

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the short story that is taken to be analyzed is from John Updike, *A & P*. The analysis is divided into two sections, which is to answer two research questions. In the first section, the analysis is to explain about the characterization of the characters that is portrayed in the short story. Then, in the second section, the analysis is to talk about the human existence, which focuses on the characters' choice and the consequence that they have to receive as a responsibility.

1. The major characters' characterization

There are two characters that are analyzed. The two characters are major characters in A & P short story. They are Sammy and the “Queenie” as written in the first chapter that this analysis only focuses on two of them.

1.1. Sammy's characterization

a. Young

Sammy is known that he is in young age through direct and indirect characterizations that are presented by the author in A & P short story. The author tells the readers by direct characterization through his explanation about Sammy's age through Sammy explanation.

“Darling,” I said. “Hold me tight.” Stokesie’s married, with two babies chalked up on his fuselage already, but

Some sentences above tell about Sammy, who is a cashier at A & P supermarket, is calculating a fifty years old female customer's groceries. Then, suddenly his attention is distracted when the three girls walk and go into A & P supermarket by only wearing bathing suits. The one wearing plaid green two-piece is the first girl, who attracts his attention. Because of that, he forgets whether he rings a box of HiHo crackers in his hand or not. Then, he decides to ring it up again, which actually, it has already been rung by him. It makes the female-customer has the pip.

There was this chunky one, with the two-piece – it was bright and green and the seams on the bra were still sharp and her belly was still pretty pale so I guessed she just got it (the suits) – there was this one, with one of those chubby berry-faces, the lips all bunched together under her nose, this one, and a tall one, with black hair that hadn't quite frizzed right, and one of these sunburns right across under the eyes, and a chin that was too long – (1).

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She's one of these cash-register-watchers, a witch about fifty with rouge on her cheekbones and no eyebrows, and I know it made her day to trip me up (1).

The one who is said by Sammy is the female-customer in which her groceries are being calculated by Sammy. He rings again a box of HiHo, one of

In the previous quotations, the “sheep” is a word that is given to other customers who are in A & P supermarket except the three girls. In the first quotation, that label is given to people, who pushing the carts at that time, whose way of their walks is in contrast with the three girls in aisle. In the second quotation, it is given to people, other customers who see a scene when Lengel, the manager of A & P supermarket talks to the three girls to not wearing bathing suits again in public places in front of Sammy when they will pay their groceries. The third quotation tells about the customers are served by Lengel, the manager of A & P supermarket who replaces Sammy’ job after Sammy decides to quit from A & P because he wants to look heroic in front of the three girls. He looks on Lengel while thinking how his life will be (after deciding to quit from A & P supermarket).

Even, two of the three girls also are given names by Sammy. Sammy gives names to the one that is chunky and in the plaid green two-piece as Plaid and another one, who has a tall body and a long chin as Big Tall Goony-Goony, which has very foolish meaning.

As previous explanation, the author presents Sammy as a young boy. Young age that exist in Sammy influences him in building his existence in his life, which automatically also brings effect on his choice. Considering his sex type is a boy, he wants to look like unsuspected hero in front of the girls, whom unconsciously have attracted his attention. Therefore, when the “Queenie” blushes because of a reprimand from Lengel that they should not get dress only in bathing suits in public place, Sammy thinks that he needs to defend them by deciding to quit as a

In those sentences above, Sammy explains that A & P supermarket is located right in the middle of town. Because it is in the central town, then there are many public places, such as Congregational church, two banks, newspaper store, and three real estate offices, which can be confirmed that there may be many people over there. Therefore, before the women get out to public places, they commonly wear covered-dress, at least shirt, shorts, or something. It is such a kind of culture in that town, in which nobody may ignore it, including the women with six children and varicose veins mapping their legs. Indeed, the town is five miles from beach, but it is right in North of Boston, in which it is possible that not all of citizens of that town ever come to the beach. Therefore, It can be said that she is brave enough to wear only bathing suit in A & P supermarket where is located in the middle of town. Another quotation shows that it is so uncommon over there:

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The quotation above explains that how people react when they see Queenie with her white shoulders that are exposed. They get a kind of shocked or hiccup. Even, their eyes return to their basket quickly but it can be denied that it bothers them, it even makes them need to convince what they have seen is correct.

The 'Queenie' is indicated as a confident girl through what another character thinks. In the story, it is known that she is wearing nothing only bathing suits in public location. Through Sammy's observation, he describes her confident through her action in which she steps her foot calmly, walks slowly in only bathing suit with her strap down, which seems that she believes that nothing is wrong about what she does in A & P supermarket. With her confident, it seems that she does not care with what she is wearing in the A & P supermarket. Moreover, in fact, she does not feel uncomfortable and unabashed, and also she does not feel disturbed by people's view towards her. The quotations that show that confidence is here:

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She had sort of oaky hair that the sun and the salt had bleached, done up in a bun that was unraveling, and a kind of prim face. Walking into the A & P with your straps down, I suppose it's the only kind of face you can have. She held her head so high her neck, coming up out of those white shoulders, looked kind of stretched, but I didn't mind. The longer her neck was, the more of her there was (1-2).

Then, there is the second clue, which can be concluded from Sammy's description that may say that Queenie is a confident person. He describes that from those three girls, the Queenie looks more like a leader of them. She walks ride in front of them and her friends follow her. Sammy explains that the "Queenie" looks like she is the one who persuade her two friends to only wear bathing suit in A & P supermarket.

the descriptions are about “Queenie”. Sammy gives her name. She looks like a queen of other two friends, who glance around. She just walk slowly straight with her long white legs like princess. When “Queenie” treads in the aisle and sets foot on the floor seen. Sammy has a notion that she seems like showing them how to walk and keep straight confidently. Then, it can be said that the confidence belongs to Queenie in only wearing bathing suit. She can not let, participate in building her existence.

c. Responsibility

Responsibility is a job or obligation that must be borne by someone as the consequence of choice that has been taken because it involves all mankind (Sartre 24). Therefore, the purpose of existentialism is to make every human aware of what he is, and make him responsible for his own existence (Sartre 23). Since, man chooses their own choice, they have to receive what the consequence is, although it possibly can create anguish, anxiety, and despair condition (Sartre 25). It means that consequence can be a good thing or a bad thing. It exists in the short story which is depicted by Sammy. It can be know from the quotation below.

Lengel sighs and begins to look very patient and old and gray. He's been a friend of my parents for years. "Sammy, you don't want to do this to your Mom and Dad," he tells me. It's true, I don't. But it seems to me that once you begin a gesture it's fatal not to go through with it. I fold the apron, "Sammy" stitched in red on the pocket, and put it on the counter, and drop the bow tie on top of it. The bow tie is theirs, if you've ever wondered. "You'll fee; this for the rest of your life," Lengel says, and I know that's true, too, but remembering how he made that pretty girl blush makes me so scrunchy inside I punch the Not Sale tab and the machine whirs "pee-pul" and the drawer splats out.

As quotation above, in this story, the responsibility must be received by Sammy as the result of his own choice. Sammy has decided to quit his job. He gets two things because of it. The first, he truly realizes that the decision will make him feel this for the rest of his life considering his family only rely on him. His mom and dad must feel so sad because of his decision. By seeing Lengel's statement, it can be known that Sammy needs the job to support his family's life.

a. Freedom

To show the existence of them in a certain place, human will take an action as they hope to be. It is told in the story that Queenie, the name that is given by Sammy does an action to show her freedom. She is one of those three girls who is wearing nothing but only bathing suit and bare feet in the A & P supermarket. It is known as a brave action considering the location of supermarket. A & P supermarket is located in right in the middle of town; north of Boston.

[illegible]

