

## **CHAPTER III**

### **ANALYSIS**

#### **3.1 Intrinsic Elements**

The intrinsic elements are important when interpreting the entire narrative. The subject of a narrative can be identified through the examination of its structural components. This intrinsic element analysis in this study primarily focuses on character, characterisation, conflict, and setting.

##### **3.1.1 Character and Characterization**

In *The Magician's Elephant*, there are more than one character, such as Vilna (Peter's guardian), Leo and Gloria Matienne (Peter's Neighbor), Adele (Peter's lost little sister), The Magician, The Fortuneteller, and other additional characters. In this character and characterisation discussion, there are four characters are described and analysed, such as Peter Augustus Duchene, Vilna Lutz, the Magician, and Adele.

##### **3.1.1.1 Peter Augustus Duchene**

Peter Augustus Duchene, or Peter, is a ten-year-old orphan boy who lives in the city of Baltese. In the time following the death of his parents, he is being raised by his guardian, an elderly soldier, Vilna Lutz, who is a severe and duty-bound individual. Vilna urges that Peter prioritise duty and discipline above all else throughout their time together. Vilna raises Peter with strict regulations and minimal affection. Despite this, Peter derives comfort and a sense of community from his caring neighbours, Leo and Gloria Matienne. The Matiennes couple

extend their empathy and generosity to Peter, providing the emotional support he lacks at home.

Peter is a small boy who is a very determined and resilient person. Once he establishes a goal, he relentlessly pursues it, and his decisions remain unwavering. This can be seen in Peter's words in his mind when he encounters the fortuneteller's tent, "I want to know the truth. And so I will do it" (DiCamillo, 2009:4). Even after learning that his sister had passed away, he remains determined to uncover the truth about her presence.

Peter's determination sometimes makes him stubborn. This can be seen on the narrator's narration in the book, "there was no single elephant in sight. Still, Peter's stubborn heart would not be silenced. It beat out the two simple, impossible words over and over again: *She lives, she lives, she lives*" (DiCamillo, 2009:8). That quotation shows Peter knows well that it is rather difficult to locate an elephant in Baltese, however, Peter maintains his faith in the fortuneteller's statement to follow an elephant to find Adele.

Because of Vilna's strict regulation, Peter grows up as someone who cannot lie since he thinks it is a dishonourable thing to do. This shows in Peter's words, "truly, I cannot, for if I do, Vilna Lutz will ask where the money has gone and I will have to lie, and it is a very dishonorable thing to lie" (DiCamillo, 2009:1). In that quotation, Peter has to running an errand from Vilna to use the money to buy fish and bread at the market. However, he decides to use the money on the fortuneteller, and he is so afraid of lying to Vilna. Moreover, Peter also decides to find the truth about his sister, this shows in Peter's words, "I want

to know the truth. And so I will do it” (DiCamillo, 2009:4). Along the journey to find the truth, Peter also committed to himself to not lie through it, which can be seen in Peter’s statement, “I will not lie about it, and in that way, I will remain at least partly honorable” (DiCamillo, 2009:4).

Since Vilna urges that Peter prioritise duty and discipline above all, he also grows up as a person who is a gentleman and respectful. Regardless of how strict and tough Vilna is towards him, Vilna never harm him. Peter also treats others very respectfully, such as greeting other people with excellent manners. This shows in Peter’s greeting towards Gloria Matienne, “good evening, Madam Matienne” (DiCamillo, 2009:135). In his greeting to Gloria, Peter removed his hat and bowed as well. The way he bows and hats off to Gloria is a subtle but telling indication of his gentlemanly nature.

### **3.1.1.2 Vilna Lutz**

Vilna Lutz is an old man and a soldier. He is also Peter’s father’s friend who served on the battlefield before the father’s death. It shows in Peter's words when he discusses who Vilna is: "Vilna Lutz served with him and fought beside him. He was his friend. He came to our house to deliver the news of my father’s death" (DiCamillo, 2009:140). After Peter’s father and mother died, Vilna became Peter's guardian and took care of Peter. Vilna is a short, old man who strictly shaped Peter to be a soldier like his father. Vilna even calls Peter "Private Duchene" (DiCamillo, 2009:10). Vilna is so strict with Peter and has minimal affection towards Peter. It can be seen in Vilna's words to Peter, “You must ask the fishmonger for two fish and no more,” and “Ask him for the smallest ones”

(DiCamillo, 2009:17). Vilna specifically wanted a tiny fish, and Peter had to follow his order.

### **3.1.1.3 The Magician**

The Magician is the character who makes an elephant appear in Baltese. The Magician's Elephant refers to the elephant which occurs because of the magician's broken magic spell. The magician is a man while the elephant is a female. The occurrence of the elephant started when the magician had to perform his magic at the Bliffendorf Opera House. He wants to show the most astonishing magic in his career to conjure a bouquet of lilies. However, due to his failing reputation, he instead brought an elephant. This is illustrated in the narration: "He intended to conjure a bouquet of lilies, but instead, the magician brought forth an elephant" (DiCamillo, 2009:13). The elephant crashed through the ceiling of the opera house and landed on the lap of the noblewoman, Madam LaVaughn, who later imprisoned the magician due to his action.

### **3.1.1.4 Adele**

Following the death of their parents, Adele, Peter's younger sister, finds herself on her own. She is currently 6, almost 7 years old, and was separated from Peter when she was an infant, which means that Peter was only 3 years old at the time of their separation, because, in recent times, Peter is 10 years old. Vilna cared for Peter, while the Sisters of Perpetual Light, an orphanage, took care of Adele. It can be seen in the narration about Adele's shelter, "overlarge dormitory was occupied by a small girl named Adele, who, soon after the

incident at the opera house, began to dream of the magician's elephant" (DiCamillo, 2009:69).

### **3.1.2 Conflict**

Conflict is the tension between characters or their direct opposition. In this study, there is an internal conflict happening between Peter and his thoughts about considering which one to believe regarding his sister's status. Moreover, there is also an external conflict that happened between Vilna (Peter's guardian) and Peter.

#### **3.1.2.1 Internal Conflict**

The inner conflict in this story is between Peter and himself. It starts when Peter remembers his memory of seeing his little sister, which motivates him to find the truth by doubting whether she is indeed dead or alive, as Vilna Lutz had told him she is dead. When a fortuneteller states to Peter that his sister is alive, his determination is further tested, and Peter finds himself split between Vilna's claims which says Adele is dead, and the words of the fortuneteller, which tell Peter that Adele is still alive. This confusion can be seen in Peter's monologue, "it is just some grand and terrible joke that the fortuneteller has told me, my sister is not alive, there is no reason to Hope" (DiCamillo, 2009:53). This insight turns into a turning point that starts Peter's psychological and emotional battle with uncertainty, hope, and dread.

After all of those battles between him and himself, in the end, he chooses to believe his sister is alive, which can be seen in Peter's words to Vilna. "She lives, and an elephant will lead me to her. And because an elephant has come out

of nowhere, out of nothing, I believe her. Not you. I do not, I cannot, any longer believe you” (DiCamillo, 2009:99).

The tension of uncertainty follows him everywhere, dragging him between doubt and faith. This belief drives him ahead in his search for the truth, independent of all the challenges.

### **3.1.2.2 External Conflict**

This story's external conflict revolves around Peter and Vilna Lutz. The plot opens with Peter remembering happy times spent with his father as a kid, which shows in the narration, “his father holding him, catching him, in the garden” (DiCamillo, 2009:98). This memory ultimately leads Peter to realise the foolishness of soldiering, “And for the first time, soldiering did not, in any way, seem like a man's work to Peter. Instead, it seemed like foolishness” (DiCamillo, 2009:97-98).

Following this, Peter tells Vilna that he believes his sister is alive. Peter faces denial and attempts to be convinced once again that his sister has passed away by Vilna Lutz, who raises him in a cold and distant environment with little love. The tension rises as Vilna admits he lies about his younger sister to shield Peter from harm. This can be seen in this dialogue between Peter and Vilna.

Peter : "You said she died. Time and again, you told me that she was dead. You lied."

Vilna : "Do not call it a lie. Call it scientific conjecture. Babies without their mothers often will not live. And she was so small."

Peter : "You lied to me."

Vilna : "No, no, Private Duchene. I lied for you, to protect you."

(DiCamillo, 2009:102)

From the quote above, at the end, Vilna admits to Peter that he is lying to him because Adele was so small, this can be seen in Vilna's statement, "I did not take your sister, because the midwife would not let me; she was so small, so impossibly small. What do I know of infants and their needs? I know of soldiering, not mothering" (DiCamillo, 2009:102). Moreover, the reason why Vilna lies to Peter is also because he wants to protect Peter from the pain of knowing his sister's condition and making Peter anxious.

### **3.1.3 Settings**

There are three different types of settings in a narrative such as place, time, and social context. Therefore, the majority of settings mentioned below will relate to and affect Peter's journey in achieving his needs.

#### **3.1.3.1 Settings of Place**

Baltese is the primary location in this book. People like Peter and other fictional characters call this city home. Even after his family split up, Peter remained in this city and eventually moved in with his guardian. This shows in the opening narration, "In the market square of the city of Baltese, there stood a boy with a hat on his head and a coin in his hand" (DiCamillo, 2009:1). Moreover, another setting of place that often appears and relates to the character's journey is Apartment polonaise. This is where Peter and his guardian, as well as his closest neighbour, lived. This can be seen in this narration when the narrator describes Peter's action, "He squared his shoulder, adjusted his hat, and began the long walk back to the Apartment Polonaise" (DiCamillo, 2009:8). Apartment Polonaise is a shelter as well as Peter's home to come back.

Furthermore, there is also the orphanage of the Sisters of Perpetual Light, which is a shelter for Peter's younger sister lived during the separation.

Baltese is considered a small city because the news of the elephant appearing in Baltese is delivered easily through Peter's ears. Moreover, the distance from Apartment Polonaise, where Peter lived, to the orphanage where Adele lives is less than five blocks. Although the distance between the Apartment Polonaise and Sisters of Perpetual Light is less than five blocks, Peter and Adele never encounter each other before the journey begins. The long separation is due to Vilna's misguided belief that Adele was dead, even though Vilna himself did not know the truth. As a result, Peter did not attempt to search for his little sister before he met the fortuneteller. Moreover, the orphanage has strict access regulations that make it difficult for Adele to go outside. It shows in the narration, "Sister Marie (the Sister of the Door, the nun who admitted unwanted children to the orphanage, and the only person ever allowed to open and close the front door of the Orphanage of the Sisters of Perpetual Light)" (DiCamillo, 2009: 69).

### **3.1.3.2 Settings of Time**

The time setting that followed Peter's journey in this story is "at the end of the century before last" (DiCamillo, 2009:1). The book does not give more specific years or times about the historical background. The story also happens after a war since some text mentions how characters live during the war, like the statement by Sister Marie, the person responsible for the orphanage kids in a place named Orphanage of the Sisters of Perpetual Light. She remembers a dog

named Iddo and the story in the battlefield, “there was a time when he had worked carrying messages and letters and plans across battlefields, transferring information from one officer of Her Majesty’s army to another” (DiCamillo, 2009:93).

Another setting of time that affects Peter's journey is winter. It can be seen in the lyrics sung by a beggar: “It is winter,” sang the beggar. “It is dark and cold” (DiCamillo, 2009:8). This setting of time is affecting Peter's journey because the coldness and ambience of the winter season make his path more difficult. Furthermore, the estimated time Peter and Adele are separated is almost seven years because when they are being separated, Adele is a newborn, and in recent times, Peter is already 10 years old, while Adele is almost 7 years old. This can be seen in the monologue of Vilna when he explains to Peter why he did not adopt both Peter and Adele, "She was so small, so impossibly small. What do I know of infants and their needs?" (DiCamillo, 2009:102).

### **3.1.3.3 Settings of Social Background**

The community in *The Magician's Elephant* presents a connected society governed by various figures of power, including nobles, a countess, and soldiers, who significantly shape its dynamics. This shows in the narration, “they was all sitting there, the nobility, the ladies and the princes and the princesses, all together in the opera house (DiCamillo, 2009:20).

Deeply linked among them are the members of this community, whose interactions and relationships sometimes affect one another's lives. Many of them like gossiping and passing along stories. This can be seen in the dialogue

between Baltese citizen and Peter, "An elephant!" said the woman. "An elephant?" said Peter (DiCamillo, 2009:17). This society assists Peter in discovering the existence of an elephant in the town. It can be seen in this narration, "At the sound of the impossible word on the lips of another, he felt a shock travel from the tip of his feet to the top of his head. He stepped backwards" (DiCamillo, 2009:17). From the quotation above, it can be seen these societies are like passing along stories, and that helps assist Peter to fulfil his needs.

Furthermore, the society is also interested in magic because there is a special entertainment for people in Baltese related to magic. This shows in the narration, "through the darkness of the winter night stood the Bliffendorf Opera House" (DiCamillo, 2009:13). The Opera House is used as a place to perform magic, as stated in the text's narration, "that evening upon its stage, a magician performed the most astonishing magic" (DiCamillo, 2009:13). This society gives Peter's path an interesting element since their views, stories, and acts either directly or indirectly influence his search for the truth about his sister and meet his demands. For Peter's story, this mix of social intimacy, writerity, and magical inquiry produces a rich backdrop.

### **3.2 Extrinsic Elements**

This study analyses the extrinsic elements in the narrative, including Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Analysing these extrinsic elements emphasises how Peter can grow and fulfil his hierarchy of needs.

### **3.2.1 Hierarchy of Needs**

Maslow's hierarchy of needs includes physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem, and self-actualisation. Analysing Peter's journey through Maslow's hierarchy of needs shows a clear progression of Peter's survival until he finally achieves his self-actualisation.

#### **3.2.1.1 Peter's Physiological Needs**

To reach for bigger things in life, like feeling accomplished and becoming his best self, Peter first needs to have his most basic needs met. These are things everyone needs to survive, such as food to eat, air to breathe, and a safe place to live. In the story of *The Magician's Elephant*, Peter gets these important things. Sometimes he takes care of himself, and other times he gets help from his guardian, Vilna Lutz, who looks after him. He receives help from his neighbours, the kind Matienne couple named Leo and Gloria, who live nearby. Because these fundamental needs are taken care of, Peter has the chance to focus on other important things in his life and start his journey towards reaching his full potential.

##### **3.2.1.1.1 Peter's Need for Air and Sleep**

Initially, one of the actions that Peter can accomplish alone in this narrative is breathing. Most of the time, Peter has no problem satisfying his human need for air, which involves breathing. It can be seen in this narration. "Peter sighed. His heart was so heavy inside of him that he did not, in truth, think that he had it in him to move at all" (DiCamillo, 2009:53). In that text, Peter begins to mistrust the fortuneteller's statement that his sister is alive while

also feeling the pressure to perform his march, which leads him to sigh. Furthermore, when Peter informs Leo Matienne about his family, he inhales deeply, bracing himself to discuss his lost sister. “Peter stopped. He took a deep breath” (DiCamillo, 2009:140). Then Peter proceeds to state that his sister was born and his mother passed away.

Peter can breathe normally in his daily life, but there is one moment in the story when he experiences difficulty breathing. This occurs because there is a sign outside the fortuneteller's tent that claims she can answer any question a customer has, no matter how hard, and all it takes is one florin. This sign triggers Peter's nerves, and he is eager to know the truth, and the sign seems promising in satisfying his curiosity. This shows in this narration, “the audacity of the words, their dizzying promise, made it difficult, suddenly, for him to breathe” (DiCamillo, 2009:2).

Additionally, in this narrative, Peter can also do the action of sleeping on his own. It shows in the initial part of chapter six, “Peter dreamed” (DiCamillo, 2009:64). It is noted that Peter sleeps and dreams of his past with his entire family until he awakens and realises it is not merely a dream but a memory. It shows in this narration, “when he woke from this dream, Peter sat up straight and looked around the dark room” (DiCamillo, 2009:67).

#### **3.2.1.1.2 Peter's Need for Shelter and Food**

Besides satisfying his physiological needs independently, Peter also receives assistance from his guardian, Vilna, and neighbour, Matienne couple. As Peter's guardian, Vilna assists him in providing shelter in Apartment

Polonaise, a residence to which Peter consistently returns. “He squared his shoulders, adjusted his hat, and began the long walk back to the Apartment Polonaise” (DiCamillo, 2009:8).

Vilna also assists Peter in fulfilling his food needs by consuming small fish and nearly expired bread. However, this quantity is still insufficient for Peter to be considered successful in satisfying his hunger. It can be seen in the narratives when Gloria Matienne notices Peter's extreme thinness and questions Vilna's ability to feed Peter. “Does that old man not feed you?” (DiCamillo, 2009:135). Peter denies it and tells Gloria that Vilna actually feeds him with small fish and bread. “There is bread,” said Peter. “And also fish, but they are very small fish, exceedingly small” (DiCamillo, 2009:135). In Peter's statement, he seems to defend Vilna to Gloria, implicitly mean even though Vilna only fed him with small fish and bread, at least Vilna still fed him and did not abandon him completely. This is due to Peter's gratitude because Vilna is the person who raised him voluntarily after his parents died.

Fortunately, Leo and Gloria Matienne contribute to Peter's care by providing him with enjoyable, nutritious cuisine. It shows in this narration, “Peter raised the spoon to his lips. He chewed. He swallowed” (DiCamillo, 2009:136). In the quotation, Peter only receives a proper meal at the Matienne couple's house. And the narrator also states, “It had been a long time since he had eaten anything besides tiny fish and old bread” (DiCamillo, 2009:136). In contrast, when he is with Vilna, he can barely satisfy his physiological needs

with adequate food to fill his stomach, since Vilna only gives him bread and the smallest fish in the market.

### **3.2.1.2 Peter's Safety Needs**

After satisfying the fundamental needs, Peter can continue to fulfil the second need, which is safety. This need is successfully fulfilled when the character experiences bodily and mental safety. In this story, Peter receives assistance from his guardian and neighbours to satisfy this second need in the following manner.

#### **3.2.1.2.1 Safety Provided by Vilna Lutz**

Peter is an orphaned boy. His guardian, an elderly soldier named Vilna Lutz, is raising him in the aftermath of his parents' deaths. This shows in the narration, "the boy's name was Peter Augustus Duchene, and the coin that he held did not belong to him but was instead the property of his guardian, an old soldier named Vilna Lutz" (DiCamillo, 2009:1).

As his guardian, he provides a sense of protection, albeit minimal. He is the adult responsible for his well-being, offering a basic level of security against external threats or complete abandonment. It shows that when Peter discovers that Vilna lied to him, he learns that his motive for lying about her sister's death was to shield himself from the pain of contemplating his sister's situation and to prevent himself from being harmed. This shows in Vilna's words to Peter, "I lied for you, to protect you" (DiCamillo, 2009:102-103). Vilna believes that by deceiving Peter, he saves Peter, and his strategy proves effective until Peter ultimately discovers the truth, which only worsens his pain.

Living with Vilna Lutz, despite his reserved nature, offers Peter a degree of stability and predictability. He has a consistent place to sleep and a routine, which contributes to his sense of security. The environment, while lacking warmth, does not fundamentally depict chaos or danger.

#### **3.2.1.2.2 Safety Provided by Leo and Gloria Matienne**

Peter receives genuine security from his neighbour, Leo and Gloria Matienne. It shows that when Peter feels anxious about locating an elephant and encounters an argument with Vilna, the Matienne couple is consistently prepared to offer him solace and security by providing a reliable presence. For instance, when Peter cries and expresses a desire to return the elephant and meet his sister, Matienne couple reassured him, indicating that everything will be fine, with a comforting remark “Don’t worry Peter” (DiCamillo, 2009:136). Leo Matienne also permits Peter to express all his thoughts while listening attentively. As Peter eats at Matienne’s unit, Leo takes a seat in the chair next to Peter and expresses that it is time for him to share all the details, “start at the beginning” (DiCamillo, 2009:139). The small gesture from Leo and Gloria reassures Peter that he is safe with them.

#### **3.2.1.2.3 Safety Provided by The Fortuneteller**

While Peter's physical safety needs are met on a basic level, initially, Peter likely experiences emotional insecurity. One of the factors is his obedience towards Vilna. Peter's general behaviour might be more reserved or compliant, stemming from a desire not to burden or upset Vilna. This is evident when Peter is truly afraid of returning home without fish and bread because he wishes to use

the coin for the fortuneteller. “Truly, I cannot, for if I do, Vilna Lutz will ask where the money has gone and I will have to lie” (DiCamillo, 2009:3-4).

Moreover, Peter also lacks information regarding his past. His uncertainty about his younger sister's status, whether Adele is dead or alive, illustrates this, as his curiosity guides him to the fortuneteller's tent with Peter's determined sentence, “but I must know” (DiCamillo, 2009:4).

This emotional vulnerability can significantly impact his overall sense of safety and well-being. However, his encounters with the fortuneteller transform everything. Peter's unwavering belief in the existence of his sister, driven by his vague memories and the fortuneteller's pronouncement, serves as a powerful anchor against his emotional insecurity. This shows in the fortuneteller's monologue, “her? Your sister? That is your question? Very well. She lives” (DiCamillo, 2009:6). Then, the fortuneteller instructs Peter to follow the elephant, “You must follow the elephant,” said the fortuneteller. “She will lead you there” (DiCamillo, 2009:7). In disbelief, Peter states that there is no elephant in Baltese, but the fortuneteller gives a statement that instills at least some belief and hope that his sister is still alive, “That is surely the truth, at least for now. But perhaps you have not noticed: the truth is forever changing” (DiCamillo, 2009:7).

This hope instilled a sense of purpose and direction, counteracting the uncertainty surrounding his past and future. It is an internal strength Peter nurtures and clings to that leads him to have more stable emotional security.

### **3.2.1.3 Peter's Love and Belonging Needs**

The third stage of need is referred to as love and belonging. Humans can achieve this stage by completing the first and second needs. These include the love and sense of belonging that you receive from friends, family, and others. In this novel, Peter primarily satisfies this need through the memories he creates when his parents are still alive, the love and sincerity he receives from the Matienne Couple, and a sense of belonging through his bond with the elephant.

#### **3.2.1.3.1 Love from Family**

Before Peter's mum and dad died, and when his little sister was still with him, that was the only time he felt the presence of love from his family. This appears in the story of chapter three, where Peter recalls being in a garden during the twilight hours of his childhood. In this memory, Peter remembers being a small child in a garden with a bright atmosphere. His father joyfully tosses him into the air, catching him each time. Peter's mother playfully warns his father not to drop him in this text, "Don't you dare drop him" (DiCamillo, 2009:41). Then, Peter's father said he will not drop his son and stated a heartwarming sentence as a father. "I could not. For he is Peter Augustus Duchene, and he will always return to me" (DiCamillo, 2009:42).

He remembers that beautiful memory, but sadly, he returns to reality, where he is alone and lives with a cold guardian towards him. Therefore, Peter feels it is essential to trust the fortuneteller. He believes the elephant can guide him to her lost sister. Therefore, to some degree, the belief that her sister is still alive reminds him of all the love he receives from his family.

### 3.2.1.3.2 Love from Friends

In the present time, Peter mainly receives and feels loved by Leo and Gloria Matienne. It can be seen in Chapter Seven, which shows how Leo becomes Peter's most prominent supporter in meeting the elephant and helps him through the process. Leo Matienne consistently demonstrates his supportive nature towards Peter. When Leo receives the exciting news about the magician's elephant, Leo immediately states, "Wonderful news. I know a young boy who wants quite desperately to see the elephant. He has asked me to assist him" (DiCamillo, 2009:78). Leo cannot help but think of Peter. He is so thrilled to tell Peter the news, and he knows Peter will be overjoyed. "He will be so glad of it" (DiCamillo, 2009:78).

As Peter eagerly waits in the attic, Leo's arrival signifies his commitment to being a reliable friend. Moreover, Leo affectionately calls Peter the "little cuckoo bird of the attic world" (DiCamillo, 2009:41-42), highlighting their close bond and Leo's playful, nurturing attitude. When Leo shares the details about the elephant's public display, it reflects his desire to ensure Peter experiences joy and excitement. This shows in the dialogue between Leo and Peter talking about meeting the elephant, "You may see her this Saturday, Peter, this Saturday." "Oh," said Peter, "I will see her. I will find her!" His face suddenly became bright" (DiCamillo, 2009:80).

Peter's heartfelt gratitude towards Leo underscores the significance of Leo's role in bringing happiness and opportunities to Peter's life. Throughout the

interaction, it is clear that Leo is always looking out for Peter and trying to brighten his world.

Furthermore, Leo and Gloria Matienne are also very concerned about Peter's condition. They both empathise with him, especially since Vilna is the one who takes care of him. Chapter seven shows Leo Matienne discussing how he pictures Peter's excitement upon discovering he can see the elephant in person. He describes how Peter's face lights up in a way he has never seen before. Gloria and Leo think that Peter is possibly held captive by Vilna, enduring endless drilling and marching, only to face even more marching afterwards. Gloria trusts Peter is a gentle boy who does not seem suited for soldiering, as he has a great deal of affection within him, a significant amount of love in his heart. She said, "There is, without a doubt, something troubling about his situation. He is up there with no one and nothing to love" (DiCamillo, 2009:83).

There is one moment in the story, after Peter argues with Vilna, he feels confused and rushes to tell Leo he needs to meet the magician in prison, who brought the elephant to Baltese. Peter receives affection from the Matienne couple through comforting food once again. The stew Gloria makes is successful in making Peter cry, not only because of the taste but also due to his worries about his lost family and unmet expectations. Leo comforts him, urging him to focus on eating before he addresses his anxiety, Leo states, "Peter, don't worry. Things will go well. Everything will be okay. We are going to do everything that needs to be done together. But you need to eat now" (DiCamillo, 2009:137).

Once he finishes, Leo encourages Peter to share his story, showing they're there to support him.

The peak of the Matienne couple's love is when Gloria hugs Peter, who has never been hugged after a very long time. This shows in this narration, "she grabbed him and pulled him close, enveloping him in the smell of mutton stew and starch and green grass" (DiCamillo, 2009:144). This surprising action causes Peter to cry, and Gloria offers him comfort by stating, "there, you foolish, beautiful boy who wants to change the world. There, there. And who could keep from loving you? Who could keep from loving a boy so brave and true?" (Dicamillo, 2009:144).

This part illustrates that Peter, who does not receive sufficient love from Vilna, is instead showered with affection by the Matienne couple. Peter receives the warmth and care he deserves from Leo and Gloria, which enables him to fulfil his love needs.

### **3.2.1.3.3 Sense of Connection**

In the story, Peter finally encounters the elephant he is been searching for and asks her to show him how to find his lost sister. Their meeting unexpectedly creates a bond Peter never anticipated, leading him to care deeply for the elephant. In that moment, he seems to forget about everything. What stands out to him is the heartbreaking reality reflected in the elephant's gaze. He realises that she is sad and needs to return home to survive. Peter says in his monologue, "She was heartbroken. She must go home. The elephant must go home or she would surely die" (DiCamillo, 2009:129). When the elephant sees

him, a hint of surprise crosses her face, and it feels like she has a glimmer of hope for the first time. This part shows that Peter had built a sense of belonging where he thinks the elephant's condition is similar to his, and he does not want the elephant to experience the same life.

Peter is affectionate and cares about the elephant until it is time for the elephant to leave. When the elephant is ready to return home, Peter expresses his gratitude and care for her. He gently touches the elephant and allows her to rest for a moment. He tells the elephant he is sorry, feels thankful, and lastly greets her. "Thank you, and goodbye" (DiCamillo, 2009:188).

#### **3.2.1.4 Peter's Esteem Needs**

Peter's situation at the beginning creates a fertile ground for the development of low self-esteem. The absence of familial connections and the presence of a cold guardian contribute to his negative perception of himself and his place in the world. However, Peter's deep yearning for his sister can be seen as a desire to fill this void and establish a sense of belonging and worth. His journey to find her evolves into not just a physical quest but also an internal one aimed at building his self-esteem. Consequently, Peter successfully improved his self-esteem with the support of those around him after completing all three levels. In this narrative, he learns to assert himself and gains the power to make choices, a sense of achievement, self-respect, and recognition or status.

##### **3.2.1.4.1 Peter's Low Self-Esteem**

Although Peter is a determined and resilient character, however, his early life, characterised by the absence of his parents and his existence as an

orphan under the care of a reserved Vilna Lutz, provides an ideal atmosphere for the development of low self-esteem. One of the pieces of evidence that Vilna contributes to shaping Peter's low esteem due to his lack of warmth towards Peter is when Peter accidentally shows Vilna that he is crying, Vilna states, "soldiers do not weep; at least, they should not weep. It is not to be borne, the weeping of soldiers. Something is amiss in the universe when a soldier cries" (DiCamillo, 2009:52). In that quotation, Vilna does not let Peter crying and suggests Peter to keep marching.

Vilna's obsession with making Peter become a soldier makes him very harsh to Peter. This lack of warmth leads to a person who often doubts himself. It shows when Peter often feels discouraged and pessimistic about believing that his sister is alive.

How could it be that against all odds, all expectations, all reason, an elephant could miraculously appear in the city of Baltese and then just as quickly disappear, and that he, Peter Augustus Duchene, who needed desperately to find her, did not know, could not even begin to imagine, the how or where of searching for her? Looking out over the city, Peter decided that it was a terrible and complicated thing to hope, and that it might be easier, instead, to despair. (DiCamillo, 2009:51)

There is also one moment where Peter creates a commitment to the elephant to return her home. However, his doubt and discouragement make him regret saying it. Peter says, "It is terrible. I should never have promised" (DiCamillo, 2009:131). It also makes Peter feel uncertain of everything he has done; he states, "nor should I have asked the fortuneteller my question. I should not have, no. I should have left things as they were" (DiCamillo, 2009:131).

Moreover, in a household where warmth and open affection are rare, Peter internalises a sense of being unseen or unimportant. It depicts Peter and Leo on a mission to deliver the elephant to the magician so she can return it to her home. They must knock on the countess's door, and it is at that moment that Peter realises. This can be seen in the narration, "Peter had a terrible feeling that the whole of his life had been nothing but standing and knocking, asking to be let into some place that he was not even certain existed" (DiCamillo, 2009:168). This fosters a deep-seated sense of insignificance, as if his presence and experiences hold little weight in the world around him. He learns that his inner life, encompassing his hopes and fears, is best kept to himself, further reinforcing a feeling of isolation and a diminished sense of self-worth.

However, the yearning for his sister, therefore, transforms into not just a desire for companionship but also a deep-seated need to establish a fundamental connection and fill the void left by his unknown origins, as he hopes to finally find her sister as a closest part of his life that begins to heal his feelings of low self-worth.

#### **3.2.1.4.2 Peter's High Self-Esteem**

After Peter decides to find his sister, something changes inside him. He feels better about himself. The improvement is also due to the assistance of certain individuals who have been there for him throughout his journey by helping him with his needs. Having met those three needs, Peter begins to feel stronger and more confident in himself. As he continues his search, he meets more people who, even in small ways, show they believe in him. This helps

Peter feel like he can do things on his own. Little by little, he begins to have the courage to make his own decisions and respect his beliefs.

It shows in Chapter 9, Peter demonstrates his ability to speak for himself and defend his beliefs in front of Vilna.

Peter, looking back at him, felt something unbearably hot rise up in his throat; he knew that now the words would finally come. 'She lives,' he said. 'That is what the fortuneteller told me. She lives, and an elephant will lead me to her. And because an elephant has come out of nowhere, out of nothing, I believe her. Not you. I do not, I cannot, any longer believe you.'  
(DiCamillo, 2009:99)

From that quotation, finally, Peter tells Vilna that he does not want to be a soldier. After a heated argument, he stands up from the floor and declares that he is done talking to Vilna. Peter insists that he will go to find the elephant the next day and will then search for their sister. He expresses his desire to be finished with both Vilna and the idea of soldiering, deeming it useless and pointless. Peter adds to Vilna, "I am done, too, with being a soldier, because soldiering is a useless and pointless thing" (DiCamillo, 2009:113).

Vilna, surprised by Peter's statement, asks him to rethink his decision and consider his dad, who sacrifices himself on the battlefield as a soldier. Surprisingly, Peter thinks about his father, but in contrast to Vilna. Peter feels it is the reason his father died and made him live this way, which makes him hate soldiering even more. This can be seen in the narrator's statement, "and Peter was thinking of him on the battlefield, bleeding to death" (DiCamillo, 2009:113). This illustrates the heartbreaking reason behind Peter's unwillingness to become a soldier. Despite Vilna's pressure, he ultimately finds the strength to choose a path that aligns with his desires.

Moreover, Peter sticks to his memories of his sister, even as others question their validity. Peter continues to believe in his sister's existence until Vilna finally confesses to him that he had lied about her. "You said she died. Time and again, you told me that she was dead. You lied" (DiCamillo, 2009:102). Peter also states to Vilna, "Tomorrow I will go to the elephant and then I will find my sister and I will be done with you" (DiCamillo, 2009:113). In that quotation, Peter finally decides to continue his search to find his lost sister by trusting his inner voice.

Another evidence that Peter can trust his decision is when Peter expresses faith in the magician who brings the elephant to Baltese. He believes that he can send the elephant back home despite the magician's broken magic. In contrast, other people lose trust in the magician's abilities. Peter believes the magician needs a second chance and enough confidence to believe in his ability again. This can be seen in Peter's words to the magician, "I believe that things can still be set right. I believe that you can perform the necessary magic" (DiCamillo, 2009:150-151). These illustrate a developing trust in his intuition and emotions, which is essential for overcoming the insecurity stemming from his unknown origins. He begins to respect his inner world.

Additionally, the subsequent reunion with Adele, his lost sister, is an important event in meeting his esteem requirements. It validates his long-held opinions and doubts, which show in some of these quotations. First, he doubts which one he has to trust between the fortuneteller and Vilna's statement regarding his sister's status. Peter says, "he lies; she lies; he lies; she lies.

Someone lies, but I do not know who” (DiCamillo, 2009:12). Then, when an elephant appears in Baltese, Peter states, “Nothing matters except that the elephant has come” (DiCamillo, 2009:23). Peter then has slight hope to trust the fortuneteller’s statement more than Vilna, “that she lives,” said Peter. “That she lives” (DiCamillo, 2009:23). Through the journey with the elephant and his resilience, he can verify his own judgment and inner understanding until he successfully reunites with his sister. This provides Peter with a profound sense of achievement.

Peter was able to overcome obstacles and achieve a significant goal. This shows when Peter finally meets Adele. This can be seen in Peter’s statement to Leo, “he laughed and turned. “Leo Matienne,” he shouted, “this is my sister!” (DiCamillo. 2009:178-179). This quotation shows Peter telling Leo that he has finally met his lost sister after a long separation.

Having a family, especially after a long period of being alone, would most likely make Peter feel much better about himself. Knowing he belongs and is loved by his sister Adele adds to his sense of value as a person. This feeling of being important to someone else and having a secure place in their lives helps build his confidence and belief in himself. When Peter feels loved and connected, it strengthens his idea of his worth.

Furthermore, it is implied that from the journey of Peter and the elephant, Peter gains a new status within the community as the boy who brought the elephant and was reunited with his lost sister. This recognition from others further contributes to his sense of worth. Peter also gains recognition from the

people in Baltese by having his carving with the people and the elephant who led him to his sister. This shows in the narrator's statement:

And some small evidence of these marvellous events remains. High atop the city's most magnificent cathedral, hidden among the glowering and resentful gargoyles, there is a carving of an elephant being led by a boy. The boy is carrying a girl, and one of his hands is resting on the elephant, while behind the elephant, there is a magician and a policeman, a nun and a noblewoman, a manservant, a beggar, a dog, and finally, behind them all, at the end, a small bent man. (DiCamillo, 2009: 200)

The carving mentioned in the quotation shows how people in Baltese recognise Peter's journey to reuniting with Adele, and leads people in Baltese to see the magic performed by the magician to return the elephant home.

### **3.2.1.5 Peter's Self-Actualisation**

After Peter meets his basic needs, like food, safety, and feeling loved, he starts to reach for bigger things, like becoming his best self. This growth occurs because Peter is strong and does not give up during his tough journey. He demonstrates that he can make his own choices, stick to what he believes is right, and do things based on what he knows is good. Because he is so determined and faces many hard times without quitting, Peter grows into the person he is meant to be.

#### **3.2.1.5.1 Demonstrating Responsibility as a Brother and a Son**

Peter finally reunites with his sister, who is one of the biggest purposes in his life. The reunion shapes Peter to be truer to himself because he is finally able to act according to his beliefs. This reunion also marks his acceptance of self, as Peter remembers his promise to his mom to take care of his little sister.

"This is what you must remember," said his mother. "She is your sister, and her name is Adele. She belongs to you, and you belong to her. That is what

you must remember. Can you do that?" Peter had nodded. "You will take care of her?" Peter had nodded again. "Can you promise me, Peter?" "Yes," he had said. (DiCamillo, 2009:117)

By acting on his promise, Peter demonstrates an acceptance of his values. Peter also proves loyalty by keeping his promise to his mother that he would look after his little sister after they were reunited. Peter's first thought was of the promise he had made once the uncertainty stopped and they found their way home. Seeing his lost sister was a reawakening of something broken, not only a reunion. This can be seen in this narration:

His heart leaped up high inside of him, astonished and overjoyed anew at the sight of her, and he remembered, again, the door from his dream and the golden field of wheat. All that light, and here was Adele before him: warm and safe and loved. It was, after all, as he had once promised his mother it would be. (DiCamillo, 2009:197)

Peter's promise at those times feels real and heavy. It is about not only sharing a space but also about filling the emptiness of their great distance. Adele serves as a constant reminder of what he loses and what he resolves to bring back. He tells his mother that he will make it so. He knows he is fulfilling his word.

### **3.2.1.5.2 Discovery of Empathy and Connection**

Peter's unwavering belief in his sister and his determined pursuit of her became a central purpose in his young life. This dedication highlights a profound inner drive and a commitment to something that extends beyond his immediate survival. This sense of purpose is a fundamental characteristic of self-actualising individuals. Peter's deep love for his sister and his interactions with others along the journey suggest a capacity for empathy and meaningful connections. Peter

expresses remorse for the elephant and declares that he will no longer utilise it for seeing his sister. Peter states, “She was heartbroken. She must go home. The elephant must go home or she would surely die” (DiCamillo, 2009:129). Peter expresses his apologies and gratitude towards the elephant, acknowledging the care he provides for her.

Peter also develops a strong resilience by managing to convince people in Baltese to participate and witness together the magic performed by the magician.

Peter walked in front of the elephant. He carried Adele. Next to Peter walked Leo Matienne. Behind the elephant was Madam LaVaughn in her wheelchair, pushed by Hans Ickman, who was, in turn, followed by Bartok Whynn, and behind him was the beggar, Tomas, with Iddo at his heels. At the very end was Sister Marie, who, for the first time in fifty years, was not at the door of the Orphanage of the Sisters of Perpetual Light. Peter led them. (DiCamillo, 2009:182)

Due to Peter’s faith in the magician’s magic, Peter is also able get Madam LaVaughn, who has imprisoned the magicians who brought the elephant that crushes her, to forgive the magicians' actions and to imprison him because the magician is finally able to demonstrate his true magic by returning the elephant to its home in front of Madam LaVaughn and the Baltese people. “I said that it is pointless to return him to prison. What has happened has happened. I release him” (DiCamillo, 2009:192).

Through Peter’s challenging journey, he ultimately finds fulfilment with individuals who provide him with stability and affection, such as Leo, Gloria, and most significantly, Adele. Peter now has a clear picture of where he belongs and can accept his past and live in the present time. It is evident in the chapter

preceding the end that Thomas, the beggar who always sings, frequently visits and have fun with Peter and Adele in Matienne's unit, accompanied by his dog, Iddo, "they visited often enough that Leo and Gloria and Peter and Adele learned to sing, along with Tomas, his strange and beautiful songs of elephants and truth and wonderful news" (DiCamillo, 2009:196).

To conclude, initially, Peter lacks a strong sense of self due to his unknown or unsure past. His search for his sister serves as a motivation for developing a stronger sense of self through purpose, demonstrated competence, and establishment of a core family connection. In the end, Peter has a much clearer understanding of himself, his desires, and his capabilities and manages to achieve self-actualisation.