PERSONALITY TRAITS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER AND THEIR DESCRIPTION IN "THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS"

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
	Short stories provide readers series of events that take place in the life of the characters. For both enjoyment and reflection, the events are considerably constructed by the writer to share meaningful values. Readers can learn how the characters solve problems to overcome obstacles. This study discusses the personality traits of the main character and how they are described in the short story "The Nightmare before Christmas." Qualitative method, with a psychological approach focusing on the main character Jack Skellington, was applied. Through a close reading, it was found that the main character was a brave person who loved to experience new things. For his courage to a new breakthrough in what he had done in the past, he was kind of cool person. Fundamentally, he was also a loving and loyal character. All of these inner strengths contribute to make the character more likeable. Meanwhile, the personality of the main character is predominantly shown through mixing method, that is a mixed of dramatic, characters on characters, and contextual characterization. This indicates that the main character, Jack Skellington is delineated by giving indirect descriptions and implicit statements aiming to show the personality traits of the main character to the readers.

1. INTRODUCTION

To find impressions on how smart authors construct series of events and delineate the characters in their writing, a literary work can be attentively observed through its internal components. All of these lead the target audience to understand the story, characters, places where the events take place, message, the contemplating values, as well as the entertaining sides. There are messages, extra-aesthetic values, and components of content in a literary work (Schirova, 2006). In a work of fiction, the wholeness of narrative structure may be successfully established when a literary work resembles a true story to the reader. This is related to how a literary work is created from

intrinsic elements that represent real life (Abrams, 1971). A narrative work will be an attractive package if the author is able to combine intrinsic aspects to support the theme and present the story better. To make a literary work successful in communicating the messages, the writers must see the world wisely and express what they feel about this world proportionally.

In an easy way to understand, literature is brought to the audience in the form of writing that may contain values written in beautiful languages and even in the sound of criticism. A literary work analyzed in this study is a short story. In the form of a prose fiction, short story is like any other prose that has specific intrinsic elements including theme, setting, plot, character, point of view, style and tone (Kenney, 1966). As widely perceived, literary work is also a means of presenting the portraits of life concerning numerous issues and problems. By writing stories, the writers share their thoughts and imagination to a wider audience. The characters in a story can be seen from their personality traits investigated through neuroticism, personality changes throughout the novel (Faisal, 2011; Lubis, 2013). Specifically, Lubis (2013) found that it is possible to conclude that the main character's personality shifted from extraversion to neuroticism.

There are some facets of extraversion when it can be felt that the neuroticism is still dominating (Lubis, 2013). Meanwhile, Putri & Fitri (2020) analyzed the main character with a psychology approach with the purpose of analyzing the depiction of the main character. The analysis of the personality structure usually includes the id, ego, and superego (Rahman, 2016). The analysis of characters in literary work can be classified through several descriptions. It may involve doubtfulness completed by other negative emotions like sadness, disappointment, fear and anger (Patmarinanta & Ernawati, 2016). In a different story, some characteristics showing character traits like loyal, depressed, book lover, fighter, stubborn, chivalrous, and nice can also be found. Besides personality traits of the main characters, the investigation of literary work presents characterization related to the theme, either novel or movie (Divyani et al., 2023; Rahmah et al., 2021; Famela, 2011) with different focus of discussions covering feminism (Kusumaningtyas, 2019).

With regard to the central attention that goes through the series of events in the story, many researchers are interested in revealing the psychological aspects of characters in the story (Fardhany, 2021; Salombe et al., 2013) including ego defense mechanism (Khoirunisa & Rahayu,

2020). The main character can also be delineated as a person having several characteristics with different representative adjectives (Fardhany, 2021). Meanwhile, the characterization can be supported by the progressive plot that shows the connection of the story from the beginning to its end (Yuliani, 2013). Meanwhile, Depita (2021) discusses the struggles of the main character. The character does not only live to survive the hazardous adventure, but also to establish personalities leading to a woman with a new feeling of her own subjectivity. All those analyses lead to the portrait of characters and their characterization (Utama et al., 2018; Saraswati, 2019).

Several previous works are considered relevant to this study since they analyze the main character with the most amount of influence on the other aspects of prose fiction. But there are still other interesting elements that need further exploring, which connect one aspect with other aspects. Aspects of characters and how characters are portrayed by the author can provide knowledge for character creation and logical story development. For this reason, this study was carried out in order to show the relationship between aspects of personality and ways to convey the values of personal attitudes so that the character can be psychologically assessed. Thus, the study discussed the character transformation and the methods of characterization. The data were taken from the short story "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The short story tells us about the transformation of a character, named Jack Skellington. With regard to the background, the aim of this study is to analyze the method of characterization used to present the main character in the short story "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Character in prose fiction is one of the intrinsic elements which is a significant element in fiction. The characters are the center of attention where plot develops. They make the story alive and carries the author's message. The messages may give various values into human life such as morality, education, and many others. In literary work, a character is someone having some sort of identities, like an identity created by appearance, conversation, action, name and possible thoughts (Gill, 1995). Character can be divided based on the functions, namely main character. As an important figure, main character plays an important role in the story and secondary character is the character that mostly lives in the life cycle of the main character. Meanwhile, supporting character is a character that incidentally supports the main character.

In discussing personality aspects, a psychological approach is often used as a basis of analysis. Such an analysis establishes the logic of creating of the characters completed with the changes and movements in the story. Psychological aspects are generally seen from elements of human personality. This psychological approach is frequently alluded to as observing the characters with their personality traits. An analysis with this approach is intended to reveal the existence of human beings and their psychological aspects as dynamic phenomena. Freud (in (Noermanzah, 2016) divided the level of human consciousness into three layers, namely unconscious, preconscious, and conscious . Of these three levels, the unconscious part is the largest aspect that influences human behavior. Freud made an analogy with the phenomenon of an iceberg in the ocean, where the top part visible on the surface of the sea represents the conscious layer. The preconscious is the part that rises and falls below and above the surface. Meanwhile, the largest part is actually under the sea, represents the unconscious

Characterization is the writer's creation of fictional personages. In most modern fiction, the major character is much more ordinary. Characters may be major and minor. They can be flat (simple) or round (complex). Characterization as literary method is connected with characterology based on the theory of characters and personality types. The presentation of characters is supposed to blend. They are usually developed perfectly and have multiple personality traits that indicate the dynamic characterization. Modes of characterization are many, telling and showing. The characterization of main character explains the main character in the short story. How the main character is presented can share such atmosphere that affects the emotion and the feeling of the readers.

Characterization refers to the nature and attitude of the figures. The readers' task is to interpret them. In presenting the characters in the story, the writer utilizes some methods to present and reveal the characters. According to Kenney (1966), there are five methods of characterization, namely discursive method, dramatic method, character on other characters method, contextual method, and mixing method. Discursive method is kind of characterization that takes a direct approach towards the establishment of the character. The writer reveals the character by descriptive portrayal or by direct comments. This means that the author tells the readers what the personality of the character is. This is like telling something in straight forward manner. In the

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dramatic method, the characterization is represented through what the characters say and how they say it, their verbal interactions with others. Through all their actions, the character made who they are in the story. In character on other characters method, the characterization is concluded through what other characters say or think about her or him. Meanwhile, in the contextual method, the writer reveals information about the characters and their personality through verbal context that surrounds that character. The environment where a character lives may cause readers to form certain assumptions concerning the existence of the characters. The last category is the mixing method. This method represents the character in the story by using more than one method (e.g. dramatic method and character on other characters method). Take for example, if the writer uses dramatic and character on other characters method, the character is revealed by presenting the character through what the characters say and how they say it, that is combined with their verbal interactions with others and the discrepancies between their talk and their actions. In addition, the main character's characteristics are also revealed by other characters in the story (Kenney 1966) that is in general can be categorized into telling and showing (Schirova, 2006).

3. METHODOLOGY

This research analyzes the short story of "The Night Before Christmas" that was originally written by Timothy William Burton. He was used to call "Tim Burton." Burton was a prolific American film director/writer and was widely known for his film that gave the sense of dark and quirky. To meet the objective of the study, the research was through several steps that are visually presented in Figure 1. First, a brief observation was made on the short story to find out the story in general. Reading repeatedly and understanding the whole content of the story helped to make clear description about the story. Second, taking note and making a list of the relevant data predicted as the evidence for the limitation of the study, i.e. the personality traits and the characterization. A more detailed and in-depth reading was carried out to find out the storyline and internal aspects of the story, starting from the storyline to the characteristics of the characters in the story. Third, it was highlighting the potential evidence for the identification. The next step, which was the fourth step was identifying the characteristics of the main character and what he did. Fifth, it was the step of finding the supporting data for quotations that show a description of the character so that the

author's way of telling the characters in the story can be found. The flow of this literary analysis is presented in Figure 1.
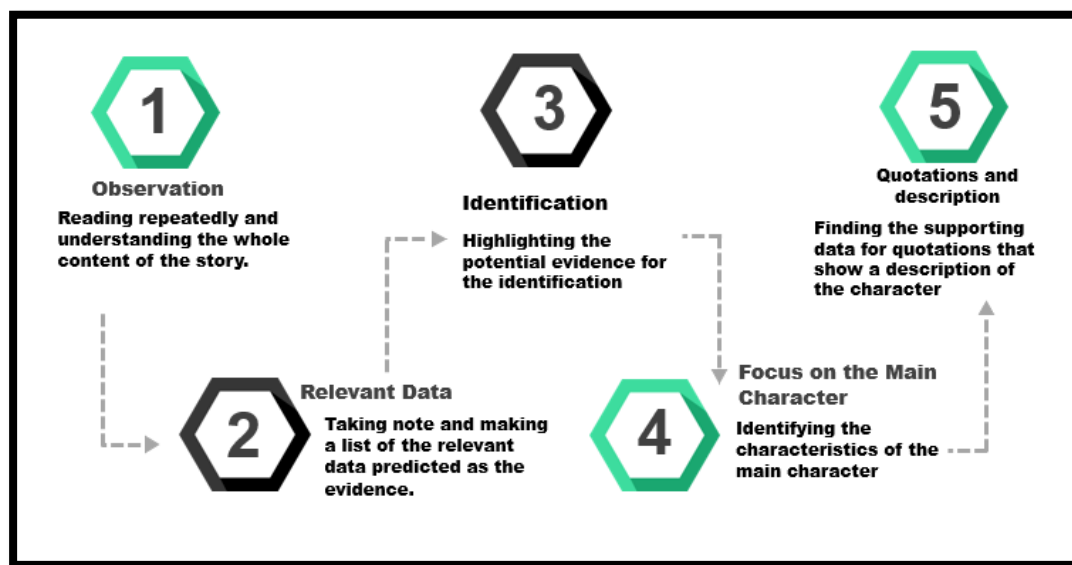

Figure 1

The research flow and activities conducted to meet the purpose of the study

Figure 1 shows the steps of collecting data and finding out the evidence for the identification. The key activities are fivefold with their own focus. The five activities demonstrate observation, identification and description. With all these steps, the relevant data, characteristics of the main character, the characterization, and quotations can be found. In relation to the focus of this study, i.e. the investigation of the main character and his personal traits and how the personality was delineated, the analysis employed a qualitative descriptive study. For the identification of data and analysis in this study, it was carried out by deepening aspects of character and characterization in the works of fiction in line with theories proposed by Gill (1995), Kenney (1966) and Schirova (2006).

The data were analyzed in order to determine the characterization of the main character based on the theory proposed by Kenney (1966) supported by Schirova (2006). The study utilized a psychological approach, which is generally defined as a method that includes all analysis

concerning the content of the text and is also used to describe a specific psychological approach. Furthermore, the stages of analysis are given according to the characteristics in the theory when the key words for interpreting the data are found. The interpretation of the relationship between the character's identification and the method of character description, for example whether the character is told directly, indirectly, through descriptions from other characters in the story (Divyani et al., 2023 ; Wula et al., 2023). This can be interpreted based on the context of the story and other intrinsic elements. Finally, a conclusion was made regarding the relationship between the two aspects being analyzed (Jayantini et al., 2022; Pranata et al., 2023).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Having done the identification, it is found that main character, Jack Skellington, had a round personality. The exploration occurs throughout the story, "The Night Before Christmas." This story was mainly brought into readers' imagination to Halloween Town, a city in a fantasy world inhabited by various kinds of monsters and creatures. Jack Skellington was the skeleton monster that was respected as "The Pumpkin King." Jack led the citizens at his city in organizing and preparing the Halloween celebrations. However, in one particular year, Jack was bored with the same annual routine. He wanted something new. Jack went to the forest, and found six trees that contain doors leading to other holiday-themed worlds. Then he stumbled onto a tree that led to Christmas Town. He was fascinated by the unusual holiday. Jack returned home and showed it to his friends and neighbors. They found out one character in Christmas Town which was Santa Claus. Jack mistakenly called him as "Sany Claws." Jack, isolated himself in his house to learn more about Christmas and found ways to explain it rationally. After long and fruitless study and experimentation, Jack finally decided that Christmas should be improved rather than understood. In line with the story, the personality traits of the main character can be found through close observation on what happens and how the main character reacts, expresses his feeling and the consideration comes into his mind when facing things that disturb his consciousness. As the major finding, Table 1 presents the personality aspects of the main character in "Nightmare before Christmas" more clearly.

Table 1 Personality Traits of the Main Character in "Nightmare before Christmas."

No	Personality Traits	Description	Page
1	Jack presented himself as a brave monster.	His courage was like a new breakthrough that separated his past life in the dark.	2,13, 14
2	Jack was longing for a fascinating life.	Jack was not happy with what he had done repeatedly each year. There was an uncomfortable feeling that he always felt. He had an awareness that was different from how people perceived him	5, 7, 18
3	Jack is basically a loving creature.	He paid attention to what was exactly good for people and did not want to scary people anymore.	6, 20, 22
4	Jack is unhappy to be exaggeratedly glorified by people	He found a new place and nothing was scary. This helped him to contemplate the values of not being overwhelmed by how people glorified him.	4, 22
5	Jack transforms from having a dark, gloomy, and black life into feeling a bright, enlightening and cheerful atmosphere.	He was ready for a fascinating life.	3, 7, 15

Table 1 show the personality of the Jack Skellington and his way of transformation. Jack presented himself as a brave individual. He loved to have new experience that made him useful to others. His bravery was like a new breakthrough that separated his past life in the dark. He was ready for a fascinating life. When he wanted to leave what he had done in the past, he was kind of cool person. Besides, he was also a loving and loyal character. All of these personalities contributed to make the character more transformative. Regarding all impressions on Jack's character, the personality of Jack Skellington was predominantly shown through mixing method, i.e., dramatic, characters on characters, and contextual. This indicated that Jack Skellington was delineated with indirect description.

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4.1 Transformation Showing the Round Character Features

The main character, Jack Skellington, known also as The Pumpkin King, was famous for his success in executing Halloween every year in Halloweentown. Feeling bored with the work of planning the scariest holiday, Jack found something he had never experienced before, the vibrant Christmas celebrations in Christmas Town. However, instead of busy planning a festive Halloween, Jack Skellington was busy preparing for the Christmas celebration throughout the story. Until finally, in the last act of this story people celebrate Jack Skellington's version of Christmas (Yucky, 2021). The transformation of Jack showing the round character features was shown in the following discussion.

Excerpt 1

But Jack wasn't happy. Every year he repeated the same songs and dances
and he was bored with Halloween.
Of course, he couldn't tell anybody. How could he? The people of the town loved him and they
waited all year for this night.

Excerpt 1 shows that Jack is not psychologically portrayed as a scary "Pumpkin King". The transformation from a dark, gloomy and black life was shown implicitly. Jack was not happy with what he had done repeatedly each year. There was an uncomfortable feeling that he always felt. He had an awareness that was different from how people perceived him. Jack could not tell anyone when he did not really enjoy being exaggeratedly glorified by people. Jack was portrayed unhappy because he kept repeating the same song and dance shown during the Halloween celebration. Jack felt even more unable to express what he wanted because he realized that people liked him and always waited for his creations every Halloween night. Jack could feel that everybody including the Mayor hopes for his talent of creating song and dance. The Mayor even said that Jack was the scariest skeleton in Halloween Town. The mayor gave his gratitude for Jack's work in preparing wonderful celebration.

Excerpt 2
Jack walked through the churchyard and into the dark woods. His head
was down and his eyes were on the ground. He walked for a long time and he
thought about his future, without much hope.

After almost two hours, he stopped and looked around him. His eyes
opened wide.

The transformation that Jack urged him to change from a scary atmosphere to something different. His heart felt sad, even though it was not directly depicted in Excerpt 2. However, his sadness was the expression of his head bowed and his eyes only looking at the ground. Another situation was that he walked empty-hearted in the dark. When he thought about the future, he did not feel anything. After two hours, he found a new place and nothing was scary. The place he found was. Christmas Town. The key to the atmosphere in Excerpt 2 is he does not have much hope. Here, the writer did not say directly that Jack was hopeless, but the atmosphere went with certain faces to create an atmosphere by telling how Jack's mood was. This was another scene of his transformation that indicated that Jack was in fact a loving person having a vulnerable heart.

Excerpt 3
"Nobody is afraid here!" Jack thought. "They aren't screaming. Nobody's dead!"
Jack felt very happy, too.
"This is the prettiest place in the world," he thought.
Then he looked up and he saw the name of this place above the street -CHRISTMASTOWN

The transformation of life and its experiences that Jack wanted to indicate the personality of being kind and share good values to others. Excerpt 3 show that actually Jack was the monster that had a caring personality and feels guilty for making people scream in fear. What Jack really wanted was to entertain and make other people happy. The efforts that Jack always made previously were different. He felt the atmosphere of Halloweentown and Christmas Town was really different. The expressions showing his desire to transform from darkness into a bright atmosphere were represented in "*Jack felt very happy, too. "This is the prettiest place in the world," he thought. Then he looked up and he saw the name of this place above the street -CHRISTMAS TOWN*

Jack could clearly feel Christmas Town was the most beautiful place on earth. The feeling that made him enjoy the life in the new town gives consequences. He did not want to meet the Mayor in Halloweentown. Jack also did not open the door as if he did not want to meet the mayor who expected that Jack would be reminded to prepare himself for Halloween.

4.2 Portraying Personality Traits through Mixing Methods.

As it has been posed previously, this study utilizes the short story entitled "The Nightmare Before Christmas" by Tim Burton from which the data were gathered. The short story is not just interesting but also containing a clear message about transformation from the dark to light life. The main character, Jack Skellington is a skeleton of the Halloween Land. Jack was given the responsibility to make Halloween Land the creepiest place. However, Jack felt really bored of designing tricks and treats. He started to search for a different way of celebration. He had a plan to make it new by planning to have it in Christmas Town. Jack also thought that not only Christmas and Halloween Land were places that people and the world want. He was planning to take over the role of Santa. The interesting part was the change of a tall and lanky skeleton who transformed and dressed up so he could be recognized as everyone's favorite.

The main character, Jack Skellington is described through mixing method, which shows the combination of dramatic method, character on character method, and contextual method. The characterization is used to describe the misadventures of Jack Skellington, Halloween Town's beloved pumpkin king. Jack becomes bored with the same annual routine of frightening people. Jack's life is destined to transform. Accidentally, he finds himself stumbles on Christmas Town. The brightness and its warmth amazed Jack. This aura leads him to think of a new lease on life. He plots to control Christmas that makes him kidnap Santa Claus. Then, Jack thinks of taking over the role. This method represents the character in the story by using more than one method (e.g. dramatic method and character on character method, as well as contextual). The methods, like dramatic, character on other characters, and contextual resulted in combination method reveals the character by presenting the character to the audience through what the character express and how they state it.

The Dramatic Method

Excerpt 4
Jack had to go to the next house. He couldn't wait and watch the boy's
face. But when the child opened the present, he didn't smile. His face went white
and his mouth fell open. He screamed wildly.

Jack heard the boy's screams and he smiled. "He likes it," Jack thought.
"Nobody is scared of me and I'm making everybody happy!"

Excerpt 4 shows that Jack was so enthusiastic about making a Christmas tree. He wanted to discuss with the doctor in Halloween town how to make various Christmas toys and decorations. Jack had a feeling he would be celebrating Christmas in Halloween Town. Jack could strongly feel his curiosity and deep desire to make children happy although it was not directly told by the writer. Jack was working hard even though he had not got satisfactory to answer about what Christmas was and what Christmas meant.

The process of transformation that Jack wants to happen is the change of life from a scary and dark life to something joyful. Obviously, this situation leads to process of making the character shows his dynamic change that as a character, he is a round character. This change is started by Jack's boredom and he has no enthusiasm for doing the things he used to do. The word "bored" indicates how Jack feels about himself. In addition to the expressions in the dialogue with his dog, Jack also said that he no longer wants to frighten people and make them scream in fear. Another thing that shows an indication of change is how Jack seems to avoid people who have been close to him and glorify his name.

Character on Other Characters
Excerpt 5

"I scare people every year, Zero," Jack Skellington said quietly to his dog.
"It's boring and I'm tired. I don't want to hear another scream. Why do I do it?"
"Now I understand... he's bored," Sally thought sadly. "He wants to change
his life... and I want to change mine, too."

In excerpt 5, Jack was a compassionate man and he was full of feelings and carried away by a bad mood. He told Zero who basically showed some sort of uneasiness that he had scared a lot of people. Jack's statement in the dialogue was directly expressing his feelings. In characterizations like this, the reader must carefully interpret and consider his statements related to the psychology of the character, in this case Jack. Several choices of statements were represented with a sort of regret, namely that Jack has been scaring people every year. His words were conveyed softly to Zero, the dog. Jack said that such an atmosphere had made him bored and tired.

The two words, i.e. bored and tired are indications of grievances that made Jack no longer wanted to make people scream. He even questioned why he had to make people scream and make people afraid.

Jack didn't seem to care if his wishes were doubted, he seemed to have completely transformed and showed what he wanted. He just wanted a Santa jacket and red pants. Jack answered happily. Jack was waiting for Christmas with great joy. "I was so excited," He immediately conveyed what he had prepared to Santa Claus. This was a kind of transformation from what he used to do previously and makes him want to do something new. This could be seen from the main expression of Sally, "Now I see... he's bored," Sally dejectedly concluded. He says, "I want to change my life, and I want him to change his." This is the representation of character on character method of presenting the character in the story.

The Contextual Method

Excerpt 6
"Hi, Santa Claus!" said Jack happily. "I'm going to give you a Christmas
present. This year I'll be Santa Claus, so you won't have to work. You can sit
down and enjoy a quiet night here in Halloweentown! I'll do everything. Look! I
have a sleigh, presents, a red jacket and pants!"

The old atmosphere at Halloweentown was contextually different with the transformation that becomes the main idea of Jack as the leading character in the story. The most significant night of the creatures at Halloweentown was Halloween. All members were all terrified. Dead people emerged from the earth. Blood was eagerly consumed by thirsty vampires. Amazingly, some people were turned into cats. This was done by ugly old witches, while others were turned into fish. The sound of the skeletons' long, thin arms and legs made everyone running away. Black birds swooped over the pitch-black sky. All of them screamed loud and high. Additionally, Jack Skellington performed his risky dance and sang his spooky songs. Screams were heard. They were really scared.

Excerpt 6 represents contextual method. The readers must interpret the delineation of the character contextually and compare the interpretation of excerpt 6 with other scenes told in the story. In showing his preparation for Christmas, Jack was excited. However, this was different with what he had when imagining about his past routine that make people scared. Jack was

unhappy. He performed the same songs and danced every year because he found Halloween Land boring. He couldn't tell anyone. Why could he? The town's residents adored him, and they had been anticipating that night all year. Jack was surrounded by several enormous trees, each of which featured a lovely entryway. Strange images were painted on the doors, and each door was unique. A green tree with decorations was on one of the doorways. It was undoubtedly a Christmas tree, but Jack had little knowledge of them. A lovely egg with yellow flowers was on one door. Jack was unaware of Easter, even though it was the Easter door.

5. CONCLUSION

The short story version of "The Nightmare Before Christmas," the work of Tim Burton, shows the transformation of the main character, i.e. Jack Skellington. The identification of personality traits is predominantly found through the transformation of Jack, the main character. Through content analysis focusing on the main character, it is found that the main character is a brave person. He loves to experience new things as a breakthrough to what he has done in the past. In his way of transformation, he is kind of cool person. The short story tells about Jack Skellington's life when he got to celebrate Halloween day every year then he felt bored and want to move and stop all of the things about Halloween party until he found the Christmas town and have a plan to make something new, such a Christmas celebration in Halloween Town, but he failed. Even he was failed, Jack was still trying his best to solve all the problem until all was going well and finally, he had to create and celebrate Christmas in Halloween Town. Jack Skellington is a brave man, loving, loyal, and romantic. He dealt with the problems in his life by doing and finding something new. He showed his responsibility as the distinguished person in his town to make all people happy and find something new in their town and change their town from scariest town into a delight town by create a Christmas celebration in Halloween Town even he did not know well about it.

The main character is a loving and loyal character. When he realizes that actually he has made other people scared, he does not want to continue what he has done many times before. This indicates that he has a compassionate heart but when he has to do that for his obligation, he does it with his responsibility. This is an evidence that he has been loyal to undertake the task given to him. In the case of Jack Skellington, the inner strengths for transformation help the character to be more likeable. In addition, the personality of the main character is delineated through mixing

method. To realize all personality traits the main character has, the mixing method is used. It is done by mixing method, which is a mixed of dramatic, characters on characters and contextual. By means of indirect descriptions and implicit statements, the main character is vividly portrayed. All expressions strengthening the identification on characterization aims at demonstrating the personality traits of the main character.

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