

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

As Far AS You'll Take Me is a literary work written by Phill Stamper. This novel tells the story of the main character, Marty Pierce who faces numerous internal conflicts arising from environmental pressures, his sexual identity, and concerns about his future. He is depicted as both intelligent and brave, yet he is also plagued by anxiety and self-doubt. The setting of Avery, Kentucky, represents oppression and constraints, which leaves Marty Pierce feeling stifled and unable to live authentically. In contrast, London offers Marty Pierce a renewed sense of hope in his quest for identity and the freedom he yearns for. The conflicts that Marty Pierce encounters are not solely a result of his environment but also originate from within, particularly his feelings of guilt towards his family and his apprehension about forming emotional bonds with others. Marty Pierce's journey to London symbolizes his pursuit of identity and his struggle for self-acceptance. Additionally, the shift in location from Avery to London signifies a transition from a life filled with stress to one brimming with opportunities. Therefore, the novel illustrates how one's environment and life experiences can significantly shape personality development.

Marty Pierce experiences three distinct forms of anxiety as outlined in Sigmund Freud's theory: neurotic anxiety, reality anxiety, and moral anxiety. Neurotic anxiety manifests in Marty Pierce's panic when he is in crowded places or when he confronts emotional intimacy with others. Reality anxiety stems from his

apprehension about confronting the harsh realities of life in London, which is rife with competition, job instability, and financial pressures. On the other hand, moral anxiety is a result of his feelings of guilt after deceiving his family to attain a sense of freedom in his life. To alleviate this anxiety, Marty Pierce employs various ego defense mechanisms, including denial, repression, and rationalization. Denial is evident when he refuses to recognize his genuine emotional condition, repression is apparent when he attempts to bury painful memories related to his family, and rationalization surfaces when he seeks to justify the risks and hardships he endures in pursuit of a better future. All these manifestations of anxiety and the corresponding ego defense mechanisms illustrate that Marty Pierce is an individual grappling with the challenges of survival and personal growth amid life's pressures. Consequently, the narrative of Marty Pierce portrays the journey of self-maturation, the quest for freedom, and the struggle to embrace his complete identity.