

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this research, it can be concluded that Julie Murphy's *Dumplin'* portrays the struggles of Willowdean Dickson in relation to The Beauty Myth and her journey to go beyond it. The intrinsic analysis shows that Willowdean experiences both internal and external conflicts that shape her character development. Internally, she struggles with her acceptance. Externally, her conflicts with social expectations are affecting the relationship between Willowdean and her mother, her romantic relationship with Bo, and her friendship with Ellen. This demonstrates how the beauty myth negatively impacts her whole life. The settings, particularly Clover City, Texas, America in the 21st century.

From the extrinsic perspective, the application of Naomi Wolf's *The Beauty Myth* reveals how Willowdean's experiences are influenced by three key aspects: work, culture, and sex, while the concept of "Beyond the Myth" demonstrates her resistance. In the aspects of work, the Professional Beauty Qualification (PBQ) highlights how women's worth is often tied to attractiveness, limiting opportunities. In the aspects of culture, the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant represents the institutionalization of beauty standards, where appearance dictates social value. In the aspects of sex, Willowdean's relationship with Bo shows how intimacy is shaped and constrained by insecurity tied to body image. Finally, "Beyond the Myth" is shows how Willowdean

learns to resist these pressures, choosing to embrace her individuality, reconcile with loved ones, and reject competition among women in favor of solidarity.

Overall, Willowdean's journey reflects the harmful influence of the beauty myth on women's personal lives and relationships, but also demonstrates the possibility of resistance. By facing her insecurities and refusing to conform to narrow definitions of beauty, Willowdean asserts that her value is not determined by appearance.