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**Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter : the Unique Characters in Nicholas Sparks's  
Novel *A Walk To Remember***

**Felicia Bernadeth Simanjuntak**

University of Sumatera Utara

edith\_benedicta@ymail.com

**Syahron Lubis**

University of Sumatera Utara

ronlubis@gmail.com

**Ridwan Hanafiah**

University of Sumatera Utara

ridwanhanafiah.usu@gmail.com

**Abstract**

This research told about main characters in a love story novel *A Walk to Remember* between Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter, when they were seventeen years old, which ended marriage on young ages. The problem was formulated on what were the unique characters of Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter and how they as characters could develop in that novel. The writer used the qualitative descriptive method and intrinsic approach. . To collect data, the writer followed these steps: (a) reading the whole novel, (b) selecting the physical appearance and attitude of Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter, (c) classifying the data dealing with the problem of the research (d) summarizing. The results showed they were uniqueness characters because Jamie's uniqueness were she married at young age when she was dying of leukemia, she always carried the Bible and read it, her appearances, and her way to socialize with others; Landon's uniqueness were he wanted to help although he was a rebel boy, he changed be the good man because his love for Jamie, and he let his life the way of the Bible taught as the example he still married Jamie although he knew that Jamie was dying. Sparks as the author of novel portrayed them very clearly such as their age, family background, location they live, physical appearance, personality, and conflict within the story

**Keywords:** *literature, novel, the elements of novel, character*



### **Introduction**

Roberts and Jacobs (1995) state literature is written or oral compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas. With the major genres being prose fiction, poetry, drama, and prose nonfiction. Poetry, drama, and prose fiction are imaginative literature. Literature makes us grow, both personally and intellectually. Literature shapes the goals and values clarifying our own identities. Shaw (1972) states literature is an investment of genius which pays dividends to all subsequent times. Approaching in literature can be done by intrinsic approach and extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach is approaching which including in the content of the literary work, event extrinsic approach is approaching that originate from outside the literary works.

One of prose fiction is novel. Novel is the youngest genres of literature, but novel is more interested and attention in the public. Barnhart (1996) state the novel is fictitious prose narrative of considerable length which portrays character and actions representatives of real life in a plot of more or less intricate." It means that novel is fictitious prose narrative which involves the character and action representatives of real life in plot. This is the cause that novel has value and appeal for its readers to understand and to enjoy. Whitla (2010) states a novel is an extended work of prose fiction, longer than a short story or a medium-length fiction, called a novelette or novella. A work of fiction with fewer than 30,000 to 40,000 words is usually considered a short story, novelette, or tale, but the novel has no actual maximum length. From the two expert opinions about the novel, it is proved that the novel is the work of someone who is the outpouring of ideas and feelings. To devote ideas and feelings, the author is authored by considering the elements of novel such as plot, characters, theme, setting, point of view, and style that used to development the novel.

Gray (1984) states characters are the invented, imaginary persons in a dramatic or narrative work which are given human qualities and behaviour. Learn about character through action and description." A story is usually concerned with a major problem that a character must face. This involves interaction with another character, with a difficult

situation, or with an idea that force action. The character may learn and be the better for the experience or may miss the point and be unchanged.

Character is a verbal representation of a human being. Through action, speech, description, and commentary, authors portrays characters who are worth caring about, rooting for, and even loving, although there are also characters it may laugh at, dislike, or even hate.

In the novel, the character is made so attractive, intriguing, convincing, realistic, and sometimes the author tries to put itself together with the characters contained in his work. The author has created a interesting character, so that the readers will find that the character is interested and more motivated to read until the end of the novel. The interesting character can also be formed with unique characters. The author can describe the unique characters from physical appearance and attitude by displaying differently than usual. Because of that, character is created according to story. To know the characters deeply we need to understand about the types of characters, the ways to create character, and character development.

**Table 1. Gray's Theory About The Characters**

	The Types of Character	Main/Round Characters	Protagonist
			Antagonist
		Flat Characters	Ornamental
			Secretary
			Ear
		The Ways to Create	Action
Descriptions, both personal and environmental			

Character	Character	Dramatic statements and thoughts
		Statement by other character
		Statement by the author speaking as storyteller
<p>The Character Development</p> <p>Character development describes about how characters grows and changes over and approaches to how the author makes this happen. Like any relationships, the author starts out from from the basics like: name, age, physical charactersites, etc. As we learn about a characters emotions, motivations, and conflicts within the story, we are watching the character “develop”. When looking for good character development, the reader are looking for characters that are constantly evolving.</p>		

There are some genres in novel, they are: adventure, romance, mystery, melodrama, science, etc. All of these genres, romantic novels are the most famous in all ages. There are lots of romance novels. *A Walk to Remember* is one of best selling romantic novels written by Nicholas Sparks. This novel is recommended to be read because it tells about the love between Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter when they are seventeen years old The love make Landon Carter's life changed forever, although they are contrast in personality and unique. The Sparks' novel *A Walk to Remember* as the resources of the data because the writer is interested in the events pictures. Nicholas Sparks had written many famous novels and some of his novels have been filmed such as: *Messages in a Bottle* was released in 1999, *A Walk to Remember* was released in 2002, and *The Notebook* was released in 2004. Since *A Walk to Remember* is a popular novel, there are some researches which analyze use that novel as the resources of the data such as

*Pragmatics Analysis on the Best Selling Novel A Walk To Remember by Nicholas Sparks* by Moondi Emsita Figurative Senses (<https://journal.ugm.ac.id/lexicon/article/viewFile/5315/4343>) since the study uses pragmatic approach, reader have an important role in the analysis. Based on the objective of the study, the analysis of the novel is only based on reviews from the readers from internet sources and *In 'A Walk To Remember' And Their Translations In 'Kan Kukenang Selalu'* by Amisari Andriani, I Wayan Suardhana, and Frans I Made Brata (<https://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/sastra/article/download/27974/17585>) about to identify the types of figurative senses applied in *A Walk to Remember* and to describe the translation techniques of figurative senses implemented in *A Walk to Remember* and in *Kan Kukenang Selalu*. Many researches about character have been done such as *Analysis of The Main Characters of "the Lord of the Ring - the Return of The King" a Novel by J.R.R Tolkien* by Ermalina, Pipit Rahayu, and Eripuddin (<http://ejournal.upp.ac.id/index.php/binggrisfkip/article/view/291>) and *A Study on Characterization of the Main Character in "The Fault in Our Stars"* by Annisa Patmarinanta and Potjut Ernawati (<http://www.jim.unsyiah.ac.id/READ/article/view/713>) only analyzing how the main characters are portrayed without discussing the uniqueness of the characters so that the readers feel interested in reading the novel and the development of these characters in the story. Based on the above description, the writer would intend to analyze the problem was formulated on what were the unique characters of Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter and how they as characters could develop in this novel used qualitative method and intrinsic approach as the method.

## Method

### Qualitative Method

This research was conducted with qualitative descriptive method. Shaw and Gould (2001) state qualitative method is conducted longterm contact with the field. It's meaning qualitative method is a method of inquiry employed in many different academic disciplines, traditionally in the social sciences, but also in market research and further

contexts. Qualitative method involves analysis of data such as words, for example from book, interview, transcripts, documents, or even personal experience materials such as journals. Descriptive in qualitative method consists of six kinds according to the way to find and to collect the data; they are survey research, continuity descriptive research, case study research, job and activity analysis, action research, and library research. In this research, writer used library research because of collecting the data from *A Walk to Remember* novel. To collect data, the writer followed these steps: (a) reading the whole novel, (b) selecting the physical appearance and attitude of Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter, (c) classifying the data dealing with the problem of the research (d) summarize. The data was analyzed by using following Miles & Huberman (2014) through three steps: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing

### **Intrinsic Approach**

Robert and Jacob (1995) state intrinsic approach is analyze from the interpretation of literature and literary analysis itself. We analyze the literary work itself because we are interested in the discussion of the author, the environment, and the literature. But6 strangely, the more that analyze literary works from the background, rather than of literature itself. Whereas, emphasis on the study of environmental influences on the formation of a literary work has the cause.

Theory and literary criticism that criticize the novel is much less than with the theory and criticism of poetry. This is because the notion of poetry is the oldest form of literature, while novels emerged later. Another assumption said that the novel is entertainment and escape: it's not serious art. In fact, lecturers in the United States said that it is good to read nonfiction books and educate, but reading fiction books is not good, because of idleness.

On the contrary, the novel is enterpreted too seriously in the wrong way. The novel is defined as a document or case history, recognition, a story of the truth, and history of one's life and his time. A literature should be interesting, have a structure and specific objectives and related. Literature should have a link that appears with life but the various

relationships: the life on literary can match or not match reality. In other words, literary is the life planned which it has the purpose, therefore we must have the knowledge to know the relationship.

World in literature is overlaps and contrast with the reality of the world, but has its own structure that must be understood. Author of novels feature his world with a pattern or structure or something that includes the plot, characters, plot, setting, point of view, and tone. It is to be learned if you want to compare a novel to life, or if you just want to assess the ethical or social, or just want to just discuss the novel.

### Results

The type of characters are main or round characters and flat characters. In *A Walk to Remember* novel's round or main characters were Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter. They were as round or main characters because they usually played a major role in a story. And the flat characters in that novel were Hegbert Sullivan as a Jamie's father, Miss. Garber as a teacher, Mr. Congressman and Landon's mom as Landon's parents, Erick Hunter, Maggie Brown, Margaret, Angela, Lew, Tom, Eddie Jones, Jeff Bangert, and Darren Wods as Landon and Jamie's friends, and Dr. Rawlings as Jamie's doctor.

#### Jamie Sullivan

As written in the novel, Sparks (1999) portrays that Jamie was also a seventeen-years-old girl. She was a minister's daughter, Hegbert Sullivan. Jamie's father and mother were different twenty years old. They married when Hegbert forty-three years old. She was born when Hegbert fifty-five years old. Jamie's mother died after giving birth to Jamie. Therefore, Jamie was raised by her father alone.

She was a high school student, just like Landon. But her desires for the future was marriage. She wanted to be with his father walked to the aisle and many people attended the wedding. She wanted this because she knew that her life was not long. It was because she was sick, she has leukemia as Sparks (1999) illustrates she had leukimia; she'd known it since last summer.



She was educated by her father harsh. She had not allowed to wear makeup, she should obtain permission to wherever she went, and she should not be please men into the home when his father was not home as she explained to Landon “My father’s not home, but we can sit on the porch if you’d like...”(Sparks, *A Walk to Remember*, p.170), when Landon asked her to be his partner in the Homecoming Dance while Jamie’s father was not at home. However, Jamie always obeys and loves her father. This was seen when she wanted to give a special impression on the drama to her father because it reminds her father to her mother.

She was beautiful and attractive girl. Jamie looked her mother. She was thin, honey blond hair, soft blue eyes, and looks very plain. But, during Landon knew Jamie (though it's been three years in the high school), Jamie’s appearance has not changed. She always winds her hair in a tight bun, without makeup, wears a brown cardigan and plaid skirt. She always liked people who had interview. This is because, she was a girl who was not concerned with outward appearances as in her opinion the most important thing was kindness.

For long as long as I had known her and this was going way back, remember — she’d always worn her hair in a tight bun, almost like a spinster, without a stitch of makeup on her face. Coupled with her usual brown cardigan and plaid skirt, she always looked as though she were on her way to interview for a job at the library.(Sparks, *A Walk to Remember*, p.21)

She was a smart girl. When the atmosphere heats up in the Homecoming Dance, with her cheerful, she changed it as Landon’s statement “I think he would have hit me right there, but She suddenly worked her way into the situation.” (Sparks, *A Walk to Remember*, p.57). She invited Lew to talk and to tell everything she knew about Lew, as if they were very close. This made Lew was very confused. Here can also be considered that Jamie was the one who looked around her environment.

She was a cheerful girl who despite whatever happened to her and also the girl who never says anything bad about and to anyone. She preferred to talk about faith, God's





plan, and forgiveness. And she has the ability to get along well with adults. This was because she used to live up with her old father. However, she was still a girl who has a sense of humor. As she asked Landon not to fall in love with her so she agreed to go to the Homecoming Dance. Both of them laughed after Landon said yes.

She was a strong person to get her wish, patient, and not mushy. This was seen when she wanted to know the response of others about her. She asked Landon. She felt Landon conceal the truth from her, so she asked Landon to always be honest to her. And when Landon called out to her. She did not reply to scream or cry.

She was a plain and simple. Like when she saw a Landon's nice house, she praised him, with no other purpose. But Landon replied in a tone sarcastic and Jamie did not realize it. But sometimes, she liked to hide things from others as Landon's statement "She didn't answer, but she smiled to herself, as if she knew some secret that she was keeping from me." (Sparks, *A Walk to Remember*, p.117)

She was a girl who different from other girls. Jamie never used her time to get out to Cecil's Diner or the other parties with other girls. And she never had a boyfriend. She would rather read the Bible. She always bring her Bible wherever she went and read it while on lunch break. She joined the training Bible every August. And she liked helping others and animals. Being a volunteer at the orphanage, raising funds as of Sunday in the church, helping children to cross, saving money and buying a basketball for children in orphanages, and so on are her form in helping others. She helped the animals like: opossums, squirrels, dogs, cats, and frogs that she looked then bounded.

### **Landon Carter**

Landon Carter was seventeen years old. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carter. Mr. Carter was a member of congressman. His father was in Washington, D.C. and gone nine months of the year. While his mother, did not go with his father. Because of that, he lived without his father's caring and be the rebel boy although he was a child.

He was a high school student. He was a not smart student. After graduating from high school, Landon planed to go to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. But



his father wanted him to get into Harvard or Princeton, like other child members of Congress. But with his bad values, it's not possible.

He was educated by his father's harsh. For example, he taught Landon to have the responsibility in financial, although they had the wealthy as the conversion between Landon and his father "I don't have any money left," I said dejectedly. "It builds responsibility," my father said, explaining it once." (Sparks, *A Walk to Remember*, p.177).

He was a gentle and polite man. Landon came to church to get permission from Jamie's father to take her out politely, before he asked Jamie. This was because, Landon knew that she needed her father's permission to go as the Landon's statement "I hadn't asked Jamie yet because I figured she would need his permission, and for some reason I wanted to be the one who asked." (Sparks, *A Walk to Remember*, p.177).

He was a man who really open to his feelings. He was not shame to express that he loved and thought she was the best thing that happened to him, besides his family. And he was also not shame to say sorry when he knew that he was wrong.

He was a passive person, not care what the surroundings happened, and recalcitrant boy. He ever did the joke to Jamie with entering the toss paper clips and slugs into containers on in Cecil's Diner and the Crown Theater to make it look fuller. But he was the right appointment. When he said "yes" to help others or to do something, he will do it really.

After Landon knew and fell in love with Jamie, everything changed. He became a better man, concerned with others, be close to his father, willing to forgive, liked to read the Bible, and that over looked was that he lets his life the way the Bible taught. Then, he married Jamie as Sparks (1999:235) portrays, "We were married by Hegbert in the Baptist church, my father standing beside me as the best man." Although he knew that she did not have long life. Because according to him, this was what his hearth was said to do and he knew that it was the right thing to do. Jamie died not long after they married. But he still love her and remember everything from that day, although it had forty years later.

### **Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter's Uniqueness**



After describing Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter, it was proved that they are unique characters. Jamie's uniqueness were she married at young age when she was dying of leukemia, she always carried the Bible and read it, her appearances, and her way to socialize with others. That Bible was her mother own. It gived her a way to remember her mother. Jamie did not care about her appearances because in her mind the important was kindness. Jamie was a girl that her way socializes to other was different. She preferred to help others and animals than to go and has parties with other girls. Being a volunteer at the orphanage, raising funds as of Sunday in the church, helping children to cross, saving money and buying a basket ball for children in a orphanages, and so on were her form to help others. She helped animals too like opossums, squirrels, dogs, cats, and frogs, that she looked them bounded. Landon's uniqueness were he wanted to help as when he was asked Jamie although he was rebel boy, because of love, he changed be the good man such as he helped Jamie collecting the orphanage fund and he played in Tom Thornton play, he was more close to his father, smarter, and he let his life the way of the Bible taught as the example, he still married Jamie although he knew that Jamie was dying.

### **Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter Characters Development**

In the beginning of the story, Sparks recounted that Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter were seventeen-year-old, high school students that lived in Beaufort, North California where Landon has just returned to that city.

They were the contrast in personality. Jamie Sullivan was the minister's daughter. She didn't has mother because her mother had died when she gave birth her. She looked her mother as thin, honey blond hair, soft blue eyes, and looks very plain girl. She was smart, cheerful, persistent, simple, and looks very plain. She would rather helped other and animals and read Bible than has hang out and parties with her other girls. Her desire in future was marriage. Landon Carter was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carter. He was not close with his father because his father was rarely with him, so he will be the rebel boy.

They never be close although they were still children. In the elementary until high school, he assumed that she was stranger. After Homecoming Dance, they were more



close. She asked him to participate in play and to collect the fund for operhanage. He felt overwhelmed and he ever snapped to Jamie. But she still be patient. They fell in love slowly. He changed to be good man and he still loved her, although he knew that she was dying because of leukimia. He always with her and they spent the time by the activities that don't make her tired. And finally, he married her because marriage is her desire. Not long after their marriage, she was died.

### **Discussion**

This research showed that Jamie Sullivan and Landon Carter were the main characters in *A Walk to Remember* novel and the unique characters. Jamie's uniqueness were she married at young age when she was dying of leukemia, she always carried the Bible and read it, her appearances, and her way to socialize with others. Landon's uniqueness were he wanted to help although he was a rebel boy, he changed be the good man because his love for Jamie, and he let his life the way of the Bible taught as the example he still married Jamie although he knew that she was dying. Sparks portrayed and developed the main characters very clearly. Sparks gave description such as their age, family background, location they live, and physical appearance that we could found directly when reading the novel at the beginning of the story and also he gave the action and the statement by the other characters to potray and to express the personality of them. All of that supported the reader felt interested to read and helped to make better understanding about the story of that novel. As seen with the research by Ermalina et. all and Patmarinanta who discussed about the main characters, it proved that analyzing the characters and their development was substantial since it have the intensity to develop stories.

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