relationship between psychology and literature, Goksen Aras (2015), a researcher argues that;

> The reading process of a novel or other genres is not merely limited to the comprehension of the plot structure, setting, and characters, or its linguistic and formal aspects, it also requires an active reading process comprised of psychological, sociological, historical, and philosophical approaches which provide the reader with new perspectives. This reading activity involves such mental processes as traveling in the mind, noticing the choice of words, observing the communal or individual events, making some inferences, evaluating certain emotions, deep fears, miseries, and anxieties, finding the invisible behind the visible, discovering the unsaid, the hidden meanings or motives, problems, unconscious desires, wishes or instincts (p. 254).

As the author mentions anxious and miserable behaviors and feelings of characters might be hidden and not expressed in their desires and wishes. That would be studying their psyche and behaviors that would let the analysts find out satisfactory interpretations.

Davis & Schleifer (1998) assumes the structure of the 'unconscious' is similar to the language formulation that one has and may be redirected. They assert that "The unconscious is structured like a language" stating that "both semiotics and psychoanalysis have the potential to

dislodge and reorient traditional ways of understanding human experience ...” (Davis & Schleifer, 1998, p.398). This theory possibly would find a new phase of determination relevant to human beings’ psyche and language acquisition. Psychological elements appear in a wide range of literary genres, from short stories to poetry, novels, and plays. Nevertheless, Psychological novels, which deal with a person's inner experiences, thoughts, feelings, emotions, and introspection, include the most explicit references to the human mind.

Several authors, thinkers, and critics, as well as a variety of methodologies and movements, have already been related to literature and the human psyche. In addition to tragedies, other literary genres like novels, poetry, short tales, and even certain psychoanalytic ideas brought together the spirit and literature (Bressler, 2007). Spivak (2003) also mentions the association between the two disciplines. His idea is reflected in an article published in 2019. It considers “Literature and psychology both, pay attention to fancy, thinks, feelings sensations and soul psychical issues. Past writers and poets by detecting ‘unwilling conscience’ psychical unwilling and reflecting many of psychical contention had found the meaning of this problem in their works” (Yimer, 2019, p.1). As it might be interpreted from this statement, the relevancy between these two fields of study becomes tightened when the thoughts and feelings of the characters represent their behaviors and acts.

In addition to literature and psychology, there are those who study the association between the human body and soul with their conflicts and predicaments, who attempt to explain the connection by certain rules, and who are so interested in knowing the supernatural side of man. No other scientific field has it, through a long and exhaustive journey through the soul and her subconscious realms. At the same time, both fields have struggled for a connection between art and science for nearly a century. It would also be undeniable that studying characters’ psyche and traumatic experiences is a direct line of connection. The roots of miseries and trauma based on the agreed definition of them would be realized when a researcher is aware of the needs of a victim considering numerous factors such as his/her age and gender.

Michelle Balaev (2008) in a work named “Trends in literary trauma theory” brings up a definition for literary theory by asserting “A central claim of contemporary literary trauma theory asserts that “trauma creates a speechless fright that divides or destroys identity” (Balaev. 2088. 149). This serves it as the basis for a larger argument that suggests identity is formed by their inter-

generational transmission of trauma (p. 149). The idea may become more transparent when researchers or scholars intend to find out the relevance between the victims' life, experiences, language/s, traditions, that his/she beliefs. Discussing the issue Balaev asserts that;

> Novels represent this disruption between the self and others by carefully describing the place of trauma because the physical environment offers the opportunity to examine both the personal and cultural histories embedded in landscapes that define the character's identity and the meaning of the traumatic experience (2008, p. 150)

Balaev's argument by putting the self and others' confrontation in literary works might be a clue to be followed and also studies in a philosophical context. Since the idea and contradiction between the 'self' and the 'other' would be applied to society, then one should consider several aspects to study such as morals and cultural traditions and beliefs.

The psychological approach might not be absent in producing any literary work. The idea would be revealed when one attempts to analyze the characters of a literary work, by referring to their psyche. It might be argued that literature is a mental product because, specifically in producing fiction, an author puts their experiences and ideologies into practice. That literary peace would carry a message inside to convey to the audience and readers. It is obvious that psychology clearly gives insight into the literature for researching mental processes because all science and art are stripped from the human spirit. Therefore, studies of literary works using psychological data focus on these elements. The idea of contribution between psychology and literary works can be attributed to the formalist tendencies that have influenced liturgy works since the mid-20th century.

Agee (1998) believes that according to formalists, literary texts themselves are materials available to literary critics that make literature more coherent and more objective. Research that ignores this and focuses solely on authors and readers is not scientific. We should also pay attention to two other aspects of the author's work: the work as well as the environment that it generates. Interpreting literary works requires the realization of characters and events and the study of their emotions, thoughts, and actions. Psychology is the major basis for this analysis.

Jay B. Frankel discusses how trauma as a psychological or physical aspect might appear among ordinary people. He brings Ferenczi's vision about trauma as;

> It is not absolutely necessary to suppose that the self-love of all these war neurotics was so greatly exaggerated. ... A correspondingly severe trauma can, in so-called normal people, have an equally shattering effect upon their self-confidence and make them so timid" that even very simple activities are "accompanied by an outburst of anxiety (1916, p. 137).

Ferenczi's perspective on traumatic experiences that may occur in various forms, would make any reader think how deep trauma and its consequences might be in ordinary life layers. It also declares that trauma has a straight connection with self-confidence to some extent.

Trauma in early times appeared by focusing on economical traumatic incidences. Ferenczi's vision on the issue in studying a child's trauma was "about the child's response to trauma or psychological, not economic" (Frankel, 1916, p.7). It means that these two thinkers who left important traces in the world of psychology have many ideas in common, but in some cases, they might think divergently. Based on the theories and discussions by fraud, or other psychologists, partially trauma, was an approach to interpret and discuss economical situations, therefore trauma, as Baranger, et. al discuss, is

> Corresponds to the economic approach the strength of the drivers in today's dynamic approach, and the ego alternations in today's topographic structure approach. We consider that this temptation must be vigorously resistant and that the elucidation of the question on the meaning of the word 'trauma' in the text that concerns us is like the concept of the economic approach advocated in it. (Baranger., et al, 1988, p. 69)

The idea declares that trauma and traumatic outcomes at any part of life might have various reasons behind them which would have dissimilar sources. Historically studying trauma, one's suffering from any unpleasant condition whether psychological or physical, might be addressed trauma to

some extent. How one might feel different than others may do, might also depend on their psyche and self-confidence in other words which might assist them to pass the facing difficulties behind.

Carl Jung (1875-1961), as a philosopher, psychologist, and Freudian student, assumes the human psyche as the sum total of all mental activities. He also regards Freud's concept of individual consciousness as inadequate and overly negative. Jung proposes a second, deeper level of the unconscious, which he named the collective unconscious. The collective unconscious, which is shared by all members of a society, may be viewed as a repository of cultural memories and patterns of original images and experiences known as archetypes (Barnab., Et al, 2017). There might have been dissimilar interpretative outlooks while comparing these two thinkers in terms of their stand on literature. Freud would consider literature to be the expression of the author's repressed conflicts and needs, whereas Jung would view literature as an expression of the collective unconscious. Therefore, literature may enable readers' access to archetypal images buried in the memory of a race, thereby uplifting the spirit and helping culture.

Carl Jung assumes that the human mind was made up of two different parts: the unconscious and the conscious. Without therapy or dream work, the inner unconscious is unreachable. The universal unconscious was a series of images known as archetypes that were shared by all humans. The universal unconscious is expressed in art, literature, and mythology and Jung's literary criticism centered on the identification of archetypes in literature and written mythology. Not all Jungian literary criticism investigates all stages of individuation. The integration of emotions and the deeper integration of the shadows are the two primary areas of concentration. On the other hand, criticism may merely assess the novel's effectiveness as a particular archetype. When reading Jungian literature, the central character is considered to be a real person, and most of the other characters are figurative representations of facets of the hero's unconscious psyche. A female, for example, represents the anima, the protagonist's feminine aspect (Barnaby. Et al, 2017).

Although Jung began as an empirical psychologist inside Freud's group in Vienna, he gradually moved away from his master's technique to promote the concept of individuation. While he utilized a few examples from real patients, he has been increasingly interested in investigating the role of archetypes in various literary works (Dobson, Darrell, 2005). These fundamental images, which he felt resided in the collective unconscious, are more easily studied in literary,

alchemical, and mythical texts, which Jung began researching around 1909. In the 1920s and 1930s, he began to utter on such subjects and in particular the poetry of analytical psychology, psychology, its relation to literature, Blake's poetry, Longfellow's Hiawatha, Joyce's Ulysses, etc. writing literary texts. (Heisig & James, 1979).

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) brought a challenging revolution to the realm of psychology and studying human beings' psyche. He established the foundation for a model of how our mind works. Based on his idea, the unconscious, which is hidden from the conscious mind's workings, plays an important part in how we behave, think, and feel. It is claimed that this aspect acts to shape ourselves and the world. Freud takes this approach to emotional and psychological illnesses. During psychoanalysis, Freud permits clients to talk freely about their childhood experiences and dreams in the analyst's environment. When we use the same procedures to decipher literary works, we are engaging in psychoanalytic critique. Freud's psychosexual stage or Freud's sexual theory is Sigmund Freud's stage of human development. (Gay, 1988).

Freud in the "Analysis Terminable and Interminable. *The Psychoanalytic Review*" (1939) asserts that "The success of therapeutic work, depends on the presence or absence of trauma as the causative factor of the neurosis" (p.237). As it is interpreted from Freud's idea about trauma and the roots of its existence, it might be declared that one's success would be in direct contact with traumatic incidence. Thus, it might be argued that there is a direct correlation between success and the traumatic feelings of a person. In this respect, Freud's study might be relevant to the neurotic study. Traumatic feelings might directly affect one's feelings and miserable issues. Therefore, the person might lose his motivation to go toward his goals and targets.

Roger Luckhurst in *The Trauma Question* (2013) asserts his idea about Stephen King and his fictional works and places "King's work has traumatic origins, begins with the non-supernatural rite-of-passage novella 'The Body' (p.99) Despite being realized that Stephen King, an American author, represents trauma and traumatic matters in different forms in American literature, some thinkers might believe that King intends to demonstrate human being's mysteries and traumas without tying the issue to supernatural powers. The idea might come argumentative since the majority of King's works are known as Gothic works. That would be a way that he expresses how close the danger might be to the human being without being noticed and seen.

Considering literature and literary works as masterpieces and it might be believed that they attempt to reveal the facts behind events in any society. Arts would play a major role in expressing the dark sides of matters which come up in a community. Therefore, writers, and thinkers such as philosophers, politicians, poets, and artists, would definitely clarify and brighten the way by paving it for the passengers who walk on this way. One may not easily come to this conclusion, without having an analytical mind and a strong interpretation of powers. Geoffrey Hartman in *Trauma Within the Limits of Literature* (2003) discusses the issue and writes "Trauma Study in the arts explores the relation between psychic wounds and signification. Everyone believes in expressiveness: either as the value of articulating clear and distinct ideas that alleviate mental confusion or as the value of unburdening the art with the aid of innovative signs" (p. 257). It might not be far from Hartman's idea if one believes and interprets the artworks' roles in expressing trauma in different innovative ways.

Michelle Balaev in "Trends in Literary Trauma Theory" argues that "The concept of trauma as timeless, repetitious, and infectious supports a literary theory of trans-historical trauma by making a parallel causal relationship between the individual and group, as well as between traumatic experience and pathologic" (Balaev, 2008, p.153). In this respect, she finds a kind of relevancy between a group of people and any individual who is part of society. On the one hand, she might consider that personal trauma and misery would cause others to feel their traumatic behaviors. If an individual is not happy among others, this issue will also be transferred to the community, and no one would be immune from the pain that one suffers. The idea would become transparent when a psychologist studies an individual's psyche before conducting his/her study on the population of society because society is composed of those individuals.

Considering the phenomena from the historical point of view, one might understand the discussion clearly by referring to previous studies. The idea will not be irrelevant if one studies the matter in the realm of philosophy, and takes this idea toward the strangeness of society members. Being realized as a stranger, and feeling different from others as a society member, the person would obviously feel like the 'Other'. No matter in physical appearance, or psychological feeling, since the person finds him or herself dissimilar to others in the same community. Then the person would start to act differently and behave unlikely. These acts might not satisfy others and would taste bitter to them. In a general perspective, any society is assumed to be composed of a

group of people with similar cultural backgrounds, behaviors, beliefs, ideologies, religions, and historical backgrounds. Therefore, a stranger might perform in a way that others would not be happy with. The roots of other problems may show themselves later by digging more into the topic and searching for it in detail.

Any individual's senses and feelings might be staying in his/her memory for a long time. They will access them while facing new incidents. In order to face new challenges, obviously they would need their experience to come over the new upcoming problem. Discussing the issue in the realm of literature, experiencing everything by characters in a work might seem argumentative. Therefore, authors in literature might intend to create fiction by referring to their imaginations. Imaginary ideas and characters might increase the degree of innovation and creativity in the mind of readers. That would be the role of the reader to make relevance between his/her experience and newly created ideas. This idea is represented in Balaev's study;

> Trauma, in my analysis, refers to a person's emotional response to an overwhelming event that disrupts previous ideas of an individual's sense of self and the standards by which one evaluates society. The term "trauma novel" refers to a work of fiction that conveys profound loss or intense fear on individual or collective levels. A defining feature of the trauma novel is the transformation of the self-ignited by an external, often terrifying experience, which illuminates the process of coming to terms with the dynamics of memory that inform the new perceptions of the self and world. (2008, p.153)

Balaev's idea focuses on the significance of an individual's role against the environment by using the term 'self and world'. The dynamic interaction between a person and others might be the core message of what she intends to mention in this regard.

In *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History* (2016), Cathy Caruth asserts that "the experience of a trauma repeats itself, exactly and unremittingly, through unknowing acts of the survivor and against his very will" (p.2). She **w**ould define trauma from a different angle by mentioning the repetition of traumatic feelings and actions that may come to one regularly during

his/her lifetime. That would be a miserable feeling and unhappy moment for someone who doesn't know how to deal with or fight against those problems. Since happiness and unhappiness might be conditional in different circumstances to a very big extent, one cannot change many things in his/her around. That might be a logical idea to learn how to deal with nature, people, and the environment, and conceptualize the process of life in this regard. Then one may find this process easier than he or she might have expected it before and start to experience them as they are. There might be many realities and facts that humans have not yet invented and no one is sure about them. Standing on this ideology, nothing can be true or false, and it makes us accept everything as a conditional phenomenon.

Trauma in a general sense might cover other conditions. The idea would become transparent in case one studies the roots of human beings' psych and its relevancy to the other situations that influence them. No matter what shape, trauma would affect one in a negative way, so the person might not be able to express his or her skills and emotions in a normal way. This idea might be in line with Luckhurst's perspective. In "The Uncanny after Freud: The Contemporary Trauma Subject and the Fiction of Stephen King", he states;

> The type of events that generate this defensive reaction are now generally brought under the umbrella category of 'trauma': the violence of war, familial abuse, rape, being a witness to an accident or disaster. There are complex arrays of symptoms that have been clustered under the clinical illness post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) since it entered official diagnostics in 1980, but this pattern of defense, period of latency, and belated lifting of amnesia has most captured the wider cultural imagination. (Luckhurst, 2008, p. 128)

Luckhurst's idea reveals how extensive the realm of trauma might be and to what extent its symptoms might be felt.

Brian W. Shaffer, a researcher in the work named SWEPT FROM THE SEA: TRAUMA AND OTHERNESS IN CONRAD'S "AMY FOSTER" (2000) argues "… Otherness—particularly, on the potentially traumatic experience of radical alterity and on the potential violent

results of simplistic, binary thinking" (p. 164). Shaffer's discussion and its relevance to trauma in the topic of otherness are obviously presented in this discussion. It might be interpreted that dissimilar faces and appearances might end in unhappiness. This discussion also intends to reveal that violence might be hidden in such a mentality all these ideas and perspectives come to the person because of historical experiences. Everyone might agree how traumatic and bitter moments, people with different appearances might face and also they may be addressed as 'others'.

The term 'Otherness', and being strange from others is brought in a work by Ronald Eyerman. Et al. in *Narrating Trauma: On the Impact of Collective Suffering* (2015) mentions the phrase 'unassimilable otherness' (p. 287) which might depart one from the rest of the world. It takes place if one studies the traumas that Africans experienced in history. The author uses the metaphor of "It takes a Serb to know a Serb" (p. 105) to reveal how otherness has dominated a group of people and has become widespread in Serbia. There have been many countries throughout history that have been feeling this otherness because of political and financial weaknesses throughout history. There will be no doubt if one argues that powerful countries would use their powers to control the weaker ones and benefit from them. They would do this action with names that would attract the weaker countries. They might also justify their presence in their countries in the name of humanity. These terms might be used in policy in order to deceive people through various methods. In order to conceptualize the issue, one may study how brain drain is taking place in some countries which are under the control of the world's powerful countries. This might only be one out of the hundreds of losses that come up in those countries. This act might never have happened if strong countries couldn't find some ways to address them as interiors and show their own lands as a fairly land that rescues people from that miserable situations.

The current study intends to reveal the roots of trauma and miserable life that one may come across during his/her lifetime. It also intends to make the readers realize the roots of misery that may appear in one's life. Self-confidence and other words believing in the self would assist one to come over all disliked emotional feelings and problems. This study will investigate psychological terms and perspectives to analyze the text by an American author, Stephen King's two works namely *The Green Mile* (1996), and *Secret Window, Secret Garden* (1990). Both of these works would reveal the roots of trauma and its effect on the characters' lives throughout both stories. There might be similarities in conveying the traumatic message by Stephen King in both

these works, but what remains steady is the idea that revolves around human beings' psych and traumatic experiences that one may touch in his/her life period.

2. SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMA IN *THE GREEN MILE*

"There is no timestamp on trauma. There isn't a formula that

you can insert yourself into to get from horror to healed.

Be patient. Let your journey be the balm."

Dawn Serra

2.1 Introduction

Literature by producing literary works and mirroring the facts in human beings' life, plays a major role to find a way out of problems. These problems may come to people in various conditions in this similar ways. In order to find a better solution for a problem at any stage, the events should be analyzed, and discussed from different perspectives. Since it is believed that analyzing a topic from one lens may or may not end with a target, the phenomenon should be investigated from various viewpoints. Authors, with different mentalities and visions, produce their works based on their experiences, gained throughout their lives, directly or indirectly. When the discussion comes to literature, literary masterpieces reflect the idea in various forms by different authors. From novels to fiction, from plays to film productions, different sorts of arts are the realm literature has stepped in. To dig into significant issues that man has been dealing with and to clarify the subject more and open it to discussion, one may that literature covers many fields of study that are connected to human beings' needs, nature, psyche, feelings, ideologies, beliefs, and so on. That would be the literature, which studies man and whatever is around them from different angles.

2.2 Stephen King's Biography in a long shot

Stephen Edwin King (1947-) was born in Portland, Maine. He is an American contemporary author who has been a successful fantasy writer and also is different from other

authors. King intends to reveal numerous disastrous tragedies in American society by exploring and portraying what people in America have been facing. This tragedical event would consist of drug addictions, divorce, child abuse, alcoholism, and several other unpleasant behaviors, and facts. He intends to demonstrate how dangerous and unwilling place the United States might be if they do not find a logical solution to solve dimension problems. Being a two-year-old child, King loses his father and experiences a hard life condition after this big loss. What makes him stronger and stronger might be his life struggles after that event.

Stephen King has been distinctive from other authors since he experienced and touched that feeling from his early childhood. In his teenage life, his dissimilar look makes him be tortured by the other people around him. In this respect, King states that "all times, particularly in my teens, I felt violent, as if I wanted to lash out the world, but that rage I kept hidden. That was a secret place in myself I wouldn't reveal to anyone else" (Cindy, 2002, p.10). He becomes a sensitive author who expresses the events in some touchable way by his own method to some extent. Based on his comment on his life, one may argue that he didn't have a normal childhood and he had been afraid to be seen and express his feelings because of his similar look.

2.3 Psychological Trauma

Considering trauma from a psychological perspective might be discussed as relevant to physical or non-physical distressful feelings. Trauma in different shapes would refer to social, environmental, economic, political, and historical territory, which might be expressed in distinctive forms of miseries. It might be argued that people with different conditions and genders, based on mentality and beliefs, may face trauma and traumatic feelings divergently. Their manners and acts might represent psychological, or non-psychological traumatic acts. That may be the reaction to what have been experiencing during their lifetime. Their behaviors and reactions to any phenomenon would likely affect others around them and lead them to psychological disorders as well. Therefore, trauma in different forms would be portrayed whether directly or indirectly.

Discussing trauma in the realm of literature, it would be the author of a literary work who portrays the notion by selecting characters and giving them roles throughout the story. Any work would consist of themes and subject matters which the story would revolve around. The author

would manifest the core message and convey the intended vision via the themes in various forms and circumstances. It would be the human being's psyche and analyzing their psychological behaviors when the focus is psychoanalytical analysis. Consequently, any reader of those literary works would build imagination and formulate the concept relevant to their own experience and would benefit from those works. The idea may hide the significance of analyzing any literary work from a psychological perspective and reveal what might the viewpoint of the author be.

Characters in any mystery work revealed the intended message that any author is willing to transfer. This transformation is obviously done through the text that any writer produces. During this important process, it would be the writer's mental power to organize any event accordingly and significantly. No one would argue that the symbols, the setting, and even the names of the characters would not play significant roles in making the readers realize, and conceptualize the matter in an interpretive way. Therefore, correlation among characters, and also following the sequence of acts, and putting logical reasons behind their behaviors, would make the receiver of the message, namely readers formulate a scene in their minds, and understand the whole story in a reasonable frame. It might not be fully understood in some cases, referring back to the authors' and readers' disconnection, which might come up for their differences, such as cultural, historical, ideological, sociological, and similar reasons. That might be one of the reasons that negotiations among people and nations occur and end in struggles, debates, and wars.

The idea of understanding, and realizing the behaviors of other people standing on their previous experiences and background knowledge might be transparent in Stephen King's, *The Green Mile*. No one will conceptualize and comprehend something strange, that he or she hasn't experienced during his or her lifetime. The idea will seem strange in case the person has not been able to make relevance between the current idea and the act which has or has not taken place in the past. It's been his logic and what occurs as a result of his decision-making. The feeling of trauma and experiencing misery may come to a person when they find illogical acts against their feelings and far from their expectations. It also might come to the person when they regret their past for what they have done and they haven't. That might be the experience in life that would assist one to judge him/herself in the past. At that moment, they may wish to go back and do whatever they were not able to do for any reason. They were unable to perform whether they didn't have the situation or couldn't comprehend the issues as they do at the moment of thinking

2.4 Exploring the Traces of Trauma through Character Analysis

Literary works intend to convey the purpose and vision of the author to the reader in various methods. These forms might be in line with the audiences' needs or desires which willingly shall be accepted. In order to be on the right path, an author shall be familiar with culture and be aware of what the community needs to know about ongoing acts in society. Stephen King, an American contemporary writer and novelist intends to uncover the ongoing challenges and struggles that American people are facing in numerous ways. His works will not limit themselves to a specific realm, therefore King's perspective represented through his well-organized works and characters might be applied to any similar society to the Americans.

Paul Edgecombe, the protagonist of the story in *The Green Mile* is regretful for what he has done while being in the charge of 'Cold Mountain Penitentiary death row' nicknamed Green Mile. He executes John Coffey although he was aware that John was accused of murder and raping two little twins without having any proof. After researching a lot on the issue, he finds no significance in Coffey's accusation and comes to the conclusion that he is innocent. Recalling these memories in his mind and reviewing those bitter days in prison while being in an elderly house, he is depressed. He experiences trauma through a deep regret of what he has committed. He sometimes protects himself by saying "I mean we're fixing to kill a gift of God", he says "One that never did any harm to us, or anyone else. What am I going to say if I end up standing in front of God the Father Almighty and He asks me to explain why I did it? That it was my job? My job?" (King, 1996, p.177). Paul is totally aware that John Coffey is innocent and pure of any guilt. King demonstrates the idea by portraying the metaphysical power of Coffey in curing 'good' people and recognizing if they aren't good.

There might be some discussions that might refer to the traumatic feelings of a person who deals with misery and faces a hateful situation in which he/she is located. Human beings have been facing such issues during their lifetime, such as class, poor or rich, black or white, female or male, etc. Probably many of the researchers are aware of the race priority that has been taking place in the majority of African countries. The ideology would carry a superior and inferior outlook toward a specific nation. This perspective might have come up with grouping people and distancing them from each other by expressing their divergence skills and powers. The idea is demonstrated in *The Green Mile* by portraying the character named John Coffey. He is accused and sentenced to death.

Since he is dissimilar to the judges and decision-makers, he is a victim without finding an opportunity of protecting himself. One interpretation might be that judges by playing such a scenario might come to sort of relief on the one hand and respond to the worrying community on the other. They would pretend that they found the guilty person, and execute him for what he had done. But the reality is something opposite and judges were looking for a victim to show to the community that they were able to find the murderers, despite being unaware.

John Coffey is tired of being among such people in a community that judge people only because of their dissimilar appearance. He doesn't want to protect himself even with Paul Edgecombe's offers to run away from the jail. He says "I know you been worryin', but you ought to quit on it now. Because I want to go, boss." (GM, P.178). John Coffey wants to be there from a brutal society not to feel pain anymore he says that "I'm tired of people being ugly to each other. It feels like pieces of glass in my head. I am tired of all the times I have wanted to help and couldn't. I'm tired of being in the dark. Mostly it's the pain. There's too much. I if I could end it, I would. But I canint" (p.178) He feels sorry and upset because he cannot put his good intention into practice to save others' lives. This idea might be the reason for many people who have good intentions, like helping others, being kind toward them, and respecting them before thinking of the self.

Standing on Michelle Balaev's statement which says "that trauma creates a speechless fright that divides or destroys identity" (2008, p.149), John Coffey's character might be discussed in the same streamline. He is such an innocent man with specific characteristics. The one who intends to help others, even by sacrificing himself. Priority for Coffey isn't thinking of himself before thinking of others, and this makes his character to be extraordinary, and have unbelievable metaphysical power. Having all these in mind, Stephen King might intend to represent human beings' soul power, and how healing one might be. Coffey is the victim of his good intention and it might be argued that he did what needed to be done. His intention was to save two children, but since there is no evidence in hand to prove his innocence, he is accused to be a murderer. Paul Edgecombe, the protagonist of the story in *The Green Mile* says "John Coffey came to E Block, sentenced to death for the rape-murder of the Detterick twins" (p.4) He is speechless, but silence might not always mean that there is nothing to say.

Coffey doesn't have even a lawyer for such a big accusation which ends in his death at the end. That might also be a sort of injustice act against that innocent creature. He replies to

Edgcombe “Got none, boss” (GM, p.7) when he asks if Coffey has any lawyer. King might intend to reveal how othering Coffey is obviously taking place. Discriminating against him from others and limiting him with no access to any lawyer, would express how disastrous the consequences of the issue are displayed in his trust and belief against others. The huge man, Coffey is afraid of darkness and cannot sleep in dark. He asks “Do you leave a light on after bedtime” (p.8). By placing the topic in the story, King demonstrates the situation in which a discriminated person might have lived such big traumatic conditions. Despite being a huge man, he behaves like an innocent child and is afraid of darkness.

Coffey’s intention was to help the murdered children and get their lives back, but he says “I couldn't help-it, boss," he said. "I tried to take it back, but it was too late!” (GM, P.8). He still is carrying the suffering with him although he has been sentenced and jailed for that reason. Standing on Aristotle’s famous vision brought by Silverman (2014) as “intention matters” (p. 4), Coffey shouldn’t have been accused and sentenced to death because his intention was to bring the children’s life back, but it was too late as he declares. Therefore, he might hesitate to get closer to anyone and would be afraid of anything not transparent and dark.

American society from various matters of discussion is reflected in *The Green Mile*. It represents not only how brutal effects might be left on people if justice in its true face doesn’t occur, but discriminative factors that separate people in a unified society would play a significant role in destroying justice and ethical notions.

In the “Prison Narratives With Reference To Stephen King’s *The Green Mile*: A Foucauldian Approach” which was published in 2018, Kadhim Hussein argues that in *The Green Mile* “The primary conflict is related with the power to give and end life” (p.7). It might be the power that would assist one to get to the end easier and faster. She continues

> The residents of *The Green Mile* have exercised the power to end life, and the state is exercising its power to end their lives. John Coffey has the power to give life, and yet he is to be executed. At the end Paul, as the book’s hero, his wife and colleagues to a lesser extent and even readers, are tortured by the fact that the state will end the life of an innocent man — not only an innocent man, but one who has somehow

> been imbued with a divine gift. The miraculous novel is a charmed story of the prison guards and prisoners meeting a Christ-like figure with supernatural powers in the form of John Coffey who helps them and never helps himself (p.7).

According to the discussion above, power might be used in different forms in various circumstances. It may rely on the person's willing how and when to use it.

It is been argued that "Stephen King demonstrates many considerable ethical points in *The Green Mile*. He tries to reveal the realities and main troubles that human beings face by deliberately placing the characters of the novel" (Heidari, 2021, p.71). The idea might become transparent considering the reduced and diminished frequency of ethical behaviors in today's American society. One might think of troubles and their causes which are experienced in any society in dissimilar forms, but the main roots of brutal acts and disrespect would be hidden in unethical or immoral acts against others. No one would be safe in a community in case there is trouble for others because the consequences of that problem would be experienced and touched by others since the human being is a social creature and is in interaction with others all the time.

Writers, specifically those who produce their works in the realm of literature, reflect the ongoing happening in society in various forms. Novels, short stories, poems, music and lyrics, paintings, and many other forms of critics might reflect incidents in that society. Kadhim Hussein, a researcher discusses the idea of *The Green Mile* and says;

> King deeply refreshes the prison genre in order to reflect the American various prisons. His prison narratives are regarded as a comprehensive portrait of America at the end of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first as they detail many political and social concerns, provide an insight into the cultural divide within the modern penal system, and condemn various American political institutions whose functions are disempowering individuals (Magistrale, America's Storyteller VIII). Among his numerous narratives, the study will focus on *The Green Mile*. *The Green Mile* is a novel that interconnects the controversial themes of racial violence, capital

> punishment, achieving justice, the reliability of the judicial systems that perform executions, and the means of punishment. (p. 1941)

It might be interpreted from the declaration above that people in a society might feel themselves in a prison bar in case the symptoms of ethical and moral behaviors disappear in that community.

Being naïve and behaving like children despite owning a huge physical appearance, Coffey illustrates how significant assisting others is. He sacrifices himself for the sake of other prisoners continuously after being arrested and sentenced to death although the reason why he is in such a hard condition would be his intention to rescue twins. In the article "A Psychological Journey through Green Mile - In Perspective of Surrealism and Magic Realism" which was published in 2021, Souparnika et al argue that;

> John Coffey is naive, and he is the marginal mystical being, one who probably has the mind to adore humanity, he is a vagabond since he has no home and folks. He is illustrated as a Negro with seven-foot height, an inmate who heals people by grabbing them in the crotch and coughing up the germs. Coffey consumes the trauma of whites to redeem and forgive them (p.1414).

The discussion reveals how traumatic experiences Coffey is up to that's his dissimilar appearance which puts him in such a miserable condition.

Misery and consequences of a traumatic act might be presented in various layers of one life, based on one's bitter experiences. Paul Edgecombe touches on such an unpleasant feeling while being in an elderly house. He is aware that John Coffey didn't commit that hateful murder, but Wharton, another character who was arrested and jailed later, committed the murder. The subject would make one feel pity and be sorry about the situation since the judicatory doesn't intend to uncover the reality because of their prejudgments against a Negro. The protagonist of the story, Paul says; I think of John saying that Wharton killed the Detterick twins with their love for each other and that it happens every day, all over the world. If it happens, God lets it happen, and when we say "I don't understand," God replies, "I don't care" (GM, p.218). It might be argued that one's love toward someone else would be a sense to be welcomed, but in some conditions, it may

become a base of jealousy. When one's realization of true love which might be pure with no expectation is relying on selfishness, it may not bring anything for their benefit except misery and trauma.

Majority of the characters in *The Green Mile* experience trauma in divergent forms. Percy Wetmore, another character who has a responsibility at Cold Mountain Penitentiary, suffers from a sort of instability of behavior. He has a kind of sadistic behavior and intends to make others suffer from difficulties which give him joy. Muthukannan & Princess (2022) satate that;

> This sadistic nature of Percy is due to the vengeance upon poor Del. He literally wants to take revenge on Del, that too taking revenge at the time of execution was traumatic. While watching the horrible incident of Del's death he has no reaction on his face and he watches the incident standing like a rock. But at the time when the body catches fire and emits the foul smell of burning flesh Percy too gets scared with the others" (Muthukannan, Princess, 2022, p. 4)

Percy intends to take revenge on Delacroix, another jailed character, who was waiting for his turn on death row. After several times arguments and debates with Del, Percy is willing to put the iron hat on Del's head and kill him. In this way, Percy would take his intended revenge and feel satisfactory while watching his annoying death.

Trauma not only might be physical out of one's pain or any physical disorder, it also would be psychological affecting one's psyche. This unpleasant feeling would come to someone for dissimilar reasons such as past bitter memories, any sort of abuse, disorder, chaos, turbulence, and self-confidence. The majority of those disliked emotions or feelings might be rooted in childhood, and the period one's character was formulated. The phenomenon might be reflexed in various circumstances in different shapes. Literature might assist people to conceptualize the matter in a better and easy way by portraying it in understandable and comprehensive methods. King's assertion in *The Green Mile* would refer to the topic to some extent to make it transparent. This is happening throughout the whole novel standing on a target that any author, specifically King follows in this work.

Following the discussion in the previous paragraph, Paul Edgecombe the protagonist in *The Green Mile* compares the feeling of dislike toward someone and intends to reveal how one's hatred could be deeper and stronger than other similar conditions. He exemplifies Mr. Dolan's dislike of himself and compares it to Percy's hate toward Delacroix and says;

> I'm pretty sure of something else, as well: I'll have to watch out for Mr. Brad Dolan. He doesn't like me much. I don't know why, but I never knew why Percy Wetmore didn't like Delacroix, either. And dislike is really too weak a word. Percy hated Del's guts from the very first moment the little Frenchman came onto *The Green Mile*. (p. 100)

King's assertion reveals that one possibly would dislike or even like the others without going to the past since they haven't met before. This possibly takes place in real life as well and might bring up prejudgments about someone that may end in misbehaviors and unfair acts.

Standing on Cathy Cruth's discussion on trauma as "the experience of a trauma repeats itself, exactly and unremittingly, through unknowing acts of the survivor and against his very will" (2016, p.2), one may find a similar connection between Percy Wetmore's sadistic acts against prisoner's, Del at the top. He enjoys it when others suffer and this intention of him which might be addressed as nonhuman or strange might be rooted in his previous bad experiences and physical or psychological suffering. Paul Edgecombe asserts "Percy was a good student when he was doing something he cared about, we'd found that out at the rehearsals, and he had listened carefully when Jack Van Hay explained how the brine-soaked sponge conducted the juice, channeling it, turning the charge into a kind of electric bullet to the brain" (GM, p.103). Studying one's past and traumatic experiences would reveal the bases of his/her acts against others in society to a big extent.

Percy Wetmore's sadistic acts are not only about Del's suffering during his presence at Cold Mountain Penitentiary, but also it becomes evident when Del is experiencing brutal death on the electric chair. One may not argue that Percy has only problems with Percy because he has also had problems with John Coffey since his appearance at Cold Mountain

Penitentiary, where Coffey was imprisoned. Paul asserts "It was Percy Wetmore who ushered Coffey onto the block, with the supposedly traditional cry of 'Dead man walking! Dead man walking here!" (GM, p.4). It is obvious that Percy doesn't stop his sadistic manners toward others with no benefit. No one might argue that he benefited from those behaviors because in the end his unsatisfactory behaviors toward any prisoner end in his disconnection from other guards and faces their disrespect.

In the work, *Stephen King's Works in the Light of Emanuel Levinas' Philosophy* (2021), Asghar Heidari argues that "Percy enjoys others' death, especially when they die horribly by being tortured before death comes to them. He wants to see Delacroix's burning just because he enjoys that" (Heidari, p.98). Although trauma and its outcomes might have been known by the majority of people in a general sense, it may be dug more, and consequently, its roots could be found in a sort of wretched experience which shall be studied in the field of psychology. Since Percy is a nephew of a governor's wife, intends to use his conditional power to annoy the weaker inmates. He is a cruel guard who treats inmates of E block violently in unpredictable ways. He is sure not to be fired since he has classmates and friends in high positions to protect him and what he actually does against others. He is afraid of humiliating himself when he humiliates and beats other individuals who are weaker and powerless.

To comprehend the topic deeply, one may study Percy's character from a psychological angle. His violent behaviors against prisoners might also reveal that his hatred of Del is partially coming from his homophobia. His justification is that they have touched him violently and inappropriately. His violent action and his cruel act against Del on the electric chair reveal his bad intention and his sadism. In order to make the victim suffer even at the moment of death might show how Percy comes up with abasements and suffering lifetime experience. He goes insane and loses his control when John Coffey transfers the illness to him which causes him to kill Wharton in his cell. Therefore, Percy would spend the rest of his life in an asylum for them mentally unavailable as a punishment for the crime he committed.

Aside from Coffey and Percy who have been suffering from various types of traumatic experiences, all inmates in Cold Mountains have their own agonizing stories. In

order to realize trauma and its roots, it might be studying historically as Berger (1997) asserts;

> …a traumatic analysis is both constructivist and empirical. It pays the closest attention to the representational means through which an event is remembered and yet retains the importance of the event itself, the thing that did happen. Thus a concept of trauma can be of great value in the study of history and historical narrative, and also of narrative in general, as the verbal representation of temporality. The idea of trauma also allows for an interpretation of the growths, wounds, and scars of repeated actions. (p.572)

As it is argued in the statement above, trauma and its relevancy to history might not be denied. It might be interpreted as a process that may come to one throughout a time period with repetition of the miserable act and being situated in a disliked condition.

The idea discussed in the previous paragraph might assist one in analyzing the characteristics of some inmates in *The Green Mile.* The process of being traumatized might not come to one at once, but takes time, sometimes longer. Although inmates are suffering from the situation that they are placed in because of their accusations, they suffer and experience misery in various forms. Percy intends to annoy a prisoner, Wharton, the one who actually raped and murdered the Detrick twins. Percy is at a similar age as Wharton is and several unpleasant struggles exist between them, at least Paul Edgecombe dislikes their interaction and attacks on each other. Paul says to Percy “What in the Christ was that all about?" I asked. "I have never - I have never! - had a prisoner beaten onto my block before!” (GM, p.50). He is a prestigious guard and head of Cold Mountains with a sort of respect among others. This shows his high management and power that provides everyone to follow his rules.

Being responsible toward others, and intending to understand, their conditions and situations might be one of the significant ways to address one as a human being. Psychologically it would give the other side a sort of satisfaction and pleasure. Meanwhile,

being irresponsible, whatever it is, needs to be followed in terms of contribution among the members of a nation. The idea becomes transparent in *The Green Mile*, as Percy doesn't shoulder the responsibility and says "That isn't my job,… This big lugoon is my job." (GM, p. 8). On the other hand, Paul Edgecombe feels responsible for the inmates and is specifically for John Coffey. He talks to the prisoners to calm the town to make them feel relieved to some extent. He utters "Paul says about Coffey "Sometimes I sat and talked to him, as I did with all of them - talking was our biggest, most important job, as I believe I have said – and I tried to comfort him. I don't feel that I ever did, and part of my heart was glad he was suffering, you know" (GM, p. 48). This important contradiction between these two characters uncovers the reality, which is behind the notion of being responsible or irresponsible.

The realm of trauma might not be only one-way and as a result, it would even involve the one who causes it. In the story, Percy is a character who annoys other inmates like Coffey, Wharton, and Delacroix. Meanwhile, he suffers from such misery that he brings to others through his cruel and disorganized acts. Sometimes, his manners would be direct correlation with his low age and consequently lack of his experience. On the other hand, it would be his sadistic and brutal intention that makes him enjoy others' suffering. Paul mentions Percy's cruel and at the same time fearful feelings while in contact with Del and yelling at him and says;

> Shut up, you little queer!" Percy yelled back, so furious that the veins stood out on the sides of his neck. I put a hand on his arm and felt it quivering beneath his shirt. Some of this was residual fright, of course (every now and then I had to remind myself that part of Percy's problem was that he was only twenty-one, not much older than Wharton), but I think most of it was rage. He hated Delacroix. I don't know just why, but he did. (GM, p.70)

Relevant to this discussion a researcher named Irem Metin-Orta published an article in 2020 titled "Fear of Missing Out, Internet Addiction and Their Relationship to Psychological Symptoms" which argues that "…individuals with greater fear of missing out may show

more addictive behaviors and poorer psychological well-being" (p.6). It might be argued that Percy's brutality against others came to him because of such kind of fear, fear of loss. Discussing the phenomenon from this angle, Percy would lose self-confidence in being an important person in the position where he is located and fear being addressed as a coward.

The struggle between two characters, Percy and Wharton, who both might have been experiencing traumatic feelings for a period in their lifetimes goes on. It's not only Del who is been aimed to suffer through Percy's misbehaving acts, Wharton too. This business takes place between both characters in the story who are portrayed negatively throughout the story. Paul discovers the conversation between these two characters and says "Ain't you sweet," Wharton whispered. One hand left Percy's throat and ruffled through his hair. "Soft!" he said, half-laughing. "Like a girl's. I druthers fuck your asshole than your sister's pussy, I think." And he actually kissed Percy's ear" (p.93). The idea might be in line with what is asserted by Chappel & Martinio (2006). They believe "Workplace bullying constitutes repeated offensive behavior through vindictive, cruel, malicious or humiliating attempts to undermine an individual or group of employees" (**p. 20**). It might be argued that Percy and Wharton have been suffering from a psychological disorder since their childhood and that traumatic and bitter experience shows its symptoms in their adulthood in the wrong place.

Going through *The Green Mile*, one of the outstanding works of King deliberately portrays how trauma may take place in a community without being heard and seen by ordinary people. The notion can be discussed and analyzed by studying every inmate in the story in Cold Mountains. Paul Edgecombe, the protagonist regrets his past and blames himself for what he could do but actually, he didn't. He blames himself that why he executed innocent John Coffey only because it was his job and he did what he was supposed to. He asserts that "I mean we're fixing to kill a gift of God", he said. "One that never did any harm to us, or anyone else. What am I going to say if I end up standing in front of God the Father Almighty and He asks me to explain why I did it? That it was my job? My job?" (GM, p.177). Obviously, he has been carrying that miserable feeling with him for a long time, and in the end at the age of 108, he is seeking death, what he gifted to the inmates for free.

3. REFLECTION OF TRAUMA IN THE *SECRET WINDOW, SECRET GARDEN*

3.1 Introduction

The term psychology would be studying human beings' psyche and their behaviors in various circumstances. Their thoughts and what they perform are in a straight correlation with each other since it would be their mentality and consequently, their vision about any phenomenon would show them the path to step in. A powerful and analytical mind would recognize the environment and society and would act accordingly. One's acts might be unpredictable in case any condition of psychological disorientation occurs in one's lifetime. The person might not be able to analyze and conceptualize any event to the extent that he/she was expected in normal conditions. He/she might be experiencing a sort of trauma and miserable feeling whether consciously or unconsciously to the extent that he won't be aware of.

Trauma and its following consequences might not be revealed transparently through a specific time period. They may or may not appear in one's interaction with others and daily routine life. That would be psychology to study human beings' nature and desires meanwhile considering their fears. The roots of those psychological experiences which may have occurred in the past would exist and be deliberately expressed in contraction with others. Determining his own existence and sorting out its completion with others may stay far from his analytical power. In this sense, finding the self and realizing any behavior and action he does, would be argumentatively discussed relevant to his psyche.

Stephen King's Vision in revealing the realities that ordinary people face and live in society remains significant. He not only intends enlightening people, but his readers at the top also conceptualize and comprehend the facts and meanings behind any interaction with others. He finds various ways to portray this controversial and argumentative outlook such as creating gothics. He is known as a gothic writer in the work, but this issue doesn't

limit him to that sort of literature. He goes beyond human beings' physical needs and explores his psychological needs as well. The needs that in case they are not responded to properly, one may become a rebel or a murderer. This idea is deliberately shown in several works of his such as *The Dead Zone* (1979), *Carrie* (1974), and *Secret Window, Secret Garden* (1990).

Being one of the pioneers among postmodern writers, Stephen King produces his meta-fictional work named *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. One may argue that the majority of his works follow the traditional popular culture, but still, some of his works stay in the realm of contemporary fiction such as the novel which is intended to be analyzed in this chapter. While analyzing the work and interpreting its textual content, one may come to the point that King's works portray a reflection of a horrific ongoing event that may not necessarily need metafiction since they are touched throughout life by the majority of the people. King might intend to increase the awareness of his readers about the environment and what is happening there. That would be one of the significant targets that almost several authors may follow, but how and to what extent their voice is to be heard remains controversial.

3.2 Self-awareness and trauma

One of the fundamental and psychological issues that human beings are experiencing might be their awareness of the self. Who we are, what our needs and desires are, against the environment we live in might be left unanswered in general. The opportunities that everyone might face during his/her life would affect their gained situation accordingly. Psychology with the study of the nature of human beings, based on their needs and feelings would assist a researcher in finding appropriate answers to these questions. When it comes to the topic of trauma, one's behaviors, and one's psyche, the argument would be in line with the traumatic experiences that he has gained through difficulties. This lack of interest which would help one to suffer, and feel misery, would lead someone toward a condition that might be addressed as trauma in this condition. Including characters and creating a setting similar to real life, literary works assist one to conceptualize and

understand the roots of traumatic miseries well to some extent. From this angle, literature would be considered one of the basic productions that discuss human beings' needs and enlightens the path to go through.

Maros Buday's research in 2014, titled "Deconstructing the Twin Realities: Stephen King's use of Metafictional Systems in "Secret Window, Secret Garden," "Umney's Last Case" and *The Dark Half"* makes the discussion revealed.

> Shooter has a conversation with Rainey where he acknowledges that he is only a reflection of his psyche: nothing more than a mere manifestation of his disturbed unconscious mind. It turns out that Rainey's psychological trauma has run a lot deeper than he was willing to admit to himself. The anger and frustration resulting from his inadequacy in maintaining a functional relationship with his wife has taken its toll and caused Rainey's malformed psyche to invent a whole new persona – John Shooter (Buday, 2014, p.32)

Based on Buday's viewpoint, one might interpret a sort of conflict and at the same time correlation between one's image and self. This contradiction between them may create another self who opposes or assists one to justify or blame him for the acts he/she has done.

Jerrold Morton Post (1934 –2020), an American psychiatrist and author published an article named "Terrorist psycho-logic: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Psychological Forces" in 1990. He brings up a discussion in which the ideological forces manipulate human beings' psyche and change the direction to a path that might be accepted as 'rational'. He argues that

> …political terrorists are driven to commit acts of violence as a consequence of psychological forces, and their special psycho-logic is constructed to rationalize acts they are psychologically compelled to commit. Thus the principle argument of this essay is that individuals are drawn to the patch of terrorism in order to commit acts of violence, and their special logic, which is grounded in their psychology and reflected in their rhetoric, becomes the justification for their violent acts. (p. 25)

Based on Post's argument, it might be agreed that the majority of murderers suffer from psychological disorders and that mental confusion or psychological problems would lead them toward irrational acts that someone does.

Several acts that occur during one's lifetime have deep roots in the process of experiencing life weather, consciously or unconsciously. The idea might be interpreted from Freud's study, which will consider somatic symptoms or repetitive behaviors of one that is visible in daily behaviors. This idea will find its significance when Freud believes that neurotic symptoms would be the signs of traumatic events or desires. The idea is reflected by James Berger in the work Titled "Trauma and Literary Theory" published in 1997; "This initial theory of trauma and symptom became problematic for Freud when he concluded that neurotic symptoms were more often the result of repressed drives and desires than of traumatic events" (p. 570). It might be clear that traumatic events as it is discussed by Freud might cause one to lose memory, but symptoms may appear at some later time in various forms. These acts and behaviors may bring up new challenges for scientists and psychologists in finding out what the problem is. Meanwhile, the traces of traumatic experiences in one's life would never be easily forgotten and removed. It would be the time pass and the replacement of joys and pleasures that the person will experience during his lifetime.

The phenomenon finds its significance in King's *Secret Window, Secret Garden* when Mort Rainey, the protagonist of the story talks to his self-made imaginary character, Mr. Shooter. After being accused of plagiarism and disturbed by a stranger, Mort decides to share the matter with the police, but Shooter utters "This is between you and me,' the man on the doorstep said patiently" (SW, SG, p.3). This conversation takes place between these two characters because Mort hasn't come to this belief that his act is sane. He doubts who actually is and what he does. The challenge in Mort's mind which is between Mort himself and his imagination goes on to the extent that he assumes Shooter has more power than he has. Looking at Shooter, he doesn't expect him to carry a gun and finds himself more experienced and older. He says "This man didn't seem to have a gun, and Mort outweighed him by at least fifty pounds. I've also got five or ten years on him, by the look, he thought" (p. 3). Mort's imaginary character even sometimes is more powerful than him. His psychological conditions put him in such a situation to build up assumptions of comparison.

The misery of loss is one of the fundamental issues that the protagonist of the story experiences. That loss might be the basis for all the upcoming conditions that he suffers from. King

portrays the matter in a way that the character has no way out rather than being mad. He loses his control and starts dreaming because of his love for his wife. King states;

> A woman who would steal your love when your love was all you had wasn't much of a woman - that, at least, was Tommy. Havelock's opinion. He decided to kill her. He even knew the place he would do it, the exact place: the little patch of the garden she kept in the extreme angle formed where the house and the barn came together. (P. 9)

The idea might explore that one can even murder his loved ones in the condition of psychological suffering. It would be the time that rational decisions would be stopped and emotions and anger would put a step forward and act without thinking of consequences.

Mort Rainey intends to keep every action he does a secret. Therefore, he repeats the sentence *"This is between you and me. We don't need any outsiders, Mr. Rainey. It is strictly between you and me"* (P. 8). Going back to the discussion that took place in previous pages, one's identity is destroyed or even divided by speechless fright what is caused by trauma. In this respect, Mr. Rainey doesn't intend to share what he is actually doing and keeps it a secret between the real person, Rainey, and his created imagination, John Shooter. Even though he has lost something important in his life, his love of his wife, his traumatic psyche won't let him use his rational mind properly as if he sinks deep in the mud with his regular move. These acts would lead him toward destruction.

The argument that our daily acts and thoughts might be rooted in our unconscious mind may find its significance by referring to Bargh's assert as

> Unconscious thoughts and feelings influence not only the way we perceive ourselves and the world around us but also our everyday actions. The effect the unconscious has on behavior has provoked debate among psychologists for decades. For a good part of the 20th century, B. F. Skinner and the behaviorist school of psychology argued forcefully that our actions were entirely under the control of what we saw,

> heard, and touched in our surroundings and that conscious intent played no role. (2019, p.34)

Based on the discussion above, one's lifetime experiences affect his/ her upcoming behaviors in contact with others in society and even direct the way of thinking and future manners. Not only these manners would let the person toward success, happiness, misery, or any other conditions, but others in society will be affected accordingly to some extent.

People have a sort of tendency in general to intimate and mimic others' behaviors. This idea might be observed in children's cases more than adults, but what remains steady is the imitation itself. The person might be a writer like Mort Rainey in *Secret Window, Secret Garden*, or any similar situation. In case they are not aware of the sources of their feelings, whether positive or negative, the phenomenon would remain argumentative and dark. In the case of Mort, the idea of attempting to murder his wife and bury her in the garden of his house might come from a thought that he had created sometime before in his book. Therefore, committing that murder was intended by Mort although he doesn't succeed at the end and is shot by Ted, Amy's husband. King states;

> Shooter came after her, bringing the scissors down in a silver arc. He would have buried them up to the handles between her shoulder blades if his feet had not slid on the papers scattered about the hardwood floor. He fell full-length with a cry of mingled perplexity and anger. The blades stabbed down through page nine of 'Secret Window, Secret Garden' and the tips broke off. His mouth struck the floor and sprayed blood ….Won't do you no help, Mrs Rainey!' he cried, getting to his feet. He looked at the scissors, snicked them open to study the blunted tips a little better, and then tossed them impatiently aside. 'I got a place in the garden for you! I got it all picked out. You mind me, now!' (SW, SG,SG, p. 82)

Attempting to murder his wife whom he loved for some time before she betray him, one may argue that Mort's unconscious would give him enough motivation to kill her and bury her in the garden. It was the place Amy, Mort's wife liked while looking at there through the window, the Secret

Window. The window, which illuminates the Secret Garden and would remain a secret according to the protagonist, Mort Rainey.

There might be no argument on how people react against any phenomenon in the real life that may be hidden in their unconscious specifically when the matter is traumatic. It leaves its traces in one's behavior and might be expressed anytime in some situation. Therefore, the effect of the environment would play a major role in formulating and constructing a figure with miserable traits or even vice versa. This vision is portrayed in Post's statement who is an American Psychiatrist. He declares "Terrorist psycho-logic: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Psychological Forces" (Post, 1990, p. 25). The idea would be in line with what Stephen King intends to manifest. It explores how external forces that push one's mind, similar to the case of Mort Rainey, might change his/her mentality and behavior against the self and others. This pressure on the person's mind might be to the extent that the person may go mad or commit a murder. The case might be discussed similarly to what Mort would do against his wife. Mort says "I never saw my wife in bed with another man until the middle of May!" (SW, SG,SG, p. 18). It might be argued that whether Mort lost his sane to utter what he has already observed with his own eyes and that's the basis of his psychological trauma or he literarily implies to express as if nothing has come up. In both alternatives, it may not seem he is in a normal psychological condition.

Although sympathy toward someone would be one of the nicest feelings that one may have, it might move on the opposite side and hurt the other instead of healing. Based on research that took place in 2014, the researcher argues that "Remembering a past incident in which you hurt someone emotionally may cause you to have a stronger desire to help and cooperate with others in a friendly way, a compensation for the bad deed" (Bargh, 2014, p. 36). Arguing its relevancy to Mort and Amy's case, it might be stated that Mort loves his wife before she betrays him. Being jealous of Amy, he wouldn't easily come along with their divorce, therefore he intends to place her in a place that she always loved looking at. He loved seeing the garden through the secret window, he buries her in that garden. Having a psychological disorder and being mentally confused, Mort might have been experiencing all these traumatic feelings because of her love's absence in his life. The love that he cannot forget and doesn't accept the matter of divorce, a condition that both spouses have as their rights.

As discussed previously, our unconscious dreams might be reflections of the daily experiences that we encounter within our lifetime. This argument by Freud is reflected in Bargh's research asserting that "Freud spent countless thousands of words in providing explanations as to why our unfulfilled wishes express themselves in the imagery and stories that populate our nightly dreams" (2014, p.37). This study would be in line with what King represents in *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. Mort dreams of John Shooter and Amy who both carry knives in their hands. King states "Ahead of him, the corn on both sides of the row shook and rustled. Amy stepped out from one side. John Shooter stepped out from the other. Both of them held knives" (SW, SG, p. 11). It might be interpreted that Freud's viewpoint of our dreams and unconscious is revealed while studying the phenomenon from a psychological perspective.

Trauma might be one of the fundamental bases for studying and analyzing the instability of one's behavior in various conditions. By studying one's past, psychology may bring up some assumptions on how our behaviors are built in correlation with our previous experiences. Not only the experiences that one has gained directly but indirect experiences such as reading a matter in a book or watching it on a TV screen would assist the process to take place faster. This discussion is reflected in the novel in the case of Mort as well. Mort has an idea and intents to put it into practice. He says; "What had Hemingway said? Not this August, nor this September - this year you have to do what you like. But the time comes around again. It always does. Sooner or later you stick something back in your big dumb old mouth again. A drink, a smoke, maybe the barrel of a shotgun. Not this August, nor this September… "(SW, SG, p. 10). The idea finds its significance in the novel when Mort hurries to commit a horrible murder and bury his wife's body in the Secret Garden although he doesn't succeed.

Conceptualizing the matters which anyone may come across with them in the life process, and assuming the right causes of them would not be an easy job. When someone is involved with psychological and mental problems, there might be less chance of bringing the person back to normal living conditions, in terms of normalizing his senses and feeling against any phenomenon in real life. Based on the discussion of Bargh (2014) argues that "In general, people have a hard time untangling the sources of various positive and negative feelings and are prone to misunderstanding their true causes" (p. 34). Standing on the argument above one would assume that feelings such as happiness and sadness might be conditional for people who have experienced

miserable lives and that traumatic condition/s might prevent their real understanding of the 'true' causes of the phenomenon.

The prior discussion would continue with arguing "Some of the research on the unconscious and behavior focuses on the way the surrounding physical environment influences our psychological state of mind" (Bargh, 2014, p.36). This matter is deliberately portrayed in *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. King reveals how the environment and being far from others and being driven out of society might increase the feeling of lowliness and consequently would enhance the possibility of depression to a big extent. Dreaming of his own created imaginary character, Mort deceives himself as if there is another character whom he faces most of daily life. He is wondering how John Shooter finds him at a far distance from city life. He asks

> How did you happen by that title, Mr. Shooter? That's what I really want to know. How did you happen to know that, twelve hundred miles away from your shitsplat town in Mississippi ' the wife of a writer you claim you never heard of before this year had her own secret window, looking down on her own secret garden? (pp. 21-22).

Mort's psychologically disordered mind on the one hand expresses what is in his unconscious via which he sufferers, on the other hand, he tries to understand the rational connection between reality and what is going on in his head. The matter would show how the human being's mind may work in a complex way and realization of the matter becomes difficult.

The protagonist of the story, Mort Rainey remains speechless and rarely talks to others since he has moved and lives in an environment far from other people. His presence in Mississippi, which also brings up controversial communication between Mort and Mr. Shooter, might reveal how lonely he is and create this shadowy character in order to be a company with him. Balaev claims that

> A central claim of contemporary, literary trauma theory asserts that trauma creates speechless freight that divides or destroys identity. This serves as the basis for a large argument that suggests identity is formed by the inter-generational

> transmission of trauma. …..Considering the multiple models of trauma and memory presented in the trauma novel draws attention to the role of place which functions to portray traumas effects through metaphoric and material means" (2008, p.149)

One would not simply deny this viewpoint that miserably and traumatic sense would find their significance in one's lowliness without being able to share emotions and hear from others. Based on a discussion that human beings are social creatures, living alone specifically in hard conditions would take them toward psychological and immoral behaviors to a big extent.

In an article published in 2014 titled "Oxidative Stress and Psychological Disorders", Samina Salim argues that "Another critical aspect that needs much attention and effort is our understanding of the association between cellular oxidative stress and emotional stress. This review examines some of the recent discoveries that link oxidative status with anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder" (Salim, 2014, para.2). This study might assist the reader of the text in conceptualizing the story and the character of Mort. He is in a sort of depression because of agonizing self-punishment and putting himself in such a hard condition. Mort won't be able to swallow such a bitter piece of bread and would think of revenge for his love, Amy. That might be a reason for providing and creating such stories in mind with Mr. Shooter's assistance. Shooter says to Mort "I want you to write me a story, 'Shooter said calmly'. I want you to write a story and put my name on it and then give it to me. You owe me that. Right is right, and fair is fair" (SW, SG, p.57). He might have had the plan in his mind and brought it to the extent of putting it into practice. What remains less and undone, is justification and assistance. Here, in this story, Mr. Shooter's role might be an assistance to Mort and practicing his mentality in real life.

Traumatic anxiety would affect one's psyche and behaviors accordingly by directing them in a negative direction. It may take place unconsciously without being aware of what goes on and what the possible consequences might be. In a work titled *The Inner World of Trauma: Archetypal Defences of the Personal Spirit*, Donald Kalsched states that "Trauma anxiety is based on an unconscious fantasy that split the psyche" (Kalsched, 2014, p.72). Standing on this idea, one may argue that Mort Rainey's unstable mental condition would be in direct relevancy with the scenery that he review in his mind. It highly illustrates that the protagonist of the story couldn't have

forgotten the moment in which he has seen his wife naked with another man. King portrays the phenomenon in this way

> His [Mort] eyes found the silvery crack in the window wall and traced it dully. He thought of using the chambermaid's key. How the room had been dim, and it had taken his eyes a moment to adjust. Their naked shoulders. Their frightened eyes. He had been shouting, He couldn't remember what - and had never dared to ask Amy - but it must have been some scary shit, judging from the look in their eyes. (SW, SG, p.93)

Any state of mind would be in correlation with our behaviors and acts. Therefore, the situation in which Mort has been located intensifies his miserable feeling day by day, and in the end, the 'unconscious fantasy' of his mind and trauma would be the significant reasons to commit a brutal murder.

In order to come to a conclusion that might represent the theory of Mr. Shooter's real or imaginative figure, he would say "'Maybe my name's not Shooter,' the man said, looking faintly amused. Maybe that's just a pen name" (p. 17). Mort rearranges the idea of creating such a figure in his mind, and doubts if the creative character is real. Therefore, his psychological disorder and mind confusion become transparent. Based on previous studies, one may argue that trauma and heart, psychological conditions would lead someone to create a specific frame, through which he will see the world. In Mort's case, his justification for what he does with the name of Shooter might express the idea clearly because both Mort and Shooter represent the same figure in the story.

3.3 Psychological and Physical Suffering

Suffering in general terms might dominate the conditions that are disliked by an individual or a group of people. This phenomenon may appear in a similar situation with various shapes and forms. In order to realize the true meaning of happiness, which might be opposed to suffering and

misery, one may consider that both of these terms hardly have concrete definitions. No one would argue that the parameters for a difficult life would remain steady without tying it to other conditions. Therefore, studying suffering may need to understand one's psyche, his / her past experiences, and expectations. All these terms hand-in-hand might reveal what goes on behind the word of suffering.

Since one's psychological disorder would cause serious negative outcomes in contact with others, the idea deliberately is reflected in the *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. At the beginning of the story, Mort reads the papers that Shooter has brought to him as proof of his plagiarism. The papers say;

> Todd Downey thought that a woman who would steal your love when your love was really all you had was not much of a woman. He, therefore, decided to kill her. He would do it in the deep corner formed when the house and the barn came together at an extreme angle - he would do it where his wife kept her garden. (p.7)

The text clarifies that the person who is suffering from a traumatic situation caused by the loss of his love might have become a murderer in case Ted hadn't arrived on time. The feeling won't let his brain analyze the events in a rational way and he would try to bring his dream to real life. Therefore, he would intend to kill his wife and bury her in the garden.

Lian Wilkinson in *Suffering: A sociological introduction* (2005) discusses the distinction between physical and nonphysical suffering which may come up from other's behaviors in a society. He declares "We are liable to compound the misery of those with no voice to register the trauma of their experiences of physical violence and social injustice" (p. 19). Based on this idea, one may argue that miserable events would leave deep and significant traces on someone's psyche. It won't be only physical violence, but that injures and damages one's physical existence, on the other hand, emotional damage might have stronger damage to one's soul. This discussion is represented in King's novella Secret *Window, Secret Garden.* Mort finds himself helpless and alone left with that traumatic event, the loss of his lover. His unconscious self also is not immune because of such misery. He dreams crying "Please help me! [he cried]. Someone, please help me! I'm lost and afraid!" (p.11). He is obviously afraid of the darkness of the road that he has already

stepped in. That unconscious feeling of fear in his dreams or technically ‘nightmares’, might be the source of his acts that come to him through all the traumatic experiences that he has put behind.

Not only spiritual, but physical traumas and damages would affect one’s psyche to a big extent and would lead the person toward physical and mental suffering. The idea is reflected in Freud and Janet’s exploration relevant to the unconscious mind. In the article “The modern unconscious” (2019) John A. Bargh asserts “Freud and [his contemporary] P. Janet believed in physical causes and proposed that a separate unconscious mind was the culprit. In effect, they took the metaphysical demons and located them inside the patient's physical head” (Bargh, 2019, p.225). Their theory of unconscious might be in a correlation between what a patient provides physically would be followed by his/her mental orders. The idea would become transparent if one assumes a sort of relevancy between Mort Rainey’s acts and his mental processing out of the suffering of loss.

Relevant to suffering from a condition that one might be situated in, Donald Kalsched (2014) argues “Yung was impressed all his life by the paradoxical role of evil, in delivering people from darkness, and from suffering” (p.34). This viewpoint about Yung, one of the pioneers in the field of psychology, would demonstrate how darkness and following ‘evil’ would put people in hard conditions, and consequently, misery comes to them. Based on the idea above, authors and thinkers may have a significant responsibility in enlightening people and prevent them follow evil. King represents a similar idea in the novel by mentioning Mort’s look at Shooter and states “He saw that mad flash in Shooter's eyes again, and then it was gone. Not extinguished but collared, the way a man might collar a dog with an evil nature” (SW, SG, p.23). King’s vision in line with Kalsched’s might represent human beings’ animal side and express how dangerous one might become if one loses their mind control and get far away from humanity.

There might be certain elements that illuminate one’s traumatic feelings without considering the physical symptoms of misery. Bitter and sorrowful conditions in the majority of the cases appear for any reason and affect people’s psyches more than their physics. In the work Two Essays on Analytical Psychology (2014) C.J. Jung suggests “Man can suffer only a certain amount of culture without injury. The endless dilemma of culture and nature is always a question of too much or too little, never of either-or” (p. 34). Jung’s argument might refer to human beings’ acceptance capacity. The idea also may reveal that culture

would be a dynamic image of what should or shouldn't be done. Therefore, some privileges in one culture and accepted rules might be far from the other group's beliefs. In this sense, Mort, might not intend to kill his divorced love, Amy, in case he lived and grew up in a different culture.

The idea which was discussed in the previous paragraph might find its significance in case the theory of finding out a balance between 'love' and 'hate'. Jung's argument might assist one to comprehend the discussion clearly to some extent. Mort loves his wife, Amy, and loses this love which is what he had when she is in a relationship with Fred Evans. Mort's created imaginary character pushes him to get revenge on her, but from his inside the real Mort would ignore such an action. King asserts

> She had stolen his love, and a woman who would steal your love when your love was really all you had to give was not much of a woman. He loved her, all the same. It was *Shooter* who hated her. It was *Shooter* who meant to kill her and then bury her down by the lake near Bump. Where she would before long be a mystery to both of them. 'Go away, Amy,' he whispered in the palsied voice of a very old man. 'Go away before it's too late.' (SW, SG, pp. 99-100)

In many cases when we lose something valuable might not be replaceable with others. Therefore, one might be in such a condition and the frequency of misery may not be descended. It is always there and would appear in dissimilar forms. In some cases, the patient who is the victim of such a traumatic event might commit suicide and won't hurt others, but in a similar case to Mort's in the story, another side would be the victim. Although, in both cases, both event bases would not be irrelevant to the phenomenon itself.

It might be assumed that a burst of anger may appear when it finds a way of release. As the case is uttered in the *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. Fred Evans, a consolidated field investigator specializing in arson, nodded. "If you shake a bottle of champagne really hard, it will burst from the pressure" (P. 107). The phenomenon might be relevant to a sort of sickness found in miserable conditions in which one is under termination and harsh pressure. The case would be similar to the protagonist's mental status. Then continues by saying "I know that Mr. Rainey had what was probably a schizophrenic episode in which he was two people and that neither one of them had

any idea they were actually existing in the same body" (P.108). Disastrous behaviors may take place while lacking rationality at any job by anyone. That might be one of the basic definitions that human beings possess compared to their animal nature.

A person's behaviors and acts toward any matter would be influenced by his or her attitude while suffering. It would also undergo a radical transformation, and his personality beyond its former limits greatly be extended (Wirtz, U. (2020). Studying the issue from a psychological perspective, a researcher would find its significance in the *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. Mort has a conflict with his created and fictional character, John Shooter. On the one hand, he accuses himself of plagiarism, and on the other hand, he intends to get rid of such an accusation that comes to him by Mr. Shooter. This mental conflict takes him to the point that mental suffering in him increases to a big extent. King portrays

> Not just the story - the contents page as well. He was careful to remove every trace of himself…..In the end, the existence of that story became a mystery even to him,' Amy said softly He was two men,' Amy said. 'He was himself ... and he became a character he created. Ted believes that the last name, Shooter, was something. (P. 109)

In this sense, it might be argued that mental suffering is rooted in previous life experiences and might bring up numerous problems based on them.

Based on the discussions which occurred on the effect of one's previous experiences in his/her life and feeling, Jung's assert on standing on old beliefs or knowledge would find its place well. This argument by Jung refers to changing a mind of a person with old designed and fashioned ideology in his work addressed *Psychology and religion* (1960), but in general, terms, our discussion on Mort's disordered psyche might be dominated by Jung's viewpoint. He declares

"…I know that there must be a power for reasons why the patient has to think in such a narrow circle, what is his dreams should begin to destroy that protective theory I have to support the wider personality as I have done in the dream case described (p. 55). Apart from changes that Jung brings up about a patient's possible insistency on keeping old visions, studies have merely

shown that changes can occur over a time period and gradually the person might become someone else.

Through the majority of the experiences that one has in the record, construct the newer ones. These new experiences may vary to some extent, but on the whole, they may stay steady and remain as they always have been. In the case of Mort Rainey, he might have stolen someone's work before and it just appears after his divorce and while encountering an agonizing trauma and feeling lonely. Amy declares

> I think that Mort stole somebody's work sometime in the past,' she said. 'Probably quite far in the past, because everything he wrote from The Organ-Grinder's Boy on was widely read. It would have come out, I think. I doubt that he even actually published what he stole. But I think that's what happened, and I think that's where John Shooter really came from. Not from the film company dropping his novel, or from my ... my time with Ted, and not from the divorce. Maybe all those things contributed, but I think the root goes back to a time before I knew him. Then, when he was alone at the lake house. (p. 109)

According to Amy, Mort has had the experience of stealing someone else's work in the past which could possibly be one of the fundamental bases of his misery.

Psychology by studying human beings' nature, desires, need whether physical or soul, and several factors intend to construct a better path to walk through. This study aims to enlighten the path and guide the readers to the end that scientific studies would suggest. On the other hand, literary works would assist the process take place significantly and accurately. The characters and the setting of any story like the ones in *Secret Window, Secret Garden*, would create an atmosphere in which the readers will easily be able to formulate the phenomenon in their minds and apply it to real life. That might be the most remarkable matter to learn from literature and literary products accordingly.

CONCLUSION

Literature and psychology hand-in-hand have been assisting human beings to come to a sort of realization and find meaning in their lives. The Phenomenon might not easily take place without considering human beings, psych, and understanding nature. In this sense, it would be the science of psychology and accordingly studying one's it behaviors against others, and the self would be highly considered. Many misunderstandings and several wrong realizations would come out in analyzing one's behaviors and any text relevant to characters in a case. The readers are not familiar with this issue. Literature with creating settings and placing the characters in their own situation, similar to real-life conditions assists this process. It won't be the authors all the time who creates the meaning in the text on the other hand, the reader of the text would play his or her role in the creation of meaning, relevant to what the authors meant.

Several conditions and issues in human beings, life, and the numerous elements, such as belief, lifestyle, genders, political divisions, traditions, and many other aspects, would bring up dissimilar ideologies. Those mentalities, which are rooted in one's viewpoint, historically, might remain with him or her for a long time, and in some cases until the end of life. There is no doubt that formulating these thoughts would be in direct correlation with the needs of the person. It would be his need to change the direction of his thoughts and push him. Go forward to a big extent. Without understanding human beings, nature, and needs, one may heartily can study and judge them in different circumstances to come to this realization, one needs to study the human being psyche, and needs simultaneously.

Literary texts, sometimes might not be sufficiently clear to convey the message which authors intend to. Any writer's intended message would be recognized and understood by the readers in case they find a similar way of thinking. No one would deny the reader's need which plays a significant role in creating the correct meaning of a text. There are some criteria and elements that assist the readers to come to the same or similar conceptualization, which the author possesses while creating the text. These criteria might vary in its long-time shot based on cultural changes or scientific development. What remains steady is the human being and the form of

analyzing the texts by finding their relevance to the environment. The realization of the environment, and whatever there highly assist any readers to come to a better conclusion.

Going through their human beings' nature, any researcher would find out his/her actions with direct relevance to their feelings. Happy moments that one may experience or miserable conditions that the person may come across might change their behaviors to a big extent. Based on Sandra Bloom's statement "It is impossible to understand human behavior, and the human response to trauma without grasping key insights about the way, our evolution has affected us" (1999, p. 2), understanding, one's behaviors shall be studied in direct correlation with their life process. Any individual's behaviors against others in a society might not be studied by themselves, but relevant to other conditions and people. Psychology by scrutinizing and interpreting their acts might come up with significant suggestions to enlighten people's lives. In this respect, literature by creating a better environment and conditions to represent these phenomena would assist in a better understanding and realization.

This study aims to reveal some hidden facts behind people's behaviors, which lead them to act divergently in various conditions. It takes place with the assistance of theories from thinkers and psychologists. Characters in *The Green Mile* for instance experience traumatic and psychological conditions, each in different ways. Paul Edgecombe, the protagonist of the story lives in an elderly house, and at the age of 103, and is waiting for death to come to him. He is the one who gifted death to many of the inmates while being in charge of 'Cold Mountain penitentiary death row'. He regrets what he has done before specifically against another main character, John Coffey. John Coffey was accused of raping and murdering two little twins without having any proof. Paul starts searching to figure out whether John has committed such a crime but he finds he has not. Meanwhile, John Coffey is executed via the electric chair which is a way of punishing the inmates and gifting them their destiny.

Assisting someone or a system in harming one might be against a human being's moral acts against others. In *The Green Mile,* Paul Edgecombe asserts "I mean we're fixing to kill a gift of God … One that never did any harm to us, or anyone else. What am I going to say if I end up standing in front of God the Father Almighty and He asks me to explain why I did it? That it was my job? My job?" (King, 1996, p.177). He retreats to assist in murdering John Coffey because he comes to the conclusion that he was innocent. At the age of 103, Edgecombe realizes that justifying

himself because of his duty in putting someone on death row who ultimately hasn't committed any crime would be 'killing the gift of God'.

Symptoms of trauma may not appear in one's behaviors clearly and transparently. This argument might be in line with Balaev's statement "Trauma creates a speechless fright that divides or destroys identity" (2088, p. 149). By this argument, the researcher believes that traumatic feelings, whether physical or mental, take control of the behaviors of a person and change them to some extent. This viewpoint is portrayed in *The Green Mile* in many of the characters' attitudes. John Coffey, for instance, is a character who is "sentenced to death for the rape-murder of the Detterick twins" (GM, p.4). Although he hasn't committed such a crime, and he can defend himself against the accusation, he remains silent. This behavior of him might be studied from an angle that would refer to a sort of belief that might be rooted in religion. Believing that there would be a better place after death, Coffey would say "I want to go boss" (GM, p. 178). The idea of giving up and not having enough motivation to fight against any accusation that one may come across would possibly be studied in the area of psychological trauma.

Blaming himself for the assistance he intended to put into practice, but he couldn't, John Coffey would say "I couldn't help-it, boss," [he said.] "I tried to take it back, but it was too late!" (GM, P.8). Coffey's utterance might be a base for what traumatic feeling he has in The Could Mountains. He regrets that he was late to save the twins' life since it was late. One may argue that it is his feeling of responsibility against others that brings him to that level of traumatic condition in which he is willing to die rather than stay in life. Based on the famous statement from Dostoyevsky in *The Brothers Karamazov*, any individual's role is significant to the extent that he declares "Every one of us is undoubtedly responsible for all men and everything on Earth" (Dostoyevsky, 2009, p.208). His declaration would become controversial since he assumes a big responsibility on everyone's shoulders without considering any exception.

Trauma and miserable feelings are not limited to a single character in *The Green Mile.* All of them have their own stories that might be analyzed and even criticized from various standpoints. Percy Wetmore's sadistic acts are not only about Del's suffering during his presence at Cold Mountain Penitentiary, but also it becomes evident when Del is experiencing brutal death on the electric chair. Obviously, Percy doesn't stop his sadistic manners toward others with no benefit. No one might argue that he benefited from his sadistic behaviors against inmates because in the

end his unsatisfactory behaviors toward any prisoner end in his disconnection from other guards and facing their disrespect.

In majority of the cases, trauma and its consequences might not appear transparently to ordinary people. It would be the psychology and its familiarity with human beings' psyche and needs that reveal the matter. Sandra Bloom believes that "In some terms, trauma has been addressed as speechless terror" (1999, P.6). Addressing trauma as 'speechless terror', one might argue that Mort Rainey, the protagonist of the story in *The Secret Window, Secret Garden* (1990), lives in a quiet place near the Mississippi and creates an imaginary character, John Shooter. What he doesn't believe to be accurate doing, performs with the name of John Shooter. That imaginative figure takes a big role in Mort's life to the extent that he commits numerous murders with that name. His psychological wilderness and in other words being terrorized by trauma is increased day by day and becomes out of control.

Suffering from Mort's traumatic conditions appear because of his divorce from his wife, Amy. Not only his misery leaves significant traces in his life, but also other characters of the story are affected and involved in the arisen trouble. Mort accuses himself of plagiarism by another imaginary character that he has created. Thus, he is the one who loses his normal life order as a writer and turns it into a condition that no one would desire to own. His unconscious self also is not immune because of such misery. He dreams crying "Please help me! [he cried]. Someone, please help me! I'm lost and afraid!" (p.11). He is obviously afraid of the darkness of the road that he has already stepped in. That unconscious feeling of fear in his dreams or technically 'nightmares', might be the source of his acts that come to him through all the traumatic experiences that he has put behind.

The discussion would sufficiently be supported by Sandra Bloom's perspective which illuminates the assumed characteristics of a victim in an incident. She declares

> A victim is both helpless and powerless and as we have seen helplessness is a noxious human experience human beings will do anything to avoid feeling powerless if you have been victimized one of the possible outcomes is to assume the power of one of the ones who has hurt you by becoming someone who terrorizes

> and abuses others such behavior can reduce and anxiety while providing a certain excitement and the combination of these two effects can become habit forming (Bloom, 1999, p.11)

That would be a condition for the person who cannot find the way out of trouble as Mort Rainey doesn't. Therefore, experiencing trauma because of past bitter events would put the character of the story in such a condition that would exhibit no logical way out.

The argument of one's unconscious mind and behavior might drive his/her acts forward leaning on the old experiences becomes revealed while analyzing King's declaration. Mort Rainey's accusation of plagiarism of his story and creating the character of John Shooter in his mind might reveal a fact that is represented by Mort's divorced wife, Amy. She says

> I think that Mort stole somebody's work sometime in the past,' she said. 'Probably quite far in the past, because everything he wrote from The Organ-Grinder's Boy on was widely read. It would have come out, I think. I doubt that he even actually published what he stole. But I think that's what happened, and I think that's where John Shooter really came from. (p. 109)

Amy's viewpoint of where the idea of plagiarism might come from might seem convincing. The point would be considerably noticeable since the role of past experiences and their effects on our decisions are notable.

The current study aimed to reveal the close connection between psychology and literature by analyzing literary works. In this respect, numerous perspectives in dissimilar fields of study were taken into consideration. Despite several outlooks being brought into the discussion such as philosophical perspectives and sociological outlooks, psychology and its role stays steady in analyzing Stephen King's *The Green Mile* and *Secret Window, Secret Garden*. Both works represent how trauma and its consequences affect human beings' behaviors and actions toward others in a community. Although King's works narrate two different stories with divergent themes to some extent, the misery and trauma experienced by the characters in both works are transparent.

This study also intended to manifest the reality behind the two works and deliver the author's intended message through the process of analyzing them. The morality and ethical behaviors of the characters might be another matter of discussion throughout both stories. In *The Green Mile*, the protagonist of the story, Paul is regretful for assisting in the murdering of an innocent inmate while spending his time in an elderly house at the age of 103 and waiting for death, something that he gifted to others. On the other hand, Mort Rainey suffers from a psychological disorder that comes to him after losing his love, Amy. Both works represent the traumatic feelings that the characters each experience throughout the stories. This representation might assist the readers to analyze the events in their lives and find out better solutions to some extent.

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