



BOOK REVIEW OF JOHN GREEN AND DAVID LEVITHAN'S

WILL GRAYSON, WILL GRAYSON

A FINAL PROJECT

**In partial Fulfillment of the Requirement
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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis by herself without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains that she does not quote any material from other publications or someone's paper except from the reference mentioned.

Semarang, 7th February 2017

Radot Khatrina Marpaung

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Dan apabila kamu berseru dan datang untuk berdoa kepada-Ku, maka Aku akan mendengarkan kamu”.

(Yeremia 29 : 12)

“Diberkatilah orang yang mengandalkan Tuhan, yang menaruh harapanya pada Tuhan.”

(Yeremia 17 : 7)

Always do your best, and let God do next

(My Father)

This final project is dedicated to my the One and Only, Jesus Christ and my beloved parents

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The writer believes that this final project is still far from perfect. Therefore, the writer will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better. The writer hopes this final project will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn the review of the Novel John Green and David Levithan's *Will Grayson Will Grayson*.

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1. INTRODUCTION

There are many kinds of literary works in the world. Then, there are several types of literary works which are novel, drama, short story and poem. They have their own characteristics. Many kinds of literary works can be found easily and have been read by many people as the source of knowledge. Literary works can describe feeling, thinking, and human doing. One of the most interesting literary works that the writer ever read is novel. Novel is one of the literary works in literature that tells narrative story of the characters and their habit which give sense to the readers and also gives strong effect to the readers. “Novel is longer and more complex, requiring a series of sessions for its delivery” (Stevenson,1960: 3). It means that, novel tells the story more detail.

Will Grayson Will Grayson is a best seller novel which is written by John Green and David Levithan. Both of them have different styles of write the story in this novel. In appendix of the novel, there is a conversation between John Green and David Levithan. In that conversation David Levithan said that the reason will grayson writes in lowercase is simple that's how he sees himself. He is a lowercase person. From that conversation, the writer of this project knows about the different style of the writer of *Will Grayson Will Grayson*. John Green told about Will Grayson with capital letter. Then, David Levithan told about will grayson with lowercase letter.

Will Grayson Will Grayson is a novel about two persons who have the same name but they have different daily life. The main characters of this novel are Will

Grayson and will grayson. According to Margaret Lucke, she says that “Characters are the first essential ingredient in any successful story” (1998:28). It means that the story becomes more interesting for the reader to really feel both main characters. The reason why the novel is interesting to review because the reader can get moral value for accepting other people, understanding the meaning of love, working hard, and not giving up. The story more becomes more interesting as it told from two different person but they have the same name. Both of them are very different each other. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* takes the reader to really feel both main characters in the novel which has different worlds. The content of the novel also makes the writer always curious about what will happen next in the story.

The main purpose of this book review is to give the summary and give the review of the novel *Will Grayson Will Grayson*. After that, the writer wants to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the novel based on how the author delivery each story in this novel. The Strengths and weaknesses of each story in this novel are very important to review and to add the reader’s knowledge from this story. There are two authors in this novel. They are John Green and David Levithan.

. John Michael Green was born on August 24, 1977 in Indianapolis, Indiana. John Green is one of the poplar guy In America because he has some Literary Works. One of the famous novels is *The Fault In Our Star*. It becomes the number one of the New York Times best seller list in 2012. John Green is the recipient of the Michael L. Printz on 2006, he won a Edgar Award on 2009, and he is a finalist for Los Angels

Times Book Prize. Not only write a novel, he is a YouTube video- blogger or vlogger with his brother. The name of YouTube channel is *Vlogbrother*. Will Grayson, Will Grayson is the novel which he can work together with his friend David Levithan. (johngreenbooks.com/bio-contact/).

David Leviathan was born on September 7, 1972. He is an American young adult fiction author and editor. His first novel is *Boy Meet Boys* about teen gay. He is one of the famous writers because he makes many kind of Novel. Then, he is the founding editor of the PUSH imprint, which is devoted to finding new voices and new authors in teen literature. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* is his second collaboration with other author. Before that, he is collaboration with Rachel Cohn. They have written a novel. The title *Naomi And Ely's No Kiss List*. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* is a great novel that written by John Green and David Levithan.
[\(http://davidlevithan.com/about/\)](http://davidlevithan.com/about/)

2. SUMMARY OF JOHN GREEN AND DAVID LEVITHAN'S *WILL GRAYSON WILL GRAYSON*

There are two main characters: Will Grayson and will grayson in this novel. Both of them have different life, different background of family, and different love story.

Will Grayson is a man who never believes a person can choose his own friends according to their need. He has a best friend since fifth grade. His name is Tiny

Cooper. Tiny Cooper is not a big man, not someone who has a high position, but Tiny Cooper has something different that makes him useful for others. Both of them always support what his friend wants to do. Tiny Cooper is gay but Tiny Cooper and Will Grayson are not a couple. Tiny Cooper and Will Grayson are best friend. Tinny Cooper is one of the leaders of the Gay in their town. Not only that, Tiny cooper is the best member of shifty football team. Will Grayson knows about that, he always support what his friend wants to do in his life. In his family life, Will Grayson grows with formal family. His father always uses the formal word when he wants to talk to Will Grayson. His father always discusses about what Will Grayson must do. He wants to make a good plan for Will Grayson. Then, Will Grayson believes that his parents always know what the best plan for their child.

will grayson is a man who lives in despair. He thinks that he is not useful anymore. Many people think that will grayson is a depressed person because he does not care about other people. There is one person who cares about will grayson and she wants to know about him. Her name is Maura. will grayson does not want to tell about his story to Maura. He only wants to talk with his online friend. His name is Isaac. They can talk what they always do in their daily life. will grayson's mother is a housewife. will grayson does not want to tell something important to his mother. He thinks that his mother has her own life. They live in the same home, but they do not know what other people do in their room.

Frency is a porn shop in Chicago. That place was the first time for Will Grayson met will grayson. Tiny Cooper wanted to meet Will Grayson in there. will grayson wanted to meet his online friend. When will grayson knew that Issac was not real person, he was very disappointed. will grayson wanted to go home because he did not meet with Issac. There was a special moment in there because Tiny Cooper kissed will grayson without knew each other. He was very shock when he knew that will grayson had the same name with his friend. Tiny Cooper thought that he is very lucky because he can love two persons with the same name. Will Grayson as a best friend and will grayson as his girl friend.

One day Tiny Cooper fought with Will Grayson because they have different opinion. They did not want to meet each other. Tiny cooper decided to take care will grayson. He came to will grayson's house with many kind of present. Tiny Cooper was accepted in will grayson's house. Will Grayson felt that he missed his best friend. He tried to looking for Tiny Cooper in his house but he can not find Tiny Cooper. Will Grayson send the message from email then, he said sorry for miss understanding. After that day, Tiny Cooper and Will Grayson worked together to finish the big project of Tiny Cooper. Then, Will Grayson accepted Jane in his life. Will Grayson said that he loved Jane because Jane can understand him.

Finally, Tiny Cooper finished his big event. After finish the play, will grayson stand up in front of many people. Then, he said that he loved Tiny Cooper very much. And then, Will Grayson said that he loves Jane too. Both of them already found their

own love. They are very happy because they can find their own love. From that, we can know what the meaning of love.

3. REVIEW OF JOHN GREEN AND DAVID LEVITHAN'S *WILL GRAYSON*

WILL GRAYSON

Will Grayson Will Grayson is interesting novel to read. There are some interesting points that comprise the strengths and weakness of this novel which will be explained in following discussion.

3.1 The Strengths of John Green and David Levithan's *Will Grayson Will Grayson*

Will Grayson Will Grayson has its strengths from theme, characters, and setting. These strengths will be explained in this discussion.

3.1.1 Theme

Theme is one of the important things that the reader must understand in a Novel. Theme is the central idea or meaning of the story. There are three kinds of theme in this novel. The first is about homosexuality. In America, everybody can choose what they want to do. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* shows that American can love the person who has the same gander with them. This novel shows a story which represent real life of young people in America try to get a good reputation although they are gay. In the beginning of the story, will grayson is shy to say that he is a gay.

When will grayson met Tiny Cooper, he was not shy to receive Tiny as his Boy friend as can be seen from what will grayson said below:

the truth is, i do mind. but i know that since he's my boyfriend, the answer should be that i don't mind at all.he'd probably carry me to class in his arm, if i asked him nicely. i take his hand, which is big and slippery. but i guess i can't hide the worry on my face, because he takes one look and lets go. (Green & Levithan, 2010: 228).

There are many kinds of novel that have stories about homosexuality. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* told different story with other novel. The story of this novel told about same gendre couple is not always bad for person's life. It can make other person have a better life. As will grayson said: "i don't want to fall. all i want to do is stand on solid ground. and the weird thing is, i feel like i'm doing that now. Because i am trying to do something good. in the same way that tiny is trying to do something good" (Green & Levithan, 2010: 301). will grayson actually wants to have a bright future as Tiny Cooper. will grayson wants to have a new life because of Tiny Cooper. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* gives some message to the readers. First, how we can be ourselves. Second, how we can do our best in life. The important thing is how we can love each other sincerely.

The second theme in *Will Grayson Will Grayson* is very interesting for the reader. The theme is about friendship. The novel pictures the young people's friendship in so many different ways. In the beginning of the story: "Tiny has been my best friend since fifth grade" (Green & Levithan, 2010: 3). From that, the reader can know that Tiny Cooper and Will Grayson are best friend. They have a strong

relationship as a best friend. Tiny Cooper and Will Grayson have so many problems but still believes that they are best friend. Tiny said: “and because I’m sitting next to him and he’s my best and only friend” (Green & Levithan, 2010:3). Tiny Cooper wants other people know about his relationship with Will Grayson. The contain of this story is good for giving the explanation about friendship. The meaning of friendship was clearly explain in this novel. Will Grayson said: “At school on Friday, I eat lunch superfast, which is easy enough to do because Tiny and I are sitting with table full of drama People, and they are discussing *Tiny Dancer*, all of them speaking more words per minute than I speak in a day” (Green & Levithan, 2010: 84). Through this, Will Grayson show how much he want to know about his friend want to do. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* gives some message to the reader. A friend is someone who understand all about you and still loves you.

The third theme of this novel is about love for family. The theme makes the reader more interested and love to read the novel since both characters come from different backgraund of family. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* has two different characters and backgraund of family which inderectly wants the reader to know that love happen in the family. The First Will Grayson’s parents always care to him. Will Grayson’s family ussually spend their time together. “The night I’m waiting for my parents to come home so we can eat” (Green & Levithan, 2010: 80). The second will grayson’s family does not like to eat together. They can do what they want to do in their room. will grayson said:

“i totally don’t get this. is there anything more boring and pathetic than setting the table when there are only two of you? i mean, with place mats and salad forks and everything who is she kidding? i would give anything not to have to spend the next twenty minutes sitting across from her, because she doesn’t believe in letting silent go” (Green & Levithan, 2010: 31).

Will Grayson Will Grayson gives two different background families. It can make the reader understand how characters are formed. Both of the main characters come from different family. Actually, this novel teaches that family is everything. Every family has their own way to love his/her family. Will Grayson’s mother said: “it’s your right, i guess. but if you want to skip that step, it’s fine with me” (Green & Levithan, 2010: 165). Will Grayson’s mother wanted to receive her son is a gay. She thought that it would be better for her son. Basically, family is everything. That was the great message from *Will Grayson Will Grayson*.

3.1.2 Characters

The second strength is characters in this novel. Kennedy said: “A character then, is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story” (2007: 74). Without a central character there is no story. Will Grayson and Will Grayson are the main characters in this novel. This novel tells about the unique character because the story tells about the same name but had different character.

Will Grayson is teenager who is busy studying to continue to the next steps. He wanted to continue his life with his own rule. He must obey what the rule that he already made. Will Grayson is really care of what his parents think of him because his father always give the best for him. “Well, I listen to my parents. They know

what's good for me. I'll listen to anyone, frankly. Almost everyone know better than I do" (Green & Levithan, 2010: 74). In the quotation, the reader know what Will Grayson actually do in his life. He wants to make his parents are proud of him. Will Grayson love his parents very much. He wants to be a good son for his parents.

will grayson think that he does not need other person in his life. He does not like the crowded place. He does not care about other person around him. He is a gay. will grayson is so sad when he was leaved by his father. "i do not eat breakfast. i never eat breakfast. i haven't eaten breakfast since i was able to walk out the back door without eating breakfast first" (Green & Levithan, 2010: 20). From that quotes, the reader can know about will grayson's attitude. John Green and David Levithan write the story of Will Grayson and will grayson are very good. The reader can know about the different character clearly.

The different characteristic of Will Grayson and will grayson make this story more interesting. Both of characters have the same portion as central character. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* bring a great picture of teenager in America. John Green and David Levithan create both of characters is very good. The reader can get motivation and emotion from the characters.

3.1.3 Setting

The settings of the story are clearly described by the author. "Setting is where the action takes place and includes both the physical location as well as the time period"(McGe, *Analyzing Literature A Guide for Students*,

<http://wps.ablongman.com/wps/media/objects/327/335558/AnalyzingLit.pdf> accessed on September 4, 2016). There are so many locations that explain in this story. The location is not difficult to understand by the reader because the location is familiar for the society in there. Setting is the time, place, and situation in which story take place. The setting in this novel is explained clearly especially in the setting of place. Chicago is one of the setting in this story. The novel tells the reader about picture of Chicago. The reader can fell about the situation in Chicago from the story. “i want to jump ahead in time because in twenty hours i will be with Isaac in Chicago” (Green & Levithan, 2010: 93). From that sentence the reader will know the setting clearly. The reader can imagine how the situation of the location.

Freency is one of the different place in Chicago. In the novel, *Freency* was told by the author clearly. It can help the reader can understand about that place. “Why the hell would he ask you to go to Frenchy’s ? Good question. Why would someone go to a porn store?” (Green & Levithan, 2010: 110). From that senstence the reader can know that *Freency* is a porn shop. Then, the reader can know how the situation in there. It can help the reader to understand about the story.

Will Grayson Will Grayson tells about the different place to study. Will Grayson’s parents think about the quality of the the school. From this quote the reader can know that Will grayson can get better program for studying.

“It’s never too early to plan, he says. And then he starts talking about program at Northwestern where you do both college and medical school in, like, six years so that you can be in residency by time you’re twenty-five, and you can stay close to home of course live on campus and whatever whatever whatever,

because after about eleven second, I realize he and mom have decided I should go to this particular program" (Green & Levithan, 2010: 74).

It is amazing because the authors John Green and David Levithan know about the condition in Chicago. They describe the setting clearly so the reader can understand about condition of Chicago. Although the readers are not grown up in some of these place, the reader can feel the condition in there. After reading *Will Grayson Will grayson*, the reader can be familiar with some of the place in Chicago.

3.2 THE WEAKNESS OF JOHN GREEN AND DAVID LEVITHAN'S *WILL GRAYSON WILL GRAYSON*

Will Grayson Will Grayson have numbers of strengths but this novel has some weaknesses too. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* also some weakness in language and the ending of the story.

3.2.1 Language

Language is a way to communicate with other person in world. Language is very important for understanding the story of the novel. In the novel, a change of word could change the entire meaning. The authors of this novel have different language to tell the story. John Green writes the story with formal language and then David Levithan with informal language. This is formal language of John Green: "Nothing happens for a week. I don't mean this figuratively, like there is a shortage of significant events. I mean that no things occur. It's sort of heavenly, to tell you the truth" (Green & Levithan, 2010: 36). Then, this is informal language of David Levithan:

boundbydad : u there ?
boundbydad : I'm wishin'
boundbydad : and hopin'
boundbydad : and prayin' (Green & Levithan, 2010: 65)

The weakness that come from the language because the readers are not native of the language. They can not understand about the story if they do not know about the meaning of the story. The words in the novel which are not easy to understand by the readers are: "hopin'", "U". Not all the reader can understand about informal language. The reader can be confused to understand about the meaning. It will be easier for the reader if the language of the story write in formal language. Then, the reader can enjoy to read the novel if they know all of the meaning.

3.2.2 The Ending of *Will Grayson Will Grayson*

Ending is small part of the story but it is very important thing to know. When the reader read the novel, they usually want to know the end of the story. The ending is sad or the ending is happy. The end of *Will Grayson Will Grayson* makes the reader especially the writer of this project is disappointed. "one by one, everyone on stage tells tiny cooper they appreciate him. then the audience gets into the act. row by row. some say it. some sing it tiny's crying. i'm craying. everyone's crying" (Green & Levithan, 2010: 307). The ending tells about what Tiny Cooper can do in his life. It is not about Will Grayson and will grayson. The writer thinks the ending of this story is not really good. It is better if the ending of the story tell about both Will Grayson. The fact is Will grayson and will grayson is the main characters in this novel.

4. CONCLUSION

Will Gryson Will Grayson is a novel about teenager life in America. This novel tells about the story of two different teenagers trying to find their own life. The main characters Will Grayson and will grayson are from different background. Then, they can be better person after they can find their perfect match and lives happily.

Will Grayson Will Grayson presents an interesting theme, characters, and setting. There are several themes in this novel. They are: Homosexuality, friendship, and love for family. These theme make the story more interesting to read because each themes can give a good message for the reader. Beside those themes, the characters are the strength of this novel. The different characteristic but they have the same name in this book make the readers are not bored to read the story. Another strengths in this novel is setting of the story. It makes the reader can enjoy the location when the reader read the story. However, these are some weakness found in this novel. The use of informal language that makes the story is hard to understand. Then, the ending of the story is not interesting because the ending tells about other character in this story. It is not totally about Will Grayson and will grayson.

Although there are many strengths and weakness in this novel, *Will Grayson Will Grayson* is a recommended book to read by the reader. This novel is worth reading because this novel gives many kinds of moral value, entertainment, and new experience. The novel can make the readers know about many kind of love. The reader will know how to love each other. *Will Grayson Will Grayson* is great novel.

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