

# A STUDY OF AMERICAN DREAM PORTRAYED IN AUGUST WILSON' S FENCES

## A THESIS



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## DECLARATION

Hereby, I certify that this thesis I wrote to fulfil the requirement of Sarjana Degree of English Department in Faculty of Letters and Humanities UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya entitled "*A Study of American Dream Portrayed in August Wilson's Fences*" is truly my original work. It does not incorporate any materials previously written or published by another person, except where due references is made in the text of the thesis.

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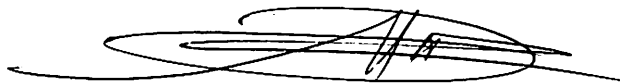


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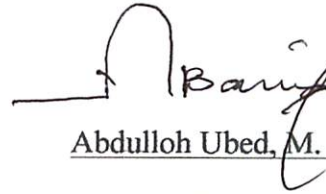
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## **ABSTRACT**

**Amir, Faizal. 2014. "A Study of American Dream Portrayed in August Wilson's *Fences*". Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Letters and Humanities. State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.**

**Advisor: Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum**

This thesis attempts to analyze August Wilson's play entitled *Fences*. This play depicts the life of African American family in 1950s struggling to gain their dreams and the obstacle in pursuing their dreams. Each character in *Fences* has different dream of having a better life in various different aspect of life. So, each character has to struggle to pursue the dreams. This thesis focuses on analyzing the family of Troy Maxson's dream. The objectives of the study are to identify the characteristics of The Maxsons, to find out the dream of The Maxsons, and to find out the effort of The Maxsons pursue their dream. Dealing with the focused of the study above, this study uses theory of of character and characterization as the basic data to lead the further analysis by using theory of hierarchy of need to find out the dream of each character as their need, and it is supported by struggle concept to depict the effort of characters in pursuing the dream. For the last, this study finds that each of character of The Maxsons has their own target in applying American Dream by working hard. Troy dreams to be a truck driver, Rose dreams to get a happy family, while, Cory dreams to be a football player. The writer also finds out the effort of each character in pursuing American Dream. In the play, finally Troy becomes a truck driver, while, Rose and Cory are not successful in pursuing their dreams because of Troy's behavior.

**Key Words: African American, American Dream**



## INTISARI

Faizal, Amir. 2015. *A Study of American Dream Portrayed in August Wilson's Fences*. Skripsi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora. Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Dosen Pembimbing: Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum

Skripsi ini mencoba untuk menganalisa novel dari August Wilson yang berjudul *Fences*. Novel ini menggambarkan kehidupan keluarga orang Amerika asal Afrika yang berjuang untuk mencapai impian mereka dan rintangan-rintangan dalam mengejar mimpi mereka. Setiap karakter dalam *Fences* mempunyai mimpi yang berbeda yaitu mempunyai kehidupan yang lebih baik dalam bidang kehidupan yang berbeda. sehingga, setiap karakter harus berjuang untuk mengejar mimpinya. Skripsi ini fokus pada analisa mimpi keluarga Troy Maxson. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengenali sifat-sifat dari keluarga Troy Maxson, untuk mengetahui mimpi dari keluarga Troy Maxson, dan untuk mengetahui usaha keluarga Maxson dalam menggapai mimpi mereka. Berhadapan dengan fokus dari penelistan di atas, penelitian ini menggunakan teori pengkarakteran sebagai data dasar untuk membawa ke analisa lebih lanjut yang menggunakan teori kebutuhan manusia untuk menggambarkan mimpi keluarga Troy Maxson, dan hal tersebut juga didukung oleh konsep struggle untuk menggambarkan usaha karakter dalam mendapatkan mimpi mereka. Dan yang terakhir, Penelitian ini menemukan bahwa masing-masing karakter dalam keluarga Maxson mempunyai target dalam menerapkan Mimpi Amerika dengan bekerja keras. Troy bermimpi untuk menjadi supir truk, Rose bermimpi untuk mendapatkan keluarga bahagia, sedangkan Cory bermimpi untuk menjadi pemain sepak bola. Dalam drama, pada akhirnya Troy berhasil menjadi seorang supir truck, sedangkan Rose dan Cory tidak berhasil dalam mraih mimpinya disebabkan tindakan Troy.

Kata Kunci: Afrika Amerika, Mimpi Amerika

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Talking about literature is basically talking about life. Literature means to know about life, as Wellek and Warren said in their book *Theory of Literature*, “literature ‘represents’ ‘life’; and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary ‘imitation’” (94). It means that literature, as with any art form, should hold a mirror to society and reflects what is happening in society.

In addition, beside Wellek and Warren explain about the definition of literature, they also explain about the relationship between literature and society. As they state that “The relation between literature and society is usually discussed by starting with the phrase that ‘literature is an expression of society’”. It means that the relationship between literature and society is literature an expression of society (95). From literature, the writer express his or her experience and the image of life. So, by reading the literary work, the reader will know about the author’s life. Therefore, literature cannot be separated from society, and the study of literature should be related to society.

In literature there are three genres: prose fiction, poetry, and drama, as Roberts and Jacobs state that “We usually classify literature into the following genres or classes: prose fiction, poetry, and drama (2). Poetry is a broad term

that includes a great number of separate sub-types, such as sonnet. Narrative fiction is a chronological account of a series of events. Drama or play is designed to be performed on a stage by live actor (Roberts 3-4). Moreover, these three genres have many common characteristic, they also differ in many ways. Prose generally focus on one or a few major characters who undergo some kind of change in their life. Poetry is much more economical in the use of words. Drama is the form of literature that intended to be performed by actors (Roberts and Jacobs 2-3). In addition, whatever the kind of literature, it enables us to develop a perspective on the event that occur around us (2).

In this study, the writer chooses the American drama as a literary work for object of the study, because the writer is interested in the world of theatre. Besides, it is one of the literary genres which has unique characteristic that makes it different from other form of literature. Drama, like poetry and fiction, is an art of words. In drama the words are mainly dialogue, people talking is the basic dramatic action. The talk may be interrupted by wordless activity, but such activity will derived its significance from its context of dialogue (Reinet xi). Therefore, the writer tend to use the drama as the device.

Talking about drama or play, it cannot be separated from its writer or playwright. There are some American Playwrights in the 20<sup>th</sup> century such as Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Samuel Beckett, Edward Albee, Harold Pinter, and August Wilson. In this study, the writer is interested in a significant figure, August Wilson, as the African American Playwright, because the writer finds out that August Wilson is one of the prominent

playwright in the contemporary American theatre (Krasner 318). August Wilson was born on April 27, 1945. He believes his identity as an African American artist is inherently linked to the legacy of African American struggle and survival (319). August Wilson is famous as an African-American's play writer who often writes about Black experiences in the United States. The efforts of people of color to reach their dreams, along with its complex social issues as racism, are shown in one of his plays entitled *Fences*. Wilson had to spend his childhood in the Black slum community of Pittsburgh-Pennsylvania, which then revealed in many of his dramatic writings (August Wilson 1945-2005).

The writer decides to choose "*Fences*", as one of the great plays written by August Wilson to be studied. "*Fences*" won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1987 and won the second Pulitzer Prize in 1990. It was presented in 1983 and next performed in New York and Connecticut (Barnet et.al, 1471). It was first produced in 1985 at Yale Repertory Theatre under the directorial eye of Lloyd Richards (Menson 1). The writer decided to choose "*Fences*" because the writer is interested in the African American figure and wants to know the life of African American in the United States.

*Fences*, which is written in the year of 1951 but later developed from 1983-1987 in United States, is about an African-American former athlete named Troy Maxson (a garbage man fifty-six) and his family. In his early age, after facing a lot of problems, finally, he has an opportunity to reach his dream as a professional baseball player, but then he is prevented by his color from

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playing in the major leagues. It is set just before the start of civil right movement, in 1957 in Pittsburgh, PA. The play takes place at time when organized baseball has finally become integrated, but when racial discrimination remains widespread (Koprince 349). The important issue in the play here is about the American Dream of Black family.

The idea that everyone can have successful life in America is called “American Dream”. The term American Dream, which has powerful meaning could make people believe that if they worked hard with all the potential they have, they would get a better future. The term was firstly initiated by James Truslow Adams in his book *The Epic of America* written in 1931 . He states that American Dream is the dream of land where life is expected to be better and more prosperous for everybody who has opportunity and potential on their own (qtd in Cullen 4).

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The American Dream itself is based on the idea of American live which emanate from the highly valued individualism of Americans. People tend to see the American Dream as tied to the freedom and material well-being from the idea associated with it which has shifted to the American’s right. Moreover, the dream is not the same for Americans, like portrayed in the play, each of the character has different dream. in addition, the dream itself constantly change based on the individual’s circumstance (Naylor 54).

From the explanation above, the writer focuses on analyzing the character of the play, especially the main character’s family as Black people

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and the dream of the main character's family. Those reason above make the writer interested in discussing the topic.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the discussion above, the researcher will formulate the problem of study as follows:

1. How are The Maxsons characterized in August Wilson's *Fences*?
2. What is the dream pursued by the characters?
3. How do they pursue their dream?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The objects of this study are:

1. To describe the Maxsons' characterization in the story.
2. To find out the American Dream of the Maxsons in the story.
3. To find out how the Maxsons pursue their dream.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

By writing this thesis, the writer hopes that the readers could learn more about the dream of Black people in America. As what is shown in the play *Fences*, an African-Americans have the different dream. they have to struggle to reach their dreams.

The writer wants to attract the attention of the reader to get to know more about August Wilson. Besides the writer expects that by reading this

study, there will be more reader to appreciate August Wilson's works. The writer also hopes that this study will give a contribution on the literary study, especially for the students of English Department.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

There are many interesting aspects that can be analyzed in *Fences* such as the theme, setting, point of view, symbolism, etc. but this study only focuses on analyzing the characters of The Maxsons and the American Dream, those will be analyzed by the writer as the scope and limitation for the topic.

### **1.6 Method of Study**

The writer does a library research. Therefore, the writer uses some books including the play itself as the primary sources and reads information of some internet sources and other sources such as magazine and journal that support this study to improve the knowledge. In presenting the analysis, I mainly use descriptive method. The research follows the following steps:

1. reading the play to get the complete and well understanding on the whole story.
2. Selecting and collecting the data in form of narration and conversation from the play related to the problem.
3. Analyzing the data collected by firstly categorizing them in two points, dealing with two points of the statement of

problems. Then, each point is analyzed using the theory, which refers to the object of the study.

4. Making conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

### **1.7 Presentation**

These study consists of four chapters. Chapter one is the introduction; consist of background of study, statement of problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and the presentation. Chapter two consist of review of related literature and related theories. Chapter three consists of research method, and chapter four is the analysis based on problem of the study. The last chapter contains the conclusion of the thesis.

### **1.8 Definition of Key Terms**

There are some important terms to be used in this study. The terms should be defined in order to avoid misunderstanding in the analysis. They are:

- 1.8.1. African American: One of the largest of the many ethnic groups in the United States. African Americans are mainly of African ancestry, but many have nonblack ancestors as well (Britanica.com)
- 1.8.2 American Dream: An ideal concept which has been maintained by American society since eighteenth century (qtd. Dinurriyah 1).



## CHAPTER 2

### LITERARY REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

In analyzing literary work, the writer uses some theories to support the analysis. The writer uses theory of new criticism, theory of hierarchy of need by Abraham Maslow, and struggle concept. The writer uses these theories to know the character, especially the main character's family in more detailed way, also to know the need of their dream, and to describe their effort to pursue the dream. For those purpose, this chapter will discuss all those theories in short:

##### 2.1.1 Theory of New Criticism

Theory of new criticism is the critics of American Literature which develop between 1920-1960. New Criticism firstly was created by John Crowe Ranson in his book *The New Criticism* (1940). This theory appears as the literary criticism which focuses to the aspects of life and psychological of the writer and also the history of literature (Rokhmansyah 68). Besides, New Criticism is clearly characterized in premise and practice: it is not concerned with context-historical, biographical, intellectual, and so on (Seldan et.al 19). Therefore, the New Criticism perform a close reading text, and believe the structure and meaning of the text.

Moreover, the only way to know the author's intention or the reader's interpretation is the evidence provided by the language of the text itself, it is contain of the images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so on. It is because the form of the literary work are called its *formal element* (Tyson 137). In addition, the New Criticism also loooked for paradox, ambiguity, irony, and tension to help establish the single best interpretation of the text (qtd in Otilia 2).

This study is focuses on the characters. As in many other literary works, the existence of character is very important to support the story in the literary work. Abrams in his book "A Glossary and Literary Terms" defines character as the persons repesented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intelectual, and emotional qualites by inferences from what the person say and their distinctive ways of sying it –the dialogue-and from what they do-the action (33). From Abrams' statement above the writer can conclude that character can be known by the readers through the dialogue and the action.

Besides the statement above, according to Kennedy character divides in to flat and round character. Flat character is the character has only outstanding trait or feature, or at most a few distinguishing marks, while round character is the character has the greater depth and in more generous detail (63). Dinurriyah also states that characters in

plays are divided into major characters and minor characters. Major characters have a lot to say and always appear on the stage, while minor characters marginally have less appear on the stage. Therefore, a good indicator to know whether a character is major or minor is the count of the time and speech as well as presence on the stage (144).

In addition, Dinurriyah explains about the type of characters can be analyzed. There are four types of characters can be analyzed, they are physical, social, psychological, and moral (115).

#### 2.1.1.1 Physical

The character can be identified the facts of the character such as age, sexual category, size, race and color. It deals with external attributes which may be imagined from the description of the playwright or deduced from what other characters say or what other characters say about his experience (115).

#### 2.1.1.2 Social

The character can be seen from all aspects that can be collected from the character's world or environment. For example from the economic status, occupation or trade, creed, familial affiliation of the characters (115).

#### 2.1.1.3 Psychological

The inner mechanism of the character's mind can be revealed as exemplified by his habitual responses, attitudes, longing, purposes, like and dislike. It is considered as the most important level of

character categorization because routines and emotion, thought, attitudes and behaviour enable the readers to know the character intristically (116).

#### 2.1.1.4 Moral

This is seen from the decision of the characters, either socially acceptable or not, exposing their intentions, thus projecting what is upright or not (116).

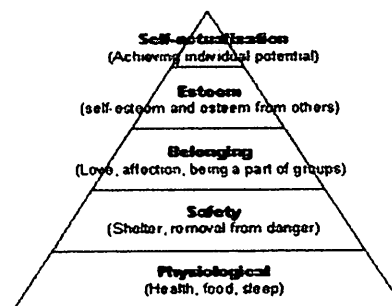
Based on those methods of characterizing the character, the writer will be able to get an idea about what kind of characters that the writer is going to analyze. Therefore, the writer will discuss the characters' physical, social, psychological, and moral to find out the characterizations.

#### **2.1.2 Hierarchy of Need Theory by Abraham Maslow**

Abraham Maslow in his hierarchy of need theory has point of view that an action or a basic of need will have more than one motivation. Maslow stated that when a basic need has to be satisfied, then all parts of a human body will try to satisfy it without any exception. When a human feels hungry then all parts of the human will feel hungry, not only their stomach or their mouth. Maslow assumes that almost all passion and motivation of someone is interrelated to one another (Supratinya 69).

The fundamental concept of Maslow theory is that human is motivated by the same characteristic of basic needs for every species, it is unchangeable, and it derives from genetic or instinctive source. Beside those needs are physical need aspect, it also contains psychological aspect that become the core of human nature. These needs are basically weak that sometimes they are distorted, conquered by the learning process, habit or wrong manner of tradition. Maslow argues that those need can be easily ignored or pressed and most importantly that they have no malicious impacts, even some are neutral and have good impacts. Maslow point of view was contrary to the old belief that instincts have a strong characteristic, malicious impact and can not be changed (Supratinya 70).

Maslow assumes that human has five hierarchies of needs from the most important to the less and the easiest to the hardest one to achieve. In Maslow theory, one must fulfil the most important need than move to the next level of need hierarchy.



As can be seen in above that the most important need is located in the lowest level followed by the less important above.

#### **2.1.2.1 Physiological Needs**

The category of the physiological need is classified based on the very basic of human need. The need of food, drink, shelter, sex, and sleep is categorized as the physiological need. Maslow categorizes need as the lowest level because he assumes that human will tend to satisfy them before they satisfy the higher needs. Even though the needs of physiology are easy to be identified than the other higher needs, the presence of the phenomenon is not able to be treated as a partial phenomenon but connected with one another. For example, if someone feels hungry that endangers his live, he might also feels lack of love or safety. In the other hand, if someone feels hungry, he may also tries to satisfy their hungry by smoking or drinking water (Supratinya 71).

#### **2.1.2.2 Safety and Security Needs**

Soon after the need of physiological is fulfilled, the higher level of need emerges that Maslow calls as the need of safety and security. Free from occupation, free from the threat, free from pain and free from terror can be categorized as the safety and security needs. When someone feels unsafe, he will need an over protection and stability of a condition. Usually he will prevent strange and unexpected condition (Supratinya 73).

#### **2.1.2.3 Belonging Needs**

Maslow place the need of belonging after the need of safety. He explains that human will crave a full of love relationship

with someone else in generally, and especially a need of being accepted in their community. In this level of need, the instinct to satisfy the need of belonging will be even stronger than in the lowest level. Maslow also differ the meaning of love relation in this (Supratinya 74).

#### 2.1.2.4 Self-Esteem Needs

Maslow distinguishes the need of appreciation into two categories, Self-esteem and esteem from other people. The need self confidence, competency, domination, and achievement are categorized as Self-esteem. Meanwhile prestige, recognition, attention, and award are categorized as the form of esteem from others. Someone with good Self-esteem will have more confidence and will be more productive. On the other hand, someone with lack of Self-esteem will feel inferior, incapable, which is will cause desperation (Supratinya 76-77).

#### 2.1.2.5 Self-Actualization Needs

Everybody deserves to grow with full ability. Maslow calls the need to develop, grow, and prove their skill as Self-actualization needs. These needs will emerge soon after the need of love and appreciation is satisfied (Supratinya 77).

As maslow states, the movement to reach self actualization does not happen automatically. It requires the condition that all basic needs at lower levels to be fulfilled completely. Even for who

already satisfied their needs at lower levels, it is not easy to reach the peak of Maslow hierarchy of human motivation. They must struggle hard in order to achieve the highest level of human motivation (sobur 279). Thus, Maslow also states that people who try to reach the goal in their lives will do anything and it can bring effects to behaviour and personality. The effect of their motivation toward their personality can be seen either positive or negative (qtd in Sari's thesis 38).

By Applying the Theory of hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow, the writer draw the dream of each character in the family. Each character has different dream in the play which Their dreams stay on the highest need of the human being.

### 2.1.3 Struggle Concept

According to Frederick Douglas as mentioned by Leanne Hongland-Smith in her article entitled *Personal Motivation*: Without struggle there is no progress; struggle can be defined as mental, physiological, and psychological attempt of human beings in process to overcome difficulty in life to motivate them toward progress and achievement of their goals (1). Struggle is and element in human beings' life that makes them survive. It requires people to confront the hard situation, overcome the obstacles, and manage the pain as well as hardship of the difficult road. It makes people improve the sense of courage, tolerance, and patience. Struggle gives us an opportunity to



grow and move ahead in life. Most famous people have though tales of struggle beneath their success. Success hold high value because it requires toil, perseverance, conviction and ambition to achieve it. Struggle empowers a person to work harder to achieve the goals and dreams of life. Struggle is needed to stimulate any kind of progress. Their struggle may be moral one, or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical, but it must be a struggle.

## 2.2 Review of Related Studies

In this study, the writer will analyze August Wilson's play *Fences*. This part contains the related studies that deal with August Wilson's *Fences*. There some previous studies will be presented in order to enrich the writer's knowledge in understanding the play.

From the thesis entitled *The Meaning of "Fence" as the Main Symbol in August Wilson's Fences* by Maria Rosetha Simblon shows about the meaning of the main symbolical in the play. The writer found some meanings of the symbolic, as it state :

the result of the analysis show that the symbolical meaning of the word "*Fence*" is revealed by the characters of this play. The symbolical meaning is seen from the situations and conversation of the characters. The meaning are divided into two parts: literal meaning and symbolical meaning (Simbolon 2011).

Different focus make this theis and the writer's thesis became different. Simbolon focus on the symbol of the play, and the writer focus on the theme of the play, especially on the American Dream of the character.

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The other thesis entitled *Troy's Failure in Establishing an Ideal Family in August Wilson's Fences* by Fanni Margaret shows about the failure of Troy Maxson establishing ideal family. it states that:

At the end, the thesis writer concludes that there are several causes Troy fails in establishing an ideal family. It happens because he being a rude person, forcing his own ideal to his sons and being unrespectful to his wife. the result makes Troy fails in having a harmony family (dewey.petra.ac.id 2008).

The differences between this thesis and the writer's thesis is different focus, this thesis focuses on the failure of the main character.

These review will help the writer in collecting the information about the issues that appears in the play and the conflict inside the play. In answering the question in problem formulation and analyzing the conflict in *Fences* and the main topic of this thesis the writer is supported and helped by these review to reveal the American Dream in *Fences*.

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In this thesis, the writer wants to analyze August Wilson's *Fences* which focuses on the American Dream toward the Black character in the story. This topic will be revealed through the desire of the main character.

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## **CHAPTER 3**

### **THE AMERICAN DREAM**

The term of American Dream is generally defined as the opportunity to achieve success in America through hard work. American Dream always related to the success, thus, people most often define success as the attainment of a high income, a prestigious job, economic security (Hochschild 15). Therefore, American Dream is that everybody is going to have an opportunity and the chance to live a life with some decency and some dignity and a chance for some self-respect.

American Dream is the idea of America which assumes that everybody has an opportunity to get the prosperity and success. This idea formed base on the history of the immigrants from Europe firstly came to the America in 1630 called as The Puritans (Cullen 15). The Puritans immigrated to the American to make the colony Protestant called as Massachusetts Bay Colony. It happen because of the development of discrimination of Monarchic England, especially the freedom of worship, it is because the Puritans are regarded as very unpleasan people. Cullen writes "Puritanism is one of those word like racism, or democracy, or feminist" (Cullen 13). It means that Puritans

The Puritans who took root in the New World were open to the vision that humanity could be reformed in a way that would display God's work in man; this faith in reform became the central legacy of American Protestantism in New World and foundation of the American Dream (15). Most notably, some of the

most important reform in American life derived from conceptions of community and morality central to the puritan worldview (34).

The idea of the written American Dream, was taken from Thomas Jefferson's idea in the Declaration of Independence. Thomas Jefferson Writes "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". Throughout the Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson outlines the promise of American potential for freedom in a deistic sense. However as a realist, Thomas Jefferson recognized that what was guaranteed was not happiness itself but its pursuit. The living dream that is the Declaration couples life and liberty with happiness against the notion of materialism seemingly because pursuing physical possessions are momentary and do not support the true definition of freedom and opportunity to better one's character.

So far we know that American Dream is only true for immigrants who came to America. Based on the Declaration of Independence, the term American Dream has a few interpretation, but one of the most popular is "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" which is the dream that most Americans strive for. Therefore, everyone has the opportunity to achieve the American Dream depending on how much effort they put in or how fortunate they are.

The first element mentioned in a sentence of the Declaration which then became the idea of American dream is life. Individuals and families have come to a land called America in high hopes of them to have a successful life. They come

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with high hopes for finding a job to support their family and in creating a new family here. The families do not only stop here but will continue for the times to come. The American Dream is not something they simply hope to attain one day but are willing to work for it. By whatever means necessary they are willing to work for their dream.

The other element is liberty. Hard work and perseverance are not the only factor in achieving the American Dream. it also comes down to how fortune you are. Some people will be very lucky and be able to achieve their dream with ease. Some others unfortunately will get a “bad break” and have to work harder than most to get to where they want to be and achieve their dreams. this applies to all people with various races who live in the country, even including Black people, because there is a presumption that the Black people were far below the caste of white people. The issue of discrimination already exist and growing old, and it’s possible that issue still exist to this day.

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The last element is pursuit of happiness. America is the only country where the pursuit of happiness is actually guaranteed in writing. Pursuit of Happiness is one of the most famous phrases in the United State which was primarily written by Thomas Jefferson. He created the phrases Pursuit of Happiness in his book *An Essay Concerning human Understanding*. Thomas Jefferson took the phrases Pursuit of happiness from the substituted of Locke’s word property. Pursuit of Happiness is a necessity, and that necessity became of the foundation of liberty.

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The term of American Dream was created by historian James Truslow Adams in his book *The Epic of America* (1931) and in article published in the New York Times. He defines the term of American Dream as the dream of individual to get a better, deeper, richer life. It has been a dream of a chance to rise in the economic scale (qtd in Samuel 2). In addition, according to Pellegrini, American Dream is the promise of America's endowment that conceived in economic terms (3).

Moreover, Pelligrini add about the kind of the American Dream as he said "Anyone who has more than an elementary knowledge of American Dream history will agree that there are two American Dreams: the collective and the individual" (3). The collective dream means that the dream of the notion that would progress in accordance with the truths, ends, and progress. While, individual dream is the dream of personal which the hope of gaining what one seeks. It is transmitted from generation to the generation of every American citizen (Pellegrini 3-4).

Beside there are kinds of the American Dream, Datesman et.al explain about the value of American Dream. Those value consist of Individuality, Equality of Opportunity, and Material Wealth (29).

Individual is one of the American value, United States always associated in people's minds with the concept of individual freedom, sometime it is called by individualism, but Americans prefer to use the word freedom. (Datesman 29). Freedom means that to control the people own destiny without any interferences

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from others. Therefore, people are responsible for their own situations in life and their own destiny.

In addition, there is a price to be paid for individual freedom, it is self-reliance, it means that being dependent on themselves. In the United States, by age eighteen or twenty-one, they must take care of themselves, solve their own problem, and stand on their own two feet. So, when they are dependent, they risk of losing freedom and they may also lose the respect of their peers. Although they are not truly self-reliance, most Americans believe they must at least appear to be so (30).

Equality is one of the dream that are associated in the American dream. The lower social class are trying to rise to a higher social position. Many immigrants found that they have a better chance to succeed in the United States than in the old country, because they believe in equality of opportunity (Datesman et.al 31). Immigrants believe that they have chance to success when they arrived in America. Therefore, they choose to leave their old country and come to American for better life.

On the other hand, for the equality opportunity also have price to be paid which is competition. It is person's duty to try get the equal change to succeed in the United States (32). People who are want to get the equal opportunity, they must struggle or compete to reach the opportunity.

The last values is the material wealth and hard work. They achieved material success and many became very attached to material thing. Placing a high value on material possessions is called materialism (Datesman et.al 32). Yet, the

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Americans do not like to be called materialistic, it is because Americans feel that this accused of loving only material things. In addition, Hard work is the price that must be paid for the material wealth. Only by hard working the natural resources can be converted into material possessions, allowing a more comfortable standard of living (33).

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## CHAPTER 4

### ANALYSIS

August Wilson is known as a playwright whose play speaks about the family of Black American who have different dream. In August Wilson's *Fences*, there are seven characters, but the analysis focuses on upon the Troy Maxson's family. The family includes Troy Maxson as father, Rose Maxson as Mother, and Cory Maxson as son. Based on the questions in the statement of problem, the analysis will be divided into three parts. The first is a discussion about the characterization of the Maxsons. Then, the second is discussion about the Maxsons' Dreams as their needs. The last is the discussion about the way the Maxsons pursue their dreams.

#### 4.1 The Character and Characterization of The Maxsons

In this part the writer will explain about the Troy Maxson's family character and characterization. The writer uses the theory from Abrams and Kennedy to know the kind of the character in the story. Beside that, to be able to characterize the whole characters, the writer applies the theory taken from the book *The Basic of Drama* by Itsna Syahadatud Dinurriyah. There are several ways of characterization. The ways are from the physical, social, psychological, and moral.

##### 4.1.1 Troy's major and round character

Abrams defines the character as the person represented in a dramatic or narrative work. In addition, Dinurriyah divides the character in

a play into major and minor character (144). Major character is the character has a lot to say and always appear on the stage, while minor character is the character have less appear on the stage. Besides, Kennedy said that characters may seem flat and round (68). Flat character means that characters tend to stay the same throughout a story, but round character often change. In the story, Troy Maxson is categorized as the major character because he appears in every scene in the play. Troy is important since he becomes the focus of the whole story and appears from the beginning until the end of the play. Beside become a major character, Troy also become round character, because he has the characterization that often change.

The character also has the characterization, characterization means that the writer of literary work presents and reveals character. The characterization of Troy Maxson described as below.

#### 1. Troy's physical appearance

As Dinurriyah says that characterization deals with the external attributes such as age, sexual category, size, race and color or deduced from what other characters say about his experiences.

The first characterization based on the physical appear as in the first page, Wilson describes Troy Maxson as follow:

Troy Maxson is fifty-three years old, a large man with thick, heavy hand; it is this largeness that he strives to fill out and make an accommodation with. Together with blackness, his largeness informs his sensibilities and the choices he has made in his life.

. . . . His admiration of Troy's honesty, capacity of hard work, and his strength, which Bono seeks to emulate (Wilson 1).

Troy Maxson is fifty-three years old Black American. With his largeness, he tries to fill out the need of his family to live. Besides, Troy is honesty, it is the commitment to his friendship with Bono. Bono is his best friend when Troy was in jail. Bono wants to emulate Troy as hard worker and his strength.

The second characterization from the physical appear is about his dress. Troy is a working class African American man who works for the Sanitation Department as a trash collector.

. . . . . Troy is usually the most talk active and at time he can be crude and almost vulgar, though he is capable of rising to profound heights of expression. The man carry lunch buckets and wear or carry burlap aprons and are dressed in clothes suitable to their jobs as garbage collectors (Wilson 1).

From these quotation, Wilson describes Troy Physically from his clothes, he wear the burlap apron which indicates he works as garbage collector.

## 2. Troy's psychological appearance

The other way to know the characterization is from the psychological. Dinurriyah explains about the way is from the inner mechanism of the mind of the character (116).

From the psycological appear, Troy is a responsible person. In the story, Troy's responsibility can be seen from his action about answering the question of Cory. It is seen through the effort of taking care his family. As the head household, Troy Maxson has a

responsibility to take care of his family. It is proven through this following quotation.

**TROY:** Like you? I go out of here every morning . . . bust my butt . . . putting up with them crackers every day . . . cause I like you? You about the biggest fool I ever saw.

(pause)

It's my job. It's my responsibility! You understand that? A man got to take care of his family. You live in my house . . . sleep you behind on my bedclothes . . . fill you belly up with my food . . . cause you my son. You my flesh and blood. Not 'cause I like you! Cause it's my duty to take care of you. I owe my responsibility to you! Let's get this straight right here . . . before it go along any further . . . I ain't got to like you. Mr. Rand don't give me my money come payday cause he likes me. He gives me cause he owe me. I done give you everything I had to give you. I gave you your life! Me and your mama worked out between us. And liking your black ass wasn't part of the bargain. Don't you try and go through life worrying about if somebody like you or not. You best be making sure they doing right by you. You understand what I'm saying, boy? (Wilson 38).

The quotation above shows that Troy is very responsible of his family.

He gives everything to his family from the house, sleep, and food. It is not because of like or not, it is because Troy as the head of household, takes care of his family. He works out only for his family.

Beside being responsible, Troy is also a hard worker. In the story, Troy becomes hard worker to fulfil his needs for his family. It is proven below.

“. . . his admiration of Troy's honesty, capacity of hard work, and his strength, which Bono seeks to emulate.” (Wilson 01).

From the quotation above, Bono as Troy's best friend, admits the capacity of Troy hard work until Bono wants to emulate Troy

On the other hand, Troy also has characterization as loving man, it is shown to his wife. he loves her wife Rose so much. They have been married for eighteen years. As Troy's expression to Bono

**TROY:** "... see this woman, Bono? I love this woman. I love this woman so much it hurts. I love her so much ... I done run out of ways of loving her" (Wilson 20).

He express his love to his wife, the one who always be number one for him. Beside that, he also loves to his best friend Bono. Bono is his best friend when he was in jail.

"... they put me in the penitentiary and locked me up for fifteen years. That's where I met Bono."

Beside he express his love to Rose, he also express his love to Bono who becomes his best friend for long time. It is shown from Troy's expression.

**TROY:** Hell, I done know him longer than I known you. And we still standing shoulder to shoulder. Hey, look here bono. ... a man can't ask for more than that.  
(Drinks to him)  
I love you, nigger.  
**BONO:** Hell, I love you too ... (Wilson 56-57).

Their friendship runs long for thirty years, until Troy consider Bono as his family.

From those quotations, it shows that Troy has love feelings. His love is expressed to Rose and Bono. Therefore, his love makes his relationship them becomes closer.

The other characterization of Troy is as good father. He wants do the best for his family, as proven below.

“his admiration of Troy’s honesty, capacity for hard work, and his strength, which Bono seeks to emulate (Wilson 1).

It’s my job. It’s my responsibility! You understand that? A man got to take care of his family (Wilson 38).

. . . I do the best I can do. I come in here every Friday. I carry a sack of potatoes and a bucked of lard. . . . I got my Monday morning . . . find my lunch on the table. I got out. Make my way. Find my strength to carry me through to the next Friday (Wilson 40).

From those quotations, the writer tries to reveal the goodness of Troy. Based on the characterization before, Troy is hard worker and responsible. It shows that Troy is a good father for his family, because he has to do the best for his family by hard working and fulfil family’s needs. Beside that, he has big responsibility of taking care his family.

Beside that, Troy is overbearing to his child. He just wants to be the best for his son, especially to Cory who has ability like his father to become football player.

TROY: I don’t care what nobody else say. I’m the boss . . . you understand? I’m the boss around here. I do the only saying what counts (Wilson 36).

Troy wants Cory to work at A&P and avoid to play football. It is because Troy has the dim experience about football stuff. He did not get the opportunity to play the football, so, Troy does not want Cory to be like his father who failed to be a football player because of his color.

### 3. Troy’s moral appearance

As Dinurriyah said that it discloses the description of the characters, either socially acceptable or not (116). Troy Maxson is Black

people, from his experience he gets a lot of discrimination from the White people. It happens when he was young, he was a great player of baseball but the White Players did not let him play because of his Blackness. It is proven as below:

TROY. If they got a white fellow sitting on the bench . . . you can bet your last dollar he can't play! The colored guy got to be twice as good before he get on the team. That's why I don't want you to get all tied up in them sports. Man on the team and what it get him? They got colored on the team and don't use them. Same as not having them. All them teams the same.

In the present, he is still discriminated from his boss just because of the color of his skin, he got the job as garbage collector, while, the White fellows get the job as truck driver. As he said in the play:

TROY: I ain't worried about them firing me. They gonna fire me cause I asked a question? That's all I did. I went to Mr. Rand and asked him, "why?" why you got to the white mens driving and the colored lifting?" told him, "what's the matter, don't I cout? You think only white fellows got sense enough to drive truck. That's aint no paper job! Hell, anybody can drive truck... (Wilson 2).

From the quotation above, Troy gets the discrimination in workplace which his boss gives him job description as garbage collector. Troy makes the complaint about his job. He thoughts that all men can drive truck without seeing the race.

From the Troy characterizations above, the writer can conclude that Troy is the major character of the play. He is fifty-three Black American who is responsible of his family. He is also a hard worker as

garbage collector to fulfil his needs. He loves his wife and try to be a good father for his son by controlling his family position that make him become overbearing person. It is because Troy had the dim experiences becomes the racial victim.

#### 4.1.2 Rose's major and flat character

The other character is Rose Maxson. She is include the major character, because she appears almost in every scene. Besides, she also include flat character, because she as house wife that always stay the same throughout the story. She has some characterizations in the story, her characterization described below:

##### 1. Rose's physical appearance

From the physical appears, Rose is a housewife. She is the wife of Troy. She has been married Troy for eighteen years.

ROSE. I done tried to be everything a wife should be.  
Everything a wife could be. Been married eighteen years. . .  
(Wilson 67).

From the quotation, it shows that Rose is a wife who has been married Troy for eighteen years. Troy meets Rose for the first time when he was out of jail. She is always at home, do something as housewife usually do. He is cleaning or cooking. The most important for a housewife, she stands by her man.



## 2. Rose's psychological appearance

Beside Rose characterize from the physical appear, psychologically

Rose is a loving mother. Her love is shown to her child. She likes to defend her sons Lyson and Cory. As proven below:

ROSE: Cory done went and got recruited by a college football team.

TROY: I told that boy about that football stuff. The white man ain't gonna let him get nowhere with that football. . .

....

ROSE: Time have changed since you was playing baseball, Troy. That was before the war. Time have changed a lot since then (Wilson 9).

Rose love her sons, she always defends them when Troy did not obey their will, even though Troy do not agree with their will. From the quotation, Rose tries to defend Cory when Troy disagree about Cory's will to join the football team by advising Troy. Besides that, she also defends her son Lyson, although Lyson is the son of Troy by previous marriage but Rose still loves him. Lyson tries to owe money ten dollars from Troy but Troy did not give him the money. Rose defends him by asking Troy to let Lyson have ten dollar, as Rose ask to Troy "Let the boy have ten dollars, Troy" (Wilson 19).

From the Rose characterization above, the writer depicts her dream through her characterization as a housewife who love her family so much.

### 4.1.3 Cory's major and round character

The last character of the Maxsons is Cory. He is also include the major character in the play. He is the son of Troy and Rose merried, he

appears in almost every scene of the play. In other hand, he also as Round character that often change his characterization, in the early story, he is obedient child but the last of the story, he becomes a brave to his father.

He has the characterization below:

### 1. Cory's physical appearance

The physical characterization of Cory is as brave enough to his father. He try to resist his father because Troy destroys his dream.

CORY: Come on!

TROY: (Advancing toward him) You just gonna walk over top of me in my own house?

CORY: I ain't scared of you.

TROY: I ain't asked if you was scared of me, I asked you if you was fixing to walk over top of me in my own house? That's the question. You ain't gonna say excuse me? You just gonna walk over top of me?

As proven above, Cory against his father. He does not scare of

his father when he is back to home to meet his mother. Troy forbids

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Cory to come his house. Basically Cory becomes brave because his

father resists his dream as football player.

### 2. Cory's psychological appearance

According to Dinurriyah, psychologically Cory is a smart boy in his school. He gets the good grades from his school, and makes him get the chance to join the football team.

CORY: I good grades, pop. That's why the recruiter wants to talk with you. You got to talk with you. You got to keep up your grades to get recruiter. This way I'll be going to college. I'll get a chance . . . (Wilson 36).

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From the quotation above, by his own admission he has a good grades in his school. Therefore, he is recruited by team football in his school.

Besides, Cory is a sensitive boy. Just because of Troy's decision, Cory considers that his father does not like him. As Cory asks to his father.

TROY: You go on down there to the A&P and see if you can get your job back. If can't do both . . . then you quit the football team. you've to take the crooked with the straights.

CORY: Yessir

(paused)

Can I ask you a question?

TROY: What the hell you wanna ask me? Mr. Stawicki the one you got the questions for.

CORY: How come you ain't never like me?

TROY: Liked you? Who the hell say I got to like you? What law is there say I got to like you? Wanna stand up in my face and ask a damn fool-ass question like that (Wilson 37).

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From the conversation above, Cory thinks that Troy does not like him, Troy destroys Cory's dream by forbidding him to join the football club. So that Cory feels that his father does not like him.

As the characterizations above, it makes sure that through Cory's characterizations, the writer depict Cory's dream become a football player although he is not successful in reaching his dream because of Troy's ban which makes him become brave to his father.

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## 4.2 The Maxsons' Dreams

All the family members have their own dream. Their dream is based on the highest need of human after satisfying the four needs. Therefore, this study uses the theory of Hierarchy of Human Needs by Abraham Maslow to analyze the dream of Troy Maxsons family. As in the chapter two, hierarchy of human needs is divided into five levels, they are physiological needs, safety and security needs, belonging needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. Their dreams there is in high level of human needs which is self-actualization after reaching the four needs of human needs. From the self-actualization need, the writer regards their needs as the dream of the Maxsons. Maslow characterizes this need as the desire to become more and more what one is, to become everything that one is capable of becoming (328). One of the family members will define American Dream as the dream of having the freedom, equality, and happy family.

### 4.2.1 Troy's dream

After fulfilling the four needs, Troy begins to reach the last need as his dream. Troy is the head of family having responsibility to fulfill the need for his family. In his old age fifty-three, he still has to work to contribute himself and his family. Troy dreams that he wants to get a higher job position as the Whites.

**TROY:** Brownie don't understand nothing. All I want them to do is change the job description. Give everybody a chance to drive the truck. Brownie can't see that. He ain't got that much sense.

Troy wants to get the higher position of his job than before. In his workplace, the Black job's position is to become the garbage collector while the White is a truck driver. For Troy, it is unfair for having the different job position because of race.

**TROY:** . . . Why you got the white mens driving and the colored lifting" told him, "what's the matter, don't I count? you think only white fellows got sense enough to drive a truck. That ain't no paper job!, hell, anybody can drive a truck (Wilson 2).

From those statements, Troy has a dream to be a truck driver as White fellows. Troy's dream lays on the dream of having the equality.

#### 4.2.2 Rose's dream

Rose is an African-American housewife who has been married for eighteen years and loves her family. Actually her dream is same as Troy and Cory's, she leaves her dream for her family. Basically, she has a big dream about keeping her family's relationship from falling apart.

**ROSE:** I been standing with you! I been right here with you, Troy. I got a life too. I gave eighteen years of my life to stand in the same spot with you. Don't you think I ever wanted other things? Don't you think I had dreams and hopes? What about my life? What about me. Don't you think it ever crossed my mind to want to know other men? That I wanted to lay up somewhere and forget about my responsibilities? That I wanted someone to make me laugh so I could feel good? You not the only one who's got wants and needs. But I held on to you, Troy. I took all my feelings, my wants and needs, my dreams . . . and I buried them inside you . . . (Wilson 70).

From the dialogue above, we could see that Rose placed all her hope and dream on Troy. She has no real dream but whatever her dreams she puts aside to be Troy's wife.

#### 4.2.3 Cory's dream

Cory is the son of Troy and Rose. Cory is a young person who likes to play football. He is having a dream that he will be a professional football player. Her mother supports his effort in reaching his dream to be a football player by asking Troy to sign the permission papers.

**CORY:** Yeah. Coach Zellman say the recruiter gonna be coming by to talk with you. Get you to sign the permission papers.

From the Cory's statement, Cory wants his father sign the permission paper to reach his dream. Cory just trying to be like his father who like sports.

**ROSE:** Why don't you let the boy go ahead and play football, Troy? Ain't no harm in that. He's just trying to be like you with the sports.

His father also the former baseball player, but he fails to be a baseball player because of discrimination. Besides, by recruiting to the football team, Cory have a chance to go to college, because he will get a scholarship to continue his study.

**CORY:** I get good grades, Pop. That's why the recruiter wants to talk with you. You got to keep up your grades to get recruited. This way I'll be going to collage. I'll get a chance . . .

From those quotations, it is clear that Cory has dream to be a football player. From that way, Cory also have a chance to go to college continue his study.

### 4.3 How The Maxsons Pursue Their Dreams

In this part, the writer will explain the effort of Troy's family pursue their dream. After having dream of each family, they try to reach their dreams. The writer will use the concept of the struggle to analyze this part. According to Frederick Douglas as mentioned by Leanne Hogland-Smith, Struggle can be defined as a mental, physiological, and psychological attempt of human beings in process to overcome difficulty in life to motivate them toward progress and achievement of their goals (1). Therefore, the writer finds out each character's struggle based on their dreams.

#### 4.3.1 Troy's physiological effort

Equality becomes one of the most important things for many people, especially for those who are minor to the majority group.

According to Datesman et al, in their book *American Ways*, historically United States has been viewed as "the land of opportunity" (28). It means that United States is regarded as super power country which attract the immigrants from all over the world. American character is related to a set of values that have become traditional American values. In the play, one of the family member who wants equality as their dream is Troy Maxson. At this point the writer attempts to perceive how Troy pursues his dream in dealing with many problems in his life represent American basic values.

As stated in previous discussion, Troy's dream is that he wants to get a higher job position. It means that in the workplace Troy does not get

the equal position as White people, where the White people are driving and Black people are lifting. Troy thinks that he is capable to do something as the White fellows do in the workplace.

**TROY:** I ain't worried I ain't worried about them firing me. They gonna fire me cause I asked a question? That's all I did. I went to Mr. Rand and asked him, "Why? Why you got the white mens driving and the colored lifting?" Told him, "what's the matter, don't I count? You think only white fellows got sense enough to drive a truck. That ain't no paper job! Hell, anybody can drive a truck. How come you got all whites driving and the colored lifting?" He told me "take it to the union." Well, hell, that's what I done! Now they wanna come up with this pack of lies (Wilson 2).

In Troy's mind, it is not fair to have different job description just because of skin or race.

Based on the basic value that can be seen in the play is about belief that all people created equal and that all should have an equal opportunity to succeed. Therefore, when Troy is treated unfair in his workplace, he feels that there must be something wrong because he deserves to be treated the same way. This case does not make Troy down, but Troy believes that everyone has a chance to succeed. As mentioned in the same book "they do mean that each individual should have an equal chance for success. If every person has an equal chance to succeed in the United States, then many would say that it is every person's duty to try (Datesman et.al 31).

Troy's spirit and struggle in the play is Troy tries to do his best to be good worker. He done anything in his work by hard work, because he wants his boss

**TROY:** Ain't said nothing. Figure if the nigger too dumb to know he carrying a watermelon, he wasn't gonna get much sense out of



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him. Trying to hide that great big old watermelon under his coat. Afraid to let the white man see him carry at home.

Troy tries to lie about having a watermelon, because he does not want to seem like a typical Black person to his White boss, Mr. Rand. Watermelon is a stereotype that describes the Black person as lazy, ignorant people who like nothing better than to sing, dance, and eat watermelon all day. Therefore, Troy lies of having the great big watermelon, because he wants to look as a good worker.

In addition, In the workplace, he has conflict a against his boss Mr. Rand. It is the external conflict, as Stanton explanation “it happens when the protagonist has trouble and conflicts against the other characters” (16). Troy asks to Mr. Rand about his right to be a truck driver by sending the complaint field.

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TROY: Ain't said nothing. He told me to go down the commissioner's office next friday. They called me down there to see them.

BONO: well, as long as you got you complaint field, they can't fire you. That's what one of them white fellows tell me (Wilson 2).

His struggle to get a decent job as truck driver is not in vain. Troy Maxson finally can be what he wants, a truck driver which is only White people's job. It is proven as below.

TROY: Look here, Rose . . . Mr. Rand called me into his office today when I got back from talking to them people down there . . . it come from up top . . . he called me in and told me they was making me a driver.

Troy's success as a truck driver can also be found in Bono's dialogue in praising Troy's achievement.

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**BONO:** Your daddy got a promotion on the rubbish. He's gonna be the first colored driver. Ain't got to do nothing but sit up there and read the paper like them white fellows.

It can be seen from the dialogue that Troy is first colored driver at that time. After struggling to have it, Troy earns a promotion to drive the garbage truck. The main character, Troy Maxson, succeeds in overcoming the other forces. He fights against his boss concerning a promotion which is not an easy task to do.

#### 4.3.2 Rose's physiological effort

Rose Maxson wants to have a better life by keeping their family from falling apart. This can be seen when one day Rose requests Troy to build fence In the small backyard.

**ROSE:** Where you going off to? You been running out of here every Saturday for weeks. I thought you was gonna work on this fence?

The reason of making fences can be revealed from Troy's friend as he states.

**BONO:** Some people build fences to keep people out . . . and other people build fences to keep people in. Rose wants to hold on to you all. She loves you.

Rose sees the fences as the symbol of protection, by building it she wants to restrict her family from leaving their house, or in the other word to keep her love-ones close, and to keep out the outsiders from interfering her family's affair.

While, Rose is trying to keep her family, Troy is messing up by having affairs with several women. This becomes an external conflict between Rose and Troy.

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ROSE: I'm talking , woman, let me talk. I'm trying to find a way to tell you . . . I'm gonna be a daddy. I'm gonna be somebody's daddy.

As a good mother and faithful wife, Rose often has to defend her son as her way to keep their family relationship from falling apart. First, she tries to defend Cory in front of Troy, she tries to convince him that football cannot do any harm to Cory.

ROSE: Why don't you let the boy go ahead and play football, Troy? Ain't harm in that. He's just trying to be like you with the sports.

Second, although at the first time she cannot believe that she has been loyal to Troy for eighteen years and he has done bad things to her, she then is willing to be the mother of the illegitimate child.

ROSE: Okay, Troy . . . you're right. I'll take care of your baby for you . . . cause . . . like you say . . . she's innocent . . . and you can't visit the sins of the father upon the child. A motherless child has got a hard time.

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(she takes the baby from him)  
From now . . . this child got a mother. But you a womanless man.

Rose has reason for accepting Troy's daughter Raynel, it is because she believes that children are born innocent, thus she will never blame the innocent child for any faults of the father.

The result of pursuing her dream is not successful. Although Rose is not successful in pursuing her dream to have a happy marriage and then choose to be an independent woman by refusing to be a good wife for her husband.

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#### 4.3.3 Cory's physiological effort

As stated in the previous part, Cory has a dream to be a professional football player. Recruited by college football team, Cory can express his dream. On the other hand, his father forbids him to be a football player. It can be seen from Troy's dialogue.

**Troy:** I told that boy about that football stuff. The White man ain't gonna let him get nowhere with that football. I told him when he first come to me with it now you come telling me he done went and got more tied up in it. He ought to and get get recruiter in how to fix cars or something where he can make a living (Wilson 8).

From the dialogue, Troy forbids him because the White man will not give him a chance to play football. Troy prefers if Cory still work at A&P.

**TROY:** The only thing I say about the A&P is I'm glad cory got that job down there. Help him take care of his school clothes and things. . . (Wilson 08).

Troy wants Cory continue his work at A&P, because by working at A&P,

Cory is able to fulfil his need like car or house. Actually Troy does not

want to have the same experience as Troy did. The unpleasant experience

makes Troy protect Cory. What Cory needs to be the part of the football

team was Troy's signature in the recruiter form. But Troy does not want to

sign the recruiter form. Troy thinks that Cory will have the same

experience as what he had in the past.

**TROY:** You damn right you are! And ain't no need for nobody coming around here to talk to me about signing nothing.

**CORY:** Hey, Pop . . . you can't do that. He's coming all the way from North California.

**TROY:** I don't care where he coming from. The white man ain't gonna let you get nowhere with that football noway. You go on and get your book-learning so you can work yourself up in that A&P or learn how to fix cars or build houses or something, get you a trade.

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That way you have something can't nobody take away from you.  
You go on and learn how to put your hands to some good use.  
Besides hauling people's garbage (Wilson 35).

Troy does not give Cory a chance to be himself. Troy always decides what Cory has to do. Troy allows Cory no freedom to grow or to express his dream.

Cory has the external conflict with his father. It is the struggle of Cory to reach his dream. Cory does not understand Troy, his father. Cory tries to show his resentment to his father to pursue his dream.

Cory: Just cause you didn't have a chance! You just scared I'm gonna be better than you, that's all

TROY: Come here

ROSE: Troy . . .

(Cory reluctantly crosses over to Troy)

TROY: Alright! See. You done made a mistake.

CORY: I didn't even nothing.

TROY: I'm gonna tell you what your mistake was. See. . . you swung at the ball and didn't hit it. That's strike one. See, you in the better box now. You swung and you missed. That's strike one.

Don't you strike out! (Wilson 58).

No longer, the relationship between Troy and Cory is getting cold.

The conflicts both of them become stronger especially in building his relationship with Cory, Troy uses the same way like his own father did to him in the past. Finally Troy chases away Cory, and Troy keep distance with Cory.

TROY: (To Cory) Alright. That's strike two. You stay away from around me, boy. Don't you strike out. You living with a full count. Don't you strike out.

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The conflict between Troy and Cory never ends. Cory does not care about his father anymore. Cory can not stand his father anymore.

Cory feels no respect to him:

TROY: (Advancing toward him) You just gonna walk over top of me in my own house?

CORY: I ain't scared of you

TROY: I ain't asked if you was scared of me. I asked you if you was fixing to walk over top of me in my own house? That's the question. You ain't gonna say excise me? You just gonna walk over top of me?

They are quarrelling each other as if they fight. Cory reveals about Troy's mistake.

CORY: You talking about what you did for me . . . what'd you ever give me?

TROY: them feet and bones! That pumping heart, nigger! I give you more than anybody else is ever gonna give you.

CORY: you ain't never gave me nothing! You ain't never done nothing but hold me back. Afraid I was gonna be better than you. All you ever did was try and make me scared of you . . . (Wilson 86).

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Cory considers his father that Troy never give anything to Cory. Cory feels that Troy bridles him because Troy is afraid that he is going to be better than Troy. lastly, Cory is unsuccessful in reaching his dream.

CORY: Papa done went up to the school and told Coach Zellman I can't play football no more. Wouldn't even let me play the game. Told him to tell the recruiter not to come (Wilson 57).

Finally, what Cory dreams of is failed because of Troy's denial. Troy tells Cory's coach in football team that Cory cannot play and join to football team.

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## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSIONS

*Fences* is the play written by August Wilson which give the idea of Black American dream and how pursuing the American Dream is an important element to gain success. The writer would like to conclude from the discussion above.

From the previous analysis, Troy is characterized as the Black American fifty-three years old, honest, responsible, hard worker, good father, and loving father. While, Rose is characterized as the housewife of Troy who has been married for eighteen years, she is ten years younger than Troy, beside that, she also loving. The last is Cory, he is characterized as a smart boy and brave enough to his father.

The play also represents the idea of how pursuing American Dream, because dream are beginning of the life purpose. Without dreams people will never do some efforts to realize something. Troy Maxson's family has their own dream to be realized. the dream of Troy Maxson's family built based on the needs they have to fulfil. In other word, the dream is motivated by the needs of the family. Each of family members has different dream in their life. Troy has dream of having the higher job position as White people in his workplace, while Rose actually has the same dream as Troy and Cory's, and Cory wants to be a professional football player.

While having different dreams, they have to struggle to reach their dream. In struggling, each of character has to hard work to achieve their dreams. In the

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struggle to reach the dream, Troy tries to endeavour to be hard worker and complain about his job position. Troy lies of having the big watermelon, because he wants to look as a good worker. Besides, Troy makes complaint field to Mr. Rand in order to get the equal opportunity as White fellows. Finally, he is successful in reaching his dream as the truck driver.

Moreover, in reaching the dream, Rose has to hard work to get her dream. She has a dream of having a happy family by always loving her family. Rose believes of having fences is a necessary, therefore, Rose requests Troy to build fences in the small backyard. It is because she thinks that fences is the symbol of protection, by building it she wants to keep her love-ones close, and to keep out the outsiders from interfering her family's affairs. In the last, she is not successful to get her dream. It is because Troy breaks by having affairs with several women.

While, Cory also has struggle to reach his dream. Cory has to refute his father in order to get his dream as football player. He has to quarrel with his father every time until he keeps away from his house. Because of that, Cory did not get his dream as a football player.

In conclusions, Troy Maxson's family as Black people in the United States finally become a tragic family. Because most of the character did not get their dream.

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