

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Cackle is a relatable novel containing psychological elements that contribute to the development of a woman who experiences many struggles in her life. Annie Crane, the major character, has to fulfill her five hierarchy of needs proposed by Abraham Maslow because she should start her life over due to the breakup and movement to Rowan. The process of fulfilling her needs is not easy because Annie has to face some struggles related to each need she tries to fulfill. She reveals herself distinctively because she has developed into a self-actualized and better woman after successfully fulfilling her hierarchy of needs. The first need is physiological needs, which Annie almost fails to fulfill because she lacks money to support her life in New York. To fulfill this need, Annie decides to move to Rowan and accept a new job. Her salary in Rowan helps her to fulfill her physiological needs. The evidence is Annie's ability to fulfill her needs for a place to live and sleep, food, water, and air.

Second, it is the security and safety needs. The struggle that Annie faces to fulfill this need is the acceptance of bullying, which threatens her well-being. Annie successfully fulfills this by seeking protection from Sophie who eventually resolves the bullying and eliminates the source of the threat to Annie's life. As evidence, the students start fearing Annie, and they do not bully her anymore. Sometime later, she becomes secure and safe because of Sophie's help.

Third, it is the need for love and belonging. The absence of giving and receiving love from family, friends, and a partner prevents Annie from fulfilling her third need. Besides, Annie also experiences loneliness because she puts much importance on partnership, and it causes her to believe that having a partner is essential in her life to feel less lonely. After Annie moves past those obstacles by building a friendship with Sophie and gaining self-love to shift her belief, Annie successfully fulfills her third need.

Fourth, it is the esteem needs. Initially, Annie could not fulfill this need because the two subsidiary sets related to it were not achieved. The first subsidiary is self-respect, consisting of the desire for adequacy, confidence, independence and freedom. Annie achieves all of those desires. The desire for adequacy is achieved through utilizing self-love to build self-respect to remove the feeling of inadequacy caused by Sam. The desire for confidence is achieved through Sophie as she helps Annie gain confidence by making her feel special and self-assured. The desire for independence and freedom is achieved by speaking up and protesting against Sophie in order to gain her independence and freedom in decision-making. As a result, she gains self-respect. The second subsidiary is respect from others, consisting of the desire for attention, importance, and appreciation. Annie achieves all of these through being a good friend and a good person which earns her attention, importance, and appreciation from other people. Hence, she easily gains the respect from others.

Fifth, it is the self-actualization. After going through ups and downs, Annie finds her potential which she can maximize, and she also finds who she is

meant to be. However, she still has to face an obstacle before she can actualize herself. The obstacle is the fear coming from herself in the form of fear of being ostracized which makes Annie question her ability to be fully independent. After she triumphs over it by deciding to stay in Rowan and accepting herself, Annie finally reaches self-actualization. She successfully maximizes her potential as an independent woman and finally accepts herself as a woman with a magical attribute that turns her into extraordinary.

The fulfillment of her hierarchy of needs changes Annie's characterization because by actualizing herself, Annie adopts some characteristics of a self-actualized person. Those characteristics are she has a good perception of reality, accepts everything as what they are, is authentic, is a self-decider, is independent and autonomous, as well as has a peak experience. As a result, Annie adapts to her new life and changes into a more confident, independent, autonomous, and authentic woman, contrasting her past characterization in which she has low self-esteem and is a people pleaser.

In sum, Rachel Harrison's *Cackle* tells a story about how Annie Crane navigates through life after her breakup. Her development as an actualized character can be seen through the fulfillment of her hierarchy of needs as it shows her struggles for self-actualization. This study shows how Annie fulfills her five needs and how her hierarchy of needs relates to her characterization. The relation is proven by showing the changes in Annie's characterization after she fulfills her hierarchy of needs. The writer suggests further study on other characters or psychological elements in this study, as many gaps are available for English

Literature students to study. The writer also suggests that the general readership review Annie Crane's hierarchy of needs as it can help them to reflect on their life and hopefully motivate their self-development.