

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

This research thesis discusses the portrayal of morality of the children as reflected in three short stories: "The Golden Windows," "The Pig Brother," and "The Coming of the King," all written by Laura E. Richards. In "The Golden Windows," the story follows a young boy from a poor farming family who, after being granted a day off by his father, sets out to find a distant house with golden windows he has admired from afar. Along his journey, he meets new people, explores unfamiliar surroundings, and ultimately discovers that the golden glow he admired is an illusion created by the sunset. When he looks back from the hill, he sees his own home shining with the same golden light, leading to a profound realization about contentment, perception, and the value of what he already has. In "The Pig Brother," a child learns to recognize the importance of order and self-respect through a transformative encounter with the Tidy Angel and a pig that reflects his untidiness. In "The Coming of the King," a group of children works together in hopeful anticipation of the king's visit, only to find meaning in a humble traveller, thus reflecting growth in kindness, humility, and communal values.

This research thesis covers both intrinsic and extrinsic discussion. The intrinsic discussion of the short stories focuses on the character and characterization of the children, the settings, and the conflicts presented throughout the narratives. The boy in "The Golden Windows" is portrayed as

hardworking, curious, generous, responsible, and emotionally mature. Similarly, the child in "The Pig Brother" and the children in "The Coming of the King" also display moral growth through their actions and choices. The settings, from the boy's modest home to the hilltop in "The Golden Windows," from the nursery and garden in "The Pig Brother," to the playground and wall in "The Coming of the King," serve as meaningful backdrops that reflect the children's evolving understanding. The conflicts include both internal struggles, such as dissatisfaction, realization, and moral clarity, and external tensions with other characters or expectations. These elements work together to depict each child's moral development and personal transformation.

Meanwhile, by using the theory of morality, this research thesis explores the extrinsic elements that focus on the portrayal of the children's morality, the factors influencing their moral development, and the effects of that growth. The portrayal of morality examines how the children show obedience to authority, whether to parents, symbolic figures like the Tidy Angel, or respected elders, and how they pursue self-understanding, build positive relationships, and uphold responsibility. The factors influencing their morality are shaped by environmental knowledge, the freedom to think and act independently, and emotional experiences that deepen their understanding of others. The effects of this moral growth are visible in how the children prioritize values over self-interest, develop confidence in ethical decision-making, and grow in solidarity through cooperation and empathy. These outcomes emphasize the richness of their moral

transformation, marked by integrity, emotional maturity, and a growing sense of community.

This research thesis can provide insights into how morality in children can be understood through literature. By analyzing the children's experiences, choices, and personal growth across "The Golden Windows," "The Pig Brother," and "The Coming of the King," readers, especially educators, parents, and scholars, can gain a better understanding of how moral values are processed and internalized through storytelling. The findings show that children's literature is not only a source of entertainment but also a meaningful tool for teaching ethical principles and supporting emotional and social development. Through stories like these, readers are invited to reflect on the importance of gratitude, empathy, and perspective, making literature a powerful medium for shaping moral awareness from an early age.