



**AMERICAN TEENAGER IDENTITY DEPICTED IN
“BOOKSMART” (2019) MOVIE**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for The Sarjana Degree Majoring
American Cultural Studies in English Department Faculty of Humanities
Universitas Diponegoro**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

With this, I, as the author, state that this thesis is written by myself without involving any works from other researchers of another university, in diploma degrees, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degrees. The author also proclaim, none of any other material has been used, excluding the sources which the author mentioned in the references.

Semarang, November 2025

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Everyone you know is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.

Noora Amalie Saetre

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family

APPROVAL

**AMERICAN TEENAGER IDENTITY DEPICTED IN “BOOKSMART”
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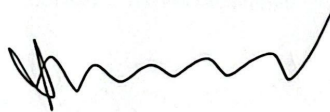
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Semarang, November 2025

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LIST OF CONTENT

PRONOUNCEMENT	i
MOTTO AND DEDICATION.....	ii
APPROVAL	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF CONTENT	vi
LIST OF PICTURES	ix
ABSTRACT	x
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Question.....	4
1.3 Research Aims	4
1.4 Scope of the Study	5
1.5 Previous Studies	6
1.6 Research Method	10
1.6.1 Method of Collecting Data	10
1.6.2 Method of Approach	11
1.7 Organization of the Writing	12
CHAPTER II INTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS	14
2.1 Narrative	14
2.1.1 Characters and Characterization	15
2.1.2 Theme	15

2.1.3 Settings	16
2.1.4 Conflicts	16
2.2 Cinematic Elements	16
2.2.1 Camera Shots	17
2.2.1.1 Long Shot	17
2.2.1.2 Two Shot	17
2.2.1.3 Medium Shot	17
2.2.1.4 Close-ups	17
2.2.2 Sound	18
2.2.3 Mise-en-scene	19
CHAPTER III EXTRINSIC THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS	20
3.1 What is Postmodernity	20
3.2 Identity in Postmodern Theory.....	21
3.3 Situating the Postmodernity	22
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISSCUSSION	25
4.1 Molly's Characterization in <i>Booksmart</i> (2019)	25
4.1.1 Molly's Character Portrayal in <i>Booksmart</i> (2019)	25
4.1.2 Molly as the Driver of Cause-Effect Narrative Chains	27
4.2 Molly's Struggle to Find Her Identity	29
4.2.1 Internal Conflict	29
4.2.2 External Conflict	30
4.2.3 Postmodern Identity Context	32
4.2.4 Resolution of Struggle	35

4.2.5 Connection between Personality and Conflict	37
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION	38
REFERENCE	40

LIST OF PICTURES

Picture 2.1 <i>Long shot (Asemah & Ottah, 2021: 15)</i>	18
Picture 2.2 <i>Medium shot (Asemah & Ottah, 2021: 15)</i>	18
Picture 2.3 <i>Two shot (Asemah & Ottah, 2021: 15)</i>	18
Picture 2.4 <i>Close up (Asemah & Ottah, 2021: 15)</i>	18
Picture 4.1 <i>Molly meditating (Booksmart, 2019, 00.00.24)</i>	25
Picture 4.2 <i>Molly meditating (Booksmart, 2019, 00.00.50)</i>	25
Picture 4.3 <i>Molly discussing with Principal Brown (Booksmart, 2019, 00.02.23)</i>	26
Picture 4.4 <i>Molly discussing with Principal Brown (Booksmart, 2019, 00.03.02)</i>	26
Picture 4.5 <i>Molly conversation with her classmates (Booksmart, 2019, 00.12.23)</i>	28
Picture 4.6 <i>Molly conversation with her classmates (Booksmart, 2019, 00.13.24)</i>	28
Picture 4.7 <i>Molly argument with Amy (Booksmart, 2019, 1.08.44)</i>	31
Picture 4.8 <i>Molly argument with Amy (Booksmart, 2019, 1.09.08)</i>	31
Picture 4.9 <i>Molly and Jared in Party (Booksmart, 2019, 28.55)</i>	32
Picture 4.10 <i>Molly and Jared in Party (Booksmart, 2019, 28.58)</i>	32
Picture 4.11 <i>Molly on the way home with Triple A (Booksmart, 2019, 1.21.22)</i>	34
Picture 4.12 <i>Molly on the way home with Triple A (Booksmart, 2019, 1.21.42)</i>	34
Picture 4.13 <i>Molly meet Amy in jail (Booksmart, 2019, 1.21.14)</i>	35
Picture 4.14 <i>Molly meet Amy in jail (Booksmart, 2019, 1.21.34)</i>	35
Picture 4.15 <i>Molly's speech graduation (Booksmart, 2019, 1.29.06)</i>	36

Picture 4.16 *Molly's speech graduation (Booksmart, 2019, 1.29.53)*

36

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes Molly Davidson's characterization in the film *Booksmart* (2019) as a representation of the process of searching for identity in an American teenager in a postmodern context. Through a narrative and character analysis approach, this study highlights how Molly's who is a perfectionist, ambitious, and oriented towards academic achievement, become the main source of internal and external conflicts she faces. The comparison between Molly's beliefs about success and the social reality she encounters results in an identity clash that strengthens the dynamics of her conflict, especially in her relationships with Amy and her school friends. Molly's changing perspective on values, social relationships, and the definition of success demonstrates a process of self-deconstruction that aligns with the characteristics of postmodern identity, which is fluid and layered. The findings of this study indicate that Molly's journey not only shows a teenager identity crisis but also illustrates identity transformation in response to the cultural complexities and social pressures in teenager life.

Keywords: *Booksmart, Characterization, Postmodern Identity, Media Culture*