



**EGO DEFENCE MECHANISMS OF CHARLIE AS THE MAIN  
CHARACTER IN CHBOSKY'S THE PERKS OF BEING A  
WALLFLOWER**

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**By:**

**R. ULFA DZIKRIYA  
HARYATI SULISTYORINI**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DIAN NUSWANTORO UNIVERSITY SEMARANG**

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# EGO DEFENCE MECHANISMS OF CHARLIE AS THE MAIN CHARACTER IN CHBOSKY'S THE PERKS OF BEING A WALLFLOWER

**R. Ulfa Dzikriya and Haryati Sulistyorini**  
*English Department, Dian Nuswantoro University*

## ABSTRACT

*This thesis entitled "Ego Defence Mechanisms of Charlie as the main character in Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower", analyzed the ego defence mechanisms experienced by Charlie as the main character.*

*There are two methods applied in this thesis. They are library research method and approach. Library research method is used to gain references dealing with the object of analysis. While approaches used are structural approach and psychological approach. Structural approach was used to analyze the structural elements of the novel, like character, setting, and conflict. Psychological approach was used to analyze the ego defence mechanisms of Charlie caused by the trauma in his past as a result of bad experience where Charlie was sexually molested by his own Aunt.*

*The result of the analysis shows that Charlie is described as a loner, sentimental, open to experience, honest, aggressive, observant, and optimistic person. He belongs to round and dynamic characters. Charlie experiences two kinds of conflict, internal conflict and external conflicts. He experiences an internal conflict because he is always thinks too much and it affects his feeling about many things in his life. He also experiences external conflict against some people he knows, namely Sam, Mary Elizabeth, his sister, Aunt Helen, and Patrick and Brad.*

*Finally, Charlie's ego defence mechanisms help him to ease his anxiety. He finally accept the truth about his past, able to participate more in real life, fall in love and cherished a friendship with his friends, and move on with his life.*

**Keywords:** *Conflict, Defence mechanisms, Ego defence mechanisms, Main character, Psychology, Setting, The Perks of Being a Wallflower*

*Skripsi berjudul "Ego Defence Mechanisms of Charlie as the Main Character in Chbosky's The Perks of Being a Wallflower" ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa mekanisme pertahanan ego Charlie sebagai tokoh utama dalam novel tersebut.*

*Ada dua metode yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini yaitu metode penelitian pustaka dan pendekatan. Metode penelitian pustaka, digunakan untuk mendapatkan referensi yang berhubungan dengan objek analisis. Sementara, pendekatan yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini adalah pendekatan struktur dan pendekatan psikologi. Pendekatan struktur digunakan untuk menganalisis elemen-elemen struktur dalam novel ini, yaitu karakter, keadaan, dan konflik. Pendekatan*

psikologi digunakan untuk menganalisis 'ego defence mechanisms' yang dialami oleh Charlie yang disebabkan oleh trauma masa lalu yang merupakan hasil dari pengalaman buruk Charlie karena pernah dilecehkan secara seksual oleh bibinya sendiri.

Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa Charlie merupakan sosok yang penyendiri, sentimentil, berani mencoba hal-hal baru, jujur, agresif, penuh pengamatan, dan optimis. Dia termasuk dalam karakter yang 'round and dynamic'. Charlie mengalami dua jenis konflik, yaitu konflik internal dan konflik eksternal. Penyebab internal konflik Charlie adalah kecenderungannya untuk terlalu banyak berpikir dan hal itu mempengaruhi perasaannya mengenai berbagai hal dalam hidupnya. Dia juga mengalami konflik eksternal dengan beberapa orang yang dikenalnya seperti Sam, Mary Elizabeth, kakak perempuannya, Bibi Helen, dan Patrick dan Brad.

Pada akhirnya proses 'ego defence mechanisms' yang dilalui Charlie membantunya meredakan keresahan yang dialaminya. Dia akhirnya menerima kenyataan masa lalunya, berpartisipasi lebih baik dalam kehidupan sehari-harinya, merasakan jatuh cinta dan lebih menghargai persahabatan dengan teman-temannya, dan terus menjalani hidupnya.

**Kata kunci:** Konflik, 'Defence mechanisms', 'Ego defence mechanisms', Tokoh utama, Psikologi, keadaan, 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower'

## INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a literary study which connected with the human being life, like behavior, feelings, social condition and tradition among them. It also has close relationship with the societies life and psychology, where it gives a very large impact for people. It posses as eternal characteristic because it contains the authentic truth that always exists when the men/human still beings exist. Besides, it gives consciousness to society about this life truth, where we can get knowledge and understanding deeply about human, world and life.

Literary genre is divided into three; they are drama, fiction, and poetry. Literature is differentiated into two, they are non imaginative literature and imaginative literature. Non imaginative comprises essay, memoir, critique, biography, historical note and daily note, while imaginative literature consists of prose and poetry. Prose is divided into two; they are narration prose and drama. Narrative prose and fiction consist of novel, novelette, and short story. Poetry is classified into epic, dramatic, and lyric. Drama consists of prose drama and poetry drama. Prose drama covers tragedy, comedy, and melodrama (Christopher, 1996:5). A novel is a work of literature in a form of prose narrative with a considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting.

Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* published on 1999 is a very famous coming-of-age epistolary novel. This novel tells about a story narrated by

an introverted teenager who goes by the alias of “Charlie”, an average teenager who appears to have a dysfunctional personality trying to navigate his adolescence that stirs him into a dramatic character. As a freshman at the school, Charlie has a reputation for being nerd. He is socially awkward and every time he was being bullied by his friend he did not do anything instead of crying and keep silent. Those amounts of burden are getting worse by the fact that his only best friend just killed himself. The situation turn around when Charlie meets seniors Sam and Patrick that nicely invites and soon includes him on their little group at school. During his adventures with his new friends, Charlie finally open his eyes about many new things in the world which unknown for him before. But the things are not run smooth as it should be when Charlie getting deeper in his friendship, love, and a save feeling he thankful for, the repressed secret of his past emerge through a series of flash back which stressing him out. While the past is chasing him, instead of facing it Charlie choose to run away from it and causing some mental breakdown in the end. Charlie repressed memory about his past is slowly start to reveal, the fact that he was sexually molested by his own aunt when he was a child is actually what makes Charlie having anxiety that past few years. He always think that he is the one who killed his aunt Helen who died in a car crash on the way to buy Charlie’s birthday present. His ego defence mechanisms is what makes him only remember the good think about Aunt Helen and forget all the bad things, but his ego defence mechanisms is also help him in processing all the problems and help him to recover from his anxiety in the end of the story.

The analysis is about to discuss the process of Charlie’s ego defence mechanisms as the main character while overcame his adolescence and anxiety caused by unknown trauma from his childhood.

Defence mechanisms is a state of mind created when the ego try to cope with anxiety. Human tends to choose comfort their mind against feeling and thoughts that are seems too hard for their mind to deal with. According to Vaillant’s categorization of psychoanalytical development there are various symptoms appear, each of them occur differently for some people.

Defence mechanisms form a tactic developed by the ego to protect against anxiety. A thought to safeguard the mind against feelings and thoughts those are too difficult for the conscious mind to cope with. Defence mechanisms have a tight connection with a Freudian Psychoanalysis concept. It is stated that the conscious is only one aspect of the human mind, there being also an unconscious in which many things come into play, such as repressed emotions, desire, and experience (Ryan, 2007: 93).

According to Freud there are three division of personality: 1) Id that completely unconscious and only seeks to satisfy the most basic human urges; 2) Ego that responsible for self-preservation and denies the id desires in order to keep away from harm; 3) Superego that is the center of personality which distinguishes moral from right and wrong, and learns to follow the rules. When Id gets into conflict with the superego, the ego creates a measure to satisfy both areas. These conflicts may create anxiety in the ego from time to time. In order for three parts to function accordingly it must be managed, that is when defence mechanisms come to play.

Vaillant categorizing defence mechanisms within four levels in psychoanalytical development that include various symptoms of mechanisms. Level 1 is pathological where mechanisms on this level, when predominating, almost always are severely pathological. These defences permit one to effectively rearrange external experiences to eliminate the need to cope with reality. Level 2 is immature, these mechanisms lessen distress and anxiety produced by threatening people or by an uncomfortable reality. Level 3 is neurotic where such defences have short-term advantages in coping, but can often cause long-term problems in relationships, work and in enjoying life when used as one's primary style of coping with the world. Level 4 is mature where someone has been adapted through the years in order to optimize success in human society and relationships. The use of these defences enhances pleasure and feelings of control.

In Charlie's case, we can ensure that his defence mechanisms allow certain unhappy memories and unacceptable desires to be kept buried within the unconscious.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

The analysis is using a qualitative descriptive method to analyze this data. Qualitative research has its roots in social science and is more concerned with understanding why people behave as they do: their knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, fears, etc.

### **Data and Subjects**

The analysis uses Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* as the object of the analysis and source of data.

### **Unit of Analysis**

The writer focuses on discussing about main character, setting, and conflict, which are both internal conflict and external conflict. Beside that the writer also focuses on the analysis of the ego defence mechanisms which is experienced by the main character.

### **Method of Data Collection**

On getting the data, the writer needs many materials to strengthen her research. Thus, the researcher did the following steps to get the data:

1. Searching the data. The researcher searched the data in a library and internet.
2. The researcher read the novel and got the interesting topic to be discussed and analyzed.

Then, the analysis process was carried out in the following steps:

1. Analyzing the structural elements in the novel.
2. Finding common psychological tendencies experienced by Charlie.

3. Connecting Charlie's psychological condition with settings and conflicts in the novel.
4. Analyzing if Charlie's psychological condition is a part of human ego defence mechanisms.
5. Describing ego defence mechanisms experienced by Charlie.
6. Composing the research report.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

Charlie, as the main character in *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, belongs to round and dynamic character. Charlie's character has several changes in the novel, since the beginning of the novel until the end of the novel. It starts when Hamlet is start high school as a freshman with no friend and have a massive burden in his heart follow by never ending anxiety until finally he transform into a whole new and better person in the end of the story.

### **The General Description of Hamlet as The Protagonist**

As the main character, Charlie is described as:

1. Loner
2. Sentimental
3. Open to experiences
4. Honest
5. Aggressive
6. Observant
7. Optimistic

Charlie as a round character, is person with a complex and differentiated features. Charlie appears as loner in the beginning of the story. He is also known as a boy with unstable emotion and a boy with a very soft heart, he sometimes can appear very sentimental and often finds himself cry over a small stuff and unable to control his own emotion. His sentimental side makes him easily feel guilty over unnecessary things. Not only cry a lot, Charlie also sometimes failed to manage his own thought in a right way. At the beginning of the story he is not really grasp the idea what will his life will going to be yet. But there is a time when he can lose control over himself and change from a fragile teenage boy into a man that able to beat someone into a pulp when his aggressive side is taking over his body. It is not that Charlie is a violent boy, but his anxiety and the way he managed it cause many sides effect. One of the side effects is the unstableness in the emotional department. Yet then again, Charlie is a good person at heart as soon as he realize he have that bad tendency to losing control, he decide to avoid confrontation that in the end he appear like someone who enjoy his solitude while in fact Charlie really want to be able to make friend with new people. Since Charlie is actually a very open and a creative person. He is brave himself to participate in society, change his true self who actually really shy and kind of a little bit loner to become better person by open his mind toward any possibilities and not afraid to say yes to that many occasions, or in his own term, to 'participate' more. Not only

tries to participate, Charlie is also a kind of person who is willing to try something new, whether it is a good or bad things.

Charlie as a dynamic character, undergoes a permanent change in some aspect his character and personality. Charlie changed drastically from the beginning of story until the end of story, a clueless young man full with anxiety change into someone who able to see life from a new perspective after get through some series of roller coaster like situation in such a short time.

In the beginning, Charlie appear as a weird boy who goes to psychiatric to lessen his anxiety. He looks very fragile that he even think that nobody is really love him, except Aunt Helen who already passed away. After being friend with Patrick and Sam, he start to feel that life is not as bad as he always think. Especially when Bill, his English teacher, give him a friendly advice and suggest him instead to over think everything why don't Charlie try to participate more in real life. That was the moment when Charlie decided to step out from his comfort zone and try to live a life outside the box. He go to baseball games with his friends, eat lunch together at cafeteria, go to some party, and even experiment bad things like smoking and using drugs. Charlie's life getting better when he fall in love with Sam, eventhough at first it was just a one side love on Charlie's side but he eventually dating another girl and experience an ugly break up. When everything seems to start feel like in place, Charlie realize another new thing about his life, that he used to sexually molested by his own aunt and it was what always makes him feel the anxiety this whole time. In the end of story, all things happenend in his life is become the things which in the end to a whole new person, a boy who finally can see his future a little bit more clearer.

### **Settings in The Perks of Being a Wallflower**

#### 1. Setting of Time

Based on the date on each letters that Charlie sends anonymously, the setting of time is around August 1991 to August 1992.

#### 2. Setting of Social

The youth in the 90's were known as the new wave generation who dare to experiment with everything. Underground music is a big part of 90's era and it can sees through all over Charlie's story.

#### 3. Setting of Place

The outline of setting of place in this novel is a suburb area in America. And most part of the story take place at Charlie's house, school, Charlie's friends' house, Big Boy, and a few more minor places.

### **Conflicts Experienced by Charlie**

#### 1. Internal Conflict

The internal conflict happened because there is a clash between Charlie and himself. The main problem of Charlie is that how he always thinks too much and it is result an overrated feeling towards many things in his own life. Charlie has this urge that he need to talk to someone who actually want to hear him and every things he wants to say. So he decides to write a series of letters to someone who he thinks is a good person just for the sake of his feelings.

Charlie experiences many great losses in his life, first is when he lost his Aunt Helen, who died in a car accident and Charlie feels that Aunt Helen passed away because of him. Second is when his best friend in junior high school died because of suicide and that makes things start to get worse that he must see the psychiatrist to help him.

Charlie's tendency to think over anything influence his way on living his life. Instead of really involved himself in real life, he choose to just sit in the corner and watch everything. But the problem arises when Charlie has this urge to try change himself. The moment when Charlie decide to do some change in his life, that the moment when many new conflicts arise. The situation bring good and new things for Charlie but also bring some things that cause anxiety even mental breakdown, make Charlie even more confuse about himself.

Not only feeling confuse about what he should do with his life which come through a sudden change. He also starts to experience weird feeling when he falls in love with this girl, Sam, his senior. As the story goes when Charlie and Sam relationship progress forward and Charlie start to experience a sexual encounter. The weird feeling that Charlie feels when he gets involved in sexual encounter leave a big question mark in Charlie's mind but for a meantime he decide to not think further about that.

Charlie experiences another trouble when he faces the fact that in the end of the school year he must separate with his friends. Charlie suddenly face an unknown fear, the idea about being alone without his friends scares him and makes him panic. Until one night he has a dream about his Aunt Helen who does something to him when he was a child. What Aunt Helen did was similar to what Sam did when she intentionally put her hands to Charlie's pants. That is when Charlie realized that Aunt Helen was sexually molested him when he was a child, leaving an undetected psychologically scars in Charlie until that day. After that Charlie experiences a massive mental breakdown. He feels like he going out of his mind, to the point that he do not aware of what his body is doing anymore and have to admit to hospital until his condition is getting better.

## 2. External Conflict

Charlie as the main character in the novel, has a clash with another character and also his environment. He has a clash with Patrick and Brad, Sam, Mary Elizabeth, his sister, and Aunt Helen.

Charlie caught Patrick and Brad making out in a party. Makes Patrick finally admitted that he is a gay and Brad is his partner. But nobody knows about it since Brad's father is kind of strict about his son manner, and Charlie promise to keep it secret.

Until someday, Brad's father caught Patrick and Brad together. What happened next is they stop talking, and both get upset until they get involved in physical fight. Charlie cannot stand silent just watching it so he is explode and join the fight to defend Patrick.

Patrick has a step sister name Sam. From their first meeting, Charlie was already developing interested feeling for Sam. When Charlie starts senior high school he does not really have any friend to hang out with until one day he go to watch a football match and make friends with Patrick, one of his senior in school

who introduce Charlie to his step-sister, Sam. In the night after Charlie had a weird dream about Sam, he dreams about Sam naked and Charlie feels extremely bad about it so he decides to tell Sam about that dream. That is when Sam realizes that Charlie likes her more than a friend. Sam then turn down Charlie's feeling in a nice way.

Not long after, Charlie starts to have a date with one girl from the group name Mary Elizabeth. Even Charlie states that he likes her a lot but deep in his heart he still have hope for Sam. Charlie wish when Sam sees him settling down with a new girl it will make Sam jealous, that she is not. This disappointed Charlie a bit. Mary Elizabeth is the bound girl Charlie makes a date in order to make him forget Sam. But Charlie does really like her that much. It is just Mary Elizabeth have this characters that come up unpleasant for Charlie. She appears very intimidating to Charlie and makes him feels very uncomfortable with her unstoppable brag about everything. The biggest crisis with Mary Elizabeth is when Charlie finally decides to express his true feeling about their relationship, Charlie feels tired to have to lies about his feeling towards Mary Elizabeth all the time. So in the truth or dare game when Charlie dare to kiss the most beautiful girl in the room, instead of kissing Mary Elizabeth he kiss Sam and causing a big problem.

While Charlie busy with his problem against his friends, he is also facing another problem at home. When his sister dating a boy from their school and Charlie watch their fighting over how that boy been bullied by his friends but do nothing and Charlie's sister told him how coward he is for not stand up against the bully, it makes that boy angry and hit Charlie's sister who later asked Charlie to not tell their parents about it. Charlie indeed not say anything to their parents but he tells Bill, his teacher, who in the end relay the news to the parents and put Charlie's sister in huge trouble. Not long after, Charlie found his sister crying in the basement and when he asks her what happen, she refuse to tell. But Charlie insists then found the truth about the fact that his sister is probably pregnant.

But Charlie's biggest problem is actually causing by Aunt Helen. Charlie blames himself for Aunt Helen dead because Aunt Helen dead on the way to buy a gift for Charlie's birthday. Aunt Helen used to sexually molest Charlie when he was a child. When they were watching television, she will put her hands into Charlie's pants and do something harassing to that little child. But Charlie not realized it until he experience the further sexual encounter with a girl he likes then recalls the memory about what happened to him in the past with Aunt Helen.

### **Charlie's Ego Defence Mechanisms**

Defence mechanisms is a state of mind created when the ego try to cope with anxiety. Human tends to choose comfort their mind against feeling and thoughts that are seems too hard for their mind to deal with. According to Vaillant's categorization of psychoanalytical development there are various symptoms appear, each of them occur differently for some people.

Based on the analysis, we can ensure that Charlie's defence mechanisms allow certain unhappy memories and unacceptable desires to be kept buried within the unconscious.

In the beginning of story, Charlie described as a socially awkward boy who not really understands yet about the causes of why he unable to deal with his life and his own self. All because he unconsciously push down his past memories when he was sexually molested by Aunt Helen whom he love so much and who died not long after, left Charlie in hard times that he failed to cope with. Until he finally get a chance to open himself to new experiences and friends that bring out the real him as we can analyze from several stage of defence mechanisms:

1. Denial

Denial is the first common symptoms among the defence mechanisms. It is the refusal to acknowledge or recognize some anxiety-provoking situation or piece of information (Plotnick & Kouyumdjian, 2011: 437). When Charlie's and his friends swapping gift at Christmas party, Charlie read aloud a poem to them. The poem sounds a lot like a suicide note made by someone. It is about a child who has problems at home about lack of his parents' attention towards his act. Charlie denies the truth about the poem, how it really seems talking a lot about suicide because if he admits that the poem is actually talking about suicide then he cannot like the poem anymore, and suicide is not Charlie's favorite topic after all.

2. Superiority Complex

Superiority complex is an attempt to trying to make up for areas in which is a lack perceived by becoming superior in some other areas (Cicarelli, 2009: 461). Charlie knows that he has troubled with anything relating to numbers and math. Finding difficulties with math, Charlie try to search for a way to cope with it. Luckily, Charlie is great with novel. Since he was a child he always been proud with the fact how he love reading and how he good in doing it. Moreover when Charlie meet Bill, his literature professor whom sensing a potential in him and give him numerous books to read then ask Charlie to make an essay based on those books. This things makes Charlie feel a little bit better about himself, finding that he is actually have something to admire and to proof for.

3. Projection

Projection involves placing one's own unacceptable thought onto others, as if the thoughts belonged to them and not to oneself (Cicarelli, 2009: 461). At the beginning of the story, Charlie tells about how he dealt with his best friend who dead because of suicide. He felt strange when nobody cry at Michael's funeral and leave him wondering about what actually happen in Michael's family that suggest on how Charlie meddle on something that supposed to be not his problem. Charlie conclude that there must be something wrong with Michael's family while in fact he is the one who face a problem at home and project his problem towards Michael's family.

4. Displacement

Displacement develop attempt to turn a feeling into different direction so it will be less threatening compared if the feeling is directed at the real target. Charlie once saw his senior, Dave, raped his girl at a party in Charlie's house. The next time Charlie meeting Dave at homecoming dance, Charlie cannot control his anger and feels like wanting to beat Dave because of what he did to that girl. But instead of really beat him, Charlie choose to direct his anger to a less threatening target, Dave's car.

5. Rationalization

Rationalization is making up excuses for unacceptable behavior (Cicarelli, 2009: 461). When Charlie has done or has found something wrong he tends to make up excuses and explanations to make it seem like everything just fine. On Christmas day, Charlie and his family went to Ohio to visit his relatives. His dad has this good relationship with Charlie's cousins and he used to be jealous of them. It is seen that Charlie made up excuse for his threatening thought. Rather than feels jealous all over again towards his cousins, he force himself to think positively about a making sense reason so he feel more save.

6. Reaction Formation

Reaction formation constitutes attempts by an individual to form an opposite emotional or behavioural reaction to the way s/he really feels. In this way, the true feelings can be hidden from the self and others (Cicarelli, 2009: 461). Charlie falls in love with Sam and longing for a girlfriend and boyfriend relationship. But instead of admit it out loud, he start to observe people around him.

7. Regression

Regression is falling back on childlike patterns as a way of coping with stressful situations (Cicarelli, 2009: 461). One of Charlie's habit is crying, whenever Charlie feels threatened by stressful situations, he will cries like a little child who only able to show their feelings by crying. When he found out that his best friend Michael die, he cry. When he hit his friend and feels sorry after, he cries. When he must say goodbye to Sam for college, he cry.

8. Repression

Repression is the refusal to consciously remember threatening or conflicting situations (Cicarelli, 2009: 461). Charlie loss of Aunt Helen leaves a very deep wound on him. To eliminate the trauma in the process of dealing with this loss Charlie selectively remembers only good memories of Aunt Helen but bury ones that are too difficult to deal with.

9. Acceptance

Acceptance is a state where a person finally accepts the reality of a situation, recognizing a process or condition without attempting to change it, protest, or exit. Charlie after having a hard time admitting the truth about his past trauma finally finds a light into a new hope in life. He starts to open his heart upon many possibilities that could happen to his life. He also feels thankful for all the love from people around him. In the end of novel, Charlie found a new perspective in life and completely changes to a new person.

## CONCLUSION

This thesis entitled "Ego Defence mechanisms of Charlie as the Main Character in Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*" has an objective to analyze ego defence mechanisms experienced by Charlie as the main character.

There are two methods applied in this thesis, which are library research method and approach. Library research method is used to gain references dealing with the object of analysis. While approaches used here are structural approach

and psychological approach. Structural approach was used to analyze the structural elements of the novel, like character, setting, and conflict. Psychological approach was used to analyze the ego defence mechanisms of Charlie's which is caused by the unresolved past trauma with Aunt Helen who molested him when he was a child and Charlie get through a hard time facing it until he finally find a peace with his life.

Based on the previous chapters, finally it can be concluded as follows:

The main character in Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is Charlie. He is described as a person who is a loner, sentimental, open to experience, honest, aggressive, observant, and optimistic. He belongs to round and dynamic character.

The setting in this story is divided into setting of time, setting of social, and setting of place. Setting of time in this novel is around August 1991 to August 1992 based on the date of Charlie's letters. Setting of social in this novel is the 90's youth who known widely as an experimental generation. Setting of place in this novel is a suburb area in America, where most of parts in the story take place at Charlie's house, school, Charlie's friends' house, Big Boy, and a few more minor places.

Charlie also experiences two kinds of conflict, which are internal (person against himself) and external conflict (person against person, person against his environment). Charlie's internal conflict when he is start as a freshman in senior high school with no friend since his junior high school close friend died because of suicide. Charlie have problem about how he is always thinking too much and over analyzes everything. His tendency to over think anything influences his behavior. He is very observant that people call him a wallflower who sit, see, and understand many things about other people. Charlie is good in being that kind of person, so when he decides to change his way of life and participate more in it, many problems are start to encounter, causing an external conflicts. Charlie external conflicts occur against some people he knows, like Sam, Mary Elizabeth, his sister, Aunt Helen, Patrick and Brad. His external conflict against Sam happens when Charlie tell her that he probably develop a crush towards her but Sam clearly said that she does not feel the same way about Charlie but still think Charlie is such a precious friend for her, leaving Charlie with no choice expect stay a good friend with her and keep his feeling inside. His external conflict against Mary Elizabeth happens when Charlie caught in a truth or dare game where Charlie dares to kiss the most beautiful girl in the room and he kiss Sam instead of Mary Elizabeth who currently is his girlfriend, causing a big fuss in the middle of their group. His external conflict against his sister happens when Charlie tell Bill, his teacher, about the unhealthy relationship between his sister and her boyfriend and not long after Bill tell their parents about it too, that makes his sister get angry for a very long time. While Charlie's external conflict with Aunt Helen was happened a long time ago but at the meantime Charlie suppress his memory about it since that memory give him a bad trauma about how his Aunt Helen used to sexually molest him when he was a child. And Charlie's external conflict against Patrick and Brad starts when Charlie find the truth about their gay relationship and as Patrick asked him to do, Charlie keep it a secret until one day

after Patrick and Brad's ugly break up which involve a physical fight between Brad and his friends against Patrick and Charlie who try to defend Patrick that ended up with Charlie's explosion and he knocked out five people in one punch.

Finally, Charlie's ego defence mechanisms help him to ease his anxiety. He finally accept the truth about his past, able to participate more in real life, fall in love and cherished a friendship with his friends, and move on with his life. At the end of the story, Charlie successfully sees life from a new perspective and feeling very positive about it.

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