A STUDY ON JOHN’S MOTIVATION TO GIVE AWAY HIS FATHER’S LEGACY TO SAVANNAH AS SEEN IN NICHOLAS SPARKS’ *DEAR JOHN*

A *SARJANA PENDIDIKAN* FINAL PAPER

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain the *Sarjana Pendidikan* Degree in English Language Education

By

Melyna Trianingsih

Student Number: 081214044

ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION FACULTY OF TEACHERS TRAINING AND EDUCATION SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY YOGYAKARTA 2014
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Dean

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When you’re struggling with something, look at all the people around you and realize that every single person you see is struggling with something, and to them, it’s just as hard as you’re going through.

Savannah – Dear John

Dedicated to:

- My greatest Jesus Christ
- My beloved family (My lovely dad, my super mom, Ko John, Ko Chandra, Melissa, Ce Merlyn, Jolyn and Joel)
- My best friends (Manda Hutagaol, Mayesti Emaulina)
- The three idiots
- The Dragon Spirit Family

I am nothing without you all, Love you all~
STATEMENT OF WORK’S ORIGINALITY

I honestly declare that this final paper, which I have written, does not contain the work or parts of the work of other people, except those cited in the quotations and the references, as a scientific paper should.

Yogyakarta, 19 September 2014
The Writer

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ABSTRACT

Trianingsih, Melyna. (2014). A Study on John’s Motivation to Give away His Father’s Legacy to Savannah as Seen in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John. Yogyakarta: Teachers Training and Education Faculty, Department of Language and Arts Education, English Language Education Study Program, Sanata Dharma University.

This study discusses Nicholas Sparks’ novel entitled Dear John. The novel tells about the broken-hearted John Tyree whose love, Savannah, has married another man. Her husband needs a lot of money for his treatment. John sells his father’s legacy which is in the form of coin collections, anonymously gives the money to Savannah and leaves her.

This study focuses on two problems to be solved. The first problem is to understand the characteristic description of John as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John. The second problem is to find out the motivation of John to give away his father’s legacy to Savannah.

The study applies a library research as the method in gathering the data and the psychological approach to analyze the problems of the study. The primary source of this study is Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John. The secondary sources are some books about literature and psychology. The other secondary source also comes from the journals which are related to the analysis. The theory of characterization and the theory of personality are applied to analyze John’s characteristics. Meanwhile, the theory of motivation is used to find out the John’s motivation to give away his father’s legacy to Savannah.

The first result was about John’s characteristics description. John is an active, mature, responsible, firm and consistent person. The second result of the study was about John’s motivations to give away his father’s legacy. The study finds out that there are two intrinsic motivations which lead John to give away his father’s legacy. The intrinsic motivations are that John wants to realize that Savannah is married woman and John wants to prove his love to Savannah.

This study provides recommendations for both future researchers who want to analyze Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John and for English teachers who wants to use the Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John as the teaching material. The lesson plan and material for teaching are also provided in the appendices in this paper.

Keywords: characteristic descriptions, motivation, intrinsic motivation
ABSTRAK


Penelitian ini memberikan rekomendasi kepada peneliti yang akan menganalisa novel Nicholas Sparks yang berjudul Dear John dan kepada guru Bahasa Inggris yang ingin menggunakan novel ini sebagai materi pengajaran. RPP dan materi ajar juga disediakan di dalam halaman lampiran dari tugas akhir ini.

Kata kunci: characteristic descriptions, motivation, intrinsic motivation
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the whole study. It is divided into two parts, namely the background of the study and the approach of the study. The first part is Background of the Study which explores the urgency of this study and the writer’s personal reasons in selecting the topic of the study, objectives of the study which present the aim of conducting this study and the problem formulation which will present the problems to limit the scope of the study. The second part is the Approach of the Study. This part elaborates the review of literature which explains about theories used in this study and its framework in this study. This part also elaborates the methodology which explains about the sources and methodologies conducted in this study.

1.1. Background of the Study

According to Moody (1986), literature may function as a depiction of the socio-cultural and even ideological situation of certain period of time. Someone who reads literature may gain several positive values, such as knowledge, pleasure, and experience. From literature, he or she can also get some lessons and better understanding about life (Moody, 1986, pp. 2-3). As one of the literary works, novel is also a depiction of the socio-cultural and ideological situation of life.

As a depiction of life, in some novels, we may see an action such as making a decision which might lead someone to another life event of their maturity. This
decision is usually caused by some motivations which occurred in the event which is happened before. After making the big decision, he/she will enter another life event of maturity.

One of the examples of motivation in making a decision in novel can be seen in the John’s decision to leave Savannah and give away his father’s legacy to Savannah as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* novel. *Dear John* is a 2006 novel which tells about the love story between John and Savannah. During John’s duty in military, Savannah told John that she is married. Then, they broke up. After his father’s funeral, John met Savannah. In this time, he knew why Savannah married another man and their family condition. Tim, her husband, was diagnosed of complicated deadly diseases. Savannah wanted to bring him to alternative treatment but they do not have much money since the insurance company will not pay the trial treatments. After meeting Tim and visiting Savannah’s new family, John makes a big decision in his life by selling his father’s coin collections and gives all of the money to Savannah through a lawyer. He asks the lawyer to make his name as anonymous and to tell John about Tim’s progress in his new treatments. After few months, John knows that Tim’s condition is getting better than before. This novel is very interesting to be analyzed since it tells about a broken-hearted man helping his lover’s husband by giving away his father’s legacy. This novel teaches us to help someone we love without expecting any reward, though he/she had broken our heart.

In analyzing a novel, it is required to have a way of thinking so that the study will have its own point of view about the novel. The decision made by John,
one of the main characters in the Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*, to give the money to Savannah and leave her inspires me to write a final paper which discusses the John’s motivation in making a decision in his life.

The objective of this study is to find out John’s motivation to give away his father’s legacy to Savannah as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*. To achieve the objective and specify the study, some research questions related to the topic have been prepared. The questions are formulated as follows:

1. How is John characterized in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*?
2. What is John’s motivation in giving away his father’s legacy as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* novel?

It is expected that this study could give some benefits for some parties. It is hoped that the study would benefit the readers of Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*, especially for those who are willing to study further this novel. This study will help in studying the literary work itself, since it is interesting to analyze why a broken-hearted man helps his lover’s husband by giving away his only legacy from his father. This study will provide some additional information in understanding the novel particularly in analyzing the main character and the psychological aspect upon which it is involved. This study also provides a lot of additional information in understanding the novel as one reference to improve reading skill, both in terms of vocabulary and reading comprehension for PBI students.

Literature and psychology also have a similarity that both literature and psychology have one common purpose that is to describe human conditions.
“Literature tries to depict human conditions into drama while psychology studies human characteristic systematically and scientifically” (Benedetti, 1996, p. 130).

In order to analyze the motivation in the novel, the psychological approach will be conducted in this study. It is because psychology is a body of knowledge which studies human psyche. The theories which related to the topic such as theory of motivation and theory of characteristics are chosen to complete this study. Theory of personality is also used to support this study. The main idea of psychological approach is that psychological approach is the most appropriate way to know the motivation of the main character in making the decision to give away his father’s legacy to Savannah based on the motivation theory.

1.2. Approach of the Study

Since psychology studies human psyche systematically and scientifically (Benedetti, 1996, p. 130), the psychological approach will be used in analyzing this study. This study will analyze both the characteristics and the motivation of the main character of Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John.

This study has two focuses to limit the analysis. First, it focuses on the John’s characterization in this novel using the theory of characterization and theory of personality. Second, this study focuses on the motivation of John to give away his father’s legacy as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John. The theory of motivation will be used in order to support the analysis on this second focus.

Several studies related to motivation in the literary works use the psychological approach as the basis of the study, for example the study of Ratna (2013) entitled Amir’s Motivation for Finding Sohrab in Afghanistan as Seen in
Hosseini’s The Kite Runner and the study of Luke (2012) entitled The Influence of Savannah’s Characteristics and Condition in Her Motivation to Marry Tim as Seen in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John. Both studies use the psychological approach and focus on motivation. This study also uses the psychology approach by emphasizing John’s motivation in giving away his father’s legacy to help Savannah as seen in Dear John.

It requires many sources to complete this study, as well as reference books and notes. So, the library study is conducted to do this study. There are various sources that are used to analyze the motivation and characteristics of the main character. The sources are basically divided into two parts. They are primary source and secondary sources.

The primary source used in this study is the novel, Dear John which is written by Nicholas Sparks. He is one of the well-known writers in the world, whose books have been in New York Time Bestsellers book lists. Dear John novel also gets the number 1 New York Times Bestseller list. His novels have been printed over 89 million copies all over the world in over 50 languages. This novel, Dear John was published in 2006. This novel consists of 335 pages.

The novel tells about the love story between John and Savannah. During his duty in military, Savannah tells John that she is married. Then, they break up. After his father’s funeral, John meets Savannah. In this time, he knows why Savannah marries to another man and their family condition. Tim, her husband, is diagnosed of complicated deadly diseases. Savannah wants to bring him to the alternative treatment but they do not have much money since the insurance
company will not pay the trial treatments. After meeting Tim and visiting Savannah’s new family, John makes a big decision in his life by selling his father's coin collections and gives all of the money to Savannah through a lawyer. He asks the lawyer to make his name anonymous and to tell John about Tim’s progress in his new treatments. It is interesting to analyze the motivation of the main character, since he chooses to help Savannah by giving away his father’s legacy to help her husband instead of breaking Savannah’s marriage life.

The secondary sources are the supporting sources which are used to help in analyzing the study. As stated before, this study will discuss further the John’s characterization in the novel and also discuss John’s motivation to give away his father’s legacy to Savannah as seen in Nicholas Sparks' *Dear John*.

In analyzing John’s characteristics in this novel, the books of characterization and personality will be used in this study. The main book used to analyze the characteristics of John in this novel is Jess Feist and Gregory J. Feist’ *Theories of Personality* 7th edition (2009). In analyzing the John’s motivation in giving away his father legacy to Savannah, the psychology books about motivation will be used as the supported sources such as Benjamin B. Lahey's *Psychology an introduction* 10th edition (2009). More information about all of the books and websites which are used in this study can be found in the references pages.

The research is a library study which means that the main step in the study was reading and taking notes to help in analyzing the novel. Besides, there are some steps that should be done in finishing the study. The first step is to select a
novel which is wanted to be analyzed. After the novel has been selected, reading the novel carefully and taking some notes is also important in this study. The third step is to find the issues which are occurred in the novel and analyze them by formulating the problem formulations. The next step is to decide the approach, look for supported theories and supported information which will be used in analyzing the issue from various sources. After that, the research problems which have been formulated will be analyzed using the approach, theories and other related studies as the finding of the study. The last step is to conclude the analysis of the study as the result of the study and provide the recommendations of this study in the education field.
CHAPTER 2

DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the characteristics of John will be discussed. After that, the John’s motivation in giving away his father’s legacy to Savannah will be analyzed.

2.1. Review on Related Theories

This part will analyze the theories related to the study namely theory of characterization, theory of personality and theory of motivation.

2.1.1. Theory of Characterization

In the literary work, both character and characterization are important. According to Gill (1995), a character is someone who has some sort of identity in a literary work. The identity might be made up by his/her appearance, conversation, action, name and thoughts. Abrams stated that characters are persons in literary work who are interpreted by the readers from what they said and by what they do (Abrams & Harpham, 2009, p. 42). Characterization is a method by which an author creates, reveals and develops change through the major character so that the reader can interpret what kind of person the character is (Henkle, 1977, pp. 92-97).

Murphy (1972, pp. 161-173) states that there are nine ways in describing a character. The first way is through personal description. In this way, the author describes the details of character through physical appearance, such as face, skin, eyes, and clothes. The second way is description from the other characters.
Besides describing through personal description, the author can also describe the character through the opinion of other characters. Therefore, the reader can gain more information about the character from the others’ point of view. The third way in describing the character is through his or her speech. From some expressions used by the characters, the reader can be helped to build the understanding of the character better. The fourth way in describing the character is through the past life. The past life of the character can also help the reader to understand more about the character. Some events in the past life might be a clue for the reader to understand more about the character’s personality which can be seen from the direct comments from the author, character’s thought and speech in conversation, or other characters’ point of view. The fifth way in describing the character is through conversation by others. The author also gives information about the character through the conversation by other characters. The conversation by others about the character might help the reader to gain more information about the character’s personality.

Another way in describing the character is also shown from his/her reactions. The character’s personality can also be seen through his or her reaction about various situation or the character’s life events. Through the character’s reaction, the author lets the reader determine the character’s personality. The seventh way of describing the character can also be shown from the author’s direct comment about the character. It is actually the easiest way in gathering the information about the character in the novel, especially when the author uses the third person point of view. The eighth way of describing the character can also be
shown through the character’s thought. The character’s way of thinking might help the reader to gain more information about the character’s personality in the novel. The last way in characterizing the character can be shown through mannerism, habits or unusual behavior of the character. Mannerism can also give clues to the reader about the personality of the character.

2.1.2. Theory of Personality

The theories of personality are also used to help in figuring out the John’s personality in the novel. The theory of personality provides a way of organizing the characteristics of people, for example how the person shapes his behavior and personality based on his subjective perceptions. One dynamic force behind it is the striving for success and superiority.

Kasschau adds that there are three purposes of any personality theories. The first purpose is to determine whether certain traits go together, why some persons have some traits and others do not, and why a person might exhibit different traits in different situations. The second purpose is to explain the differences amongst individuals. The last purpose is to explore how people conduct their lives (Kasschau, 1995, p. 268).

In the theory of personality, the study also finds that Freud’s theory about id, ego and superego are also important to be discussed. The id serves the pleasure principle. The id means that a person is doing what they like without thinking of the reality and moral aspects. Ego is governed by the reality principle. Ego is the rational aspect of the personality that drives a person to place their desire (id) and the moral (superego) to the reality. Superego is guided by the moralistic or
idealistic principle. Superego might lead someone to the perfection of life. Mature people will be able to balance their id and superego (Feist J. & Feist G. J., 2009, pp. 27-31). Mature person could balance their structures of the mind, with their ego controlling their id and superego (Feist J. & Feist G. J., 2009, p. 46).

Different from Freud’s theory of personality, Alderian Theory explains that one’s personality might be influenced by social perspective and his striving for superiority of success. Alder also believes that a personality is self-consistent means that a person has large responsibility for his personality. People should be aware about what they are doing and the reason of doing it as well. Different from Freud’s perspective that present behavior is caused by the past experience, Alder believe that present behavior is shaped by the view of the future which is to strive the superiority or success (Feist J. & Feist G. J., 2009, p. 65-66).

2.1.3. Theory of Motivation

Motivation refers to the reasons underlying behavior (Guay et al., 2010, p. 712). According to Broussard, Gredler and Garrison (2004) motivation is the attribute that moves someone to do or not to do something (p. 106). Abrams and Harpham (2009) also state that motivation is the grounds of the characters’ temperament, desires and moral nature in their speech and actions (p. 42).

According to Huffman, Vernoy M. and Vernoy J. (2000), there are two kinds of motivation: intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation means the desire to perform an act for its own sake. For example, someone reads literary books for his or her own interest and pleasure, not for his or her needs to get a reward. Extrinsic motivation means the desire to perform an action because of
external rewards or avoidance of punishment. For example, a student studies hard in order to get a reward and good grade from his or her teacher.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs consists of psychological needs, safety needs, belonging and love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs. The first two needs are considered primary or lower-order needs; the remaining three are secondary or higher-order needs (Lahey, 2009, pp. 373-374).

The psychological needs are the fundamental needs for food, clothing, shelter, comfort, and self-preservation. Someone who faces death because of starvation or any other needs of this level may resort to murder to meet fundamental, life-sustaining need, despite what society might think.

The safety needs are the needs to avoid bodily harm and uncertainty about one's well being. An insecure person behaves as if a great tragedy is almost always impending. This person has an over need for order and stability, and tries hard to avoid the strange and the unexpected.

The next needs are the belonging and love needs. Love needs are about a healthy-loving relationship between two people which includes mutual trust. In the proper relationship, there are lack of fear and dropping of defenses. The absence of love will stifle growth and the development of potential. The thwarting of love needs is considered as a prime cause of maladjustment. Love hunger is a deficiency disease.

The esteem needs have two categories, they are self-esteem and respect from other people. The self-esteem needs comprise such needs as desires for confidence competence, mastery, adequacy, achievement, independence, and
freedom. Respect from other people needs enclose such concepts as prestige, recognition, acceptance, attention status, reputation, and appreciation.

The self-actualization needs are described as the desire to become more and more what one is, to become everything that one is capable or becoming. These needs are the identification of the psychological needs to growth, development, and utilization of potential. These needs also appear after reasonable satisfaction of love and esteem needs.

The theories above are used to analyze and answer the research problems which have been stated before. Theory of characterization and theory of personality are used to figure out the characteristics of John as the main character in this novel. The theory of characterization is used to find out the characteristics of John. Theory of personality will be used as the supporting theory which may add some information about the characteristic of John psychologically because theory of personality provides a way of organizing the characteristics of people. These theories may help in analyzing the novel and answering the first problem. Theory of motivation is used to know the things that motivate someone to decide something. In this study, the theory is used to figure out the reason why John decides to give the money to Savannah and leave her. This theory is used to answer the second problem.
2.2. Analysis

2.2.1. John’s Characteristics as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*

According to the theories of characterization and personality above, we can understand the characterization of John in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* especially the Murphy’s theory of characterization.

1. Active

In the beginning of the novel it is showed that John is an active person. He is always in motion. He also hates to be alone. When he was a kid, he liked to bounce from one place to other place and asked his father to time how long it took him to run to the end of the block and back (p. 11). He learned surfing himself in summer. When he was eight years old, he could build a tree house himself (p. 10). He is an active person because he is also interested in sports. He played football, basketball and run track until he was sophomore. Unfortunately, during his senior year, he became rebel and his rebellion reached the high point (p. 16). Referring to Murphy’s Theory, John is considered as active person from his past life when he was a kid.

Referring to Murphy’s theory, the other part which also shows that John is an active can be seen from his conversation with Savannah and Toby. In his conversation with Savannah he said that he played sports in his free time in the army such as basketball, jogging, weight lifting, etc. (p. 48). It is not shocking when he has a good figure since he joins the army. Another conversation with Savannah is when he asked about her life in college. He asked about the best thing in the college life. His reaction to Savannah’s answer is that he thought that going
to basketball games was the best part about being in college (p. 86). In the beginning it is also said that school is not the place to study but it is the place where we can meet friends and sports added in (p. 11). It indicates that John is a kind of active person who gets interested in something about sports. We can also see that John is interested in sport is from his conversation with Toby, his old friend in his rebel life, when he met him in Leroy’s. Toby’s first impression after meeting John again is his figure. He said that John looked like he had been working out. Then, he said that he was big. It means that John has good body figure (pp. 97-98).

We can also see that John is an active person from his thought. On the way home from Leroy’s, John bought some steaks, bag of salad and potatoes for dinner. He thought that it was not easy to carry all the grocery and his surfboard and walk along the way home without car, but it was not a problem for him. It means that he is strong enough to carry things. It is because he has been done sports and exercises in the army (p. 99).

After his senior graduation, John was big into surfing in the night. He taught himself to surf when he was a child (p. 10 & p. 42). Even, he thought that in 1996, the Hurricanes Bertha and Fran which slammed into the coast is the best waves in years (p. 19). He also taught Savannah to surf. For him, surfing makes him realize that you can find the silence and can talk to yourself (pp. 55-59). In his boredom when waiting for the day to meet Savannah, he tends to go surfing for the rest of the day (p. 96). Even, the first time he meets Savannah is when he went to the beach to surf (p. 28). According to Murphy’s theory, we can find his
interest in sport especially surfing from his conversation with Savannah, his thought and the author’s direct comments. Since this novel uses the first-person point of view, the author’s direct comments can be seen from John’s narration in the novel.

From the analysis, it can be stated that John is an active person. He is always in motion. He loves sport especially surfing. His interest to sport can be seen in almost half of the novel.

2. Mature

John’s maturity can be seen from his reflection in some cases. According to Murphy’s theory of characterization, it could be find from his thought, his past life, the author’s direct comment (John’s narration) and John’s conversation with Savannah and Tim.

In the prologue of this novel, John explains about his condition after being apart from Savannah. He still cannot believe that he would leave Savannah away. In the last paragraph of the prologue, it is stated that he reflects of all the things happened between him and Savannah (p. 5). This paragraph indicates that John likes to make self-reflection about what has happened in his life from his thought.

John’s reflection can also be seen from his past life. Before he decides to join the army, John spends the time reflecting his time. This is his first time to really think about his life. He thinks about joining the school or doing something for his father. In that time, he meets two marines jogging in the park. After a couple of days, he decides to join the marines. But when the time comes, he joins
the Army. It is because the recruiter from marines department is having lunch and is not immediately available, while the army recruiter is (pp. 20-21).

From the author’s comment (John narration), it is often stated in the novel that every time he wants to go to bed, he reflects anything happening in that day. After he has dinner with Savannah in The Shrimp Shack, he relieves the events of the day (p. 93). When he gets closer to Savannah, he reflects that the distance will be the biggest thing he will face if he dates Savannah. He has seen that his friends’ relationship ends up because of the distance, but he finally tells himself that he can break this odd (p. 116).

When John is about to go back to Germany, he meets Savannah and has a tough conversation about the condition of his father. Savannah thinks that his father might have Asperger’s syndrome. John is too emotional in that time. They debate each other and ended up by John’s leaving. After the incident in the beach house, John who was in high temper, unconsciously, hits Tim’s nose. In the way home, John drives his car and reflects the incident happening before. In the bed time, John cannot sleep and spends the night by still reflecting the accident happening in that day. He tries to avoid the thought actually, but he could not resist it (pp. 141-148). In the morning, Tim comes to John’s house and has conversation with John about things happening before. At that time, John also admits that Savannah is not the only one should be suspected. John also feels sorry about that moment (pp. 149-152). After some thought, John finally reads the book about Asperger’s syndrome which is given by Savannah the day before and he starts to compare it to his father. He can analyze and answer his both
An unanswered question about his mother and question why his father is not like other fathers he has ever met. After reading the book, John really studies his father and tries to implement what the book has said about Asperger’s syndrome. Because of that, he can rebuild his relationship with his father that night with different point of view (pp. 154-158). Here, John’s reflection can be seen from his conversation with both Savannah and Tim and also from his thought.

Another reflection John does is when he is given his leave from Frankfurt to Raleigh. The conflict occurs when they are in Savannah’s apartment in Chapel Hill. In the beginning John can adapt with Savannah’s tight schedule. But after some days, things get worse. John feels that there is no time for them to hang out privately, just both of them. Finally, they argue each other and end up by John’s leaving the apartment (pp. 194-204). When he leaves the apartment, he spends the time alone until the nightfall and reflects the things happening before until the morning comes. In the morning at nine, he comes back to Savannah’s room, apologizes to her and talks to her heart to heart (pp. 204-210). In this analysis, John’s reflection can be seen from both his conversation with Savannah and his own thought.

John’s maturity can also be seen through the theory of personality. According to Freud’s theory of personality about maturity, John’s ego can think of the reality and his ego can control both his id and superego. When his id wants him to be angry and his superego wants him to be a perfect man, the reflection helps him to think of the reality. His consideration about the reality makes him to
be able to control his id and superego. That is why it could be said that John is a mature person.

3. Responsible

Referring to Murphy’s theory of characterization, we can find it from his thought when he tells about army life and when he re-enlists his duty after the 9-11 incident occurred.

The military teaches John how to watch each others’ back. John also thinks that life is precious because it can suddenly be taken away from us. He should protect each others’ life. He did it for the friendship, not for the country or the patriotism (p. 24).

“You fight for your friend, to keep him alive, and he fights for you, and everything about the army is built on this simple premise.” (p. 24)

When the 9-11 incident happened, it is a big incident for the United States. They open the recruitment of the Army and those who has been in the army are also asked about re-enlisted his duty. The fever to serve the country grows stronger amongst them. John feels the same thing. He feels that it is his responsibility to fight for his country by re-enlisting his duty, though he has counted down his discharge and has planned to settle down with Savannah. It means that he should wait for another two years to discharge and live together with Savannah. It is also stated that John re-enlisted the duty not only because of the patriotic fever, but also because of the bounding of friendship and responsibility. He also states that he knows his friends and he cares about them (pp. 215-216).
“I knew my men, I cared about my men, and the thought of abandoning them at the time like this struck me as impossibly cowardly. We’d been through too much together to contemplate leaving the service in those waning days of 2001.” (p. 216)

This quotation can show how much he cares about his friends. He could not leave his friends to fight for his country alone while he just sits and enjoys his discharge time. He has passed through many things together with them. He can postpone his dream to settle down with Savannah for the next two years by re-enlisting his duty in Army. Besides being a responsible person, this part also shows that John has a high solidarity.

Referring to Alderian theory of personality, it is explained that one’s personality might be influenced by social perspective and his striving for superiority of success (Feist J. & Feist G. J., 2009, pp. 65-66). John’s social group, in this context, is the US Army environment. The social perspective in Army, at that moment, is that they have to be responsible with their duty as an army member to fight for their country together. If they do it, then the society will consider him as friend and if one does not do it, they will consider that person as enemy or betrayer. This perspective also influences John to re-enlist his duty. That is why he said that he re-enlists his duty because of the bounding of friendship and responsibility.

4. Firm and consistent

John’s firmness and consistency can be seen from his action after committing to change to be a better person. According to Murphy’s theory of characterization, we could find it from his thought, author’s comment (John’s narration) and his conversation with Tony, Toby and his father.
Army had changed John from his rebellion in the past life. When he was in the Army, John promised himself to leave his rebel life and become a better man. It can be shown from his attempt to quit smoking for more than two years, his reducing alcohol consumption to one or two bottles a week even any bottle for a month (p. 24). He also quits dating girls that he does not love or it can be called as one night-stand dating. He said that he shields away from any prospect of female companionship (p. 25). When Tony asks him to have party with some girls, he rejects it. He does not want to be the kind of person he had been in the past (p. 26). He really does his promise. It shows his consistency and firmness to leave his past life.

Another example of his consistency to leave his past life is also shown after he meets Savannah. When John spends the day by surfing, the wave is not as good as the day before. Then, he decides to go to Leroy’s. It is the bar he used to hang out in the past life. Actually, he hates to come there as he walks in the door. When having conversation with Toby in Leroy’s, he asks John to have party in Mandy’s house. John refuses it politely, leaves his mostly full glass of beer and goes home (pp. 96-99).

In the past life he used to hate his father. After joining the Army, John becomes more care about his father. He tries to start the conversation but it always ends up with silence, then he gives up the conversation. He just can make a very short conversation though he tries to talk about some interesting topics. It happens before he knows that his father has Asperger’s syndrome. It can be seen in some pages in the novel such as page 27, 75, 94, 100-102, 104, 149. When he knew that
his father has Asperger’s syndrome, he changes the way he communicates with
his father (pp. 156-157). He can understand his father better (p. 161). After his
father gets the second heart attack, John brings him to a hospital. Few hours
before John leaves for the airport, he says thanks to his father and says that he is
the greatest father ever. He also says that he loves his father. It is something that
he has ever wanted to say. It needs a lifetime for John to arrange the sentence (pp.
248-249). From this case, it can be seen that John is a consistent person. He really
leaves his past life and changes to be a better man.

Another event showing his firmness and consistency is when he decides to
leave Savannah. He never talks to her anymore after they say goodbye to each
other. A year after that moment, he only watches Savannah in the distance and
does not meet her (p. 330). When he sees Savannah is staring at the moon, he
wants to let her know that he is there, but he does not do it (pp. 334 – 335).
Watching the full moon is one of their promises, when they are dating. When John
is leaving apart for his duty, Savannah asked him not to forget to watch the full
moon (p. 212). From both decision to leave his past life and to leave Savannah, it
can be concluded that John is firm and consistent with the decision he made. He
does not regret his decision and he is consistent with it.

2.2.2. John’s Motivation in Giving Away His Father’s Legacy to Savannah as
seen in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John

Everyone has reasons in doing something. Those reasons can become their
motivations. According to Gredler, Broussard and Garrison (2004), motivation is
the attribute that moves someone to do or not to do something (p. 106).
Theories of motivation themselves cannot help us in analyzing John’s motivation. Combining John’s characteristics and theories of motivation which have been discussed above, it can help us in analyzing John’s motivation in giving away his father’s legacy to Savannah as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John.

The needs can also influence someone’s motivation. Referring to Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the study found that there are two needs in John for giving away his father’s legacy to Savannah. Those two needs which can be seen in this study are love needs and self-esteem needs. Love needs motivate John and Savannah for bonding in relationship and it also motivates John to love Savannah so much. Self-esteem needs lead John to reach an achievement to prove his love to Savannah by not ruining her marriage with Tim, leaving her and giving his father’s legacy to help Savannah in curing Tim’s lung cancer in MD Anderson treatment.

According to Hufman, Vernoy M. and Vernoy J. (2000), there are two kinds of motivation: intrinsic and extrinsic motivation. The study reveals that there are two intrinsic motivations. The motivations will be mentioned below:

**a. John wants to realize that Savannah is a married woman**

After his father’s funeral, John goes to Lenoir where Savannah lives with her new family. In Lenoir, John faces many facts such as who Savannah’s husband is, why she marries him and what they are facing at that time. Many things happen there. After John meets Savannah and comes into her house, he finds out that Savannah’s husband is Tim, one of Savannah’s friends that John used to know when they were dating a year ago. John knows that Tim loves
Savannah when he was twelve years old, years before John knows her. He listens to all of the reasons that Savannah has to face to marry Tim. John also knows that Tim has cancer in his lungs and has no much time to live. Most of all, Johns also figures out that Savannah still loves him (pp. 261-326). These facts help John realize that he should leave Savannah and let her live her own marriage life without him.

In the night they meet for the first time after Savannah’s marriage, John knows that Savannah married Tim (pp. 261-286). In the next morning, John and Savannah go to the hospital to visit Tim. After some conversations, they go back to Savannah’s house. In the night, everything looks wonderful for John and Savannah. They start to talk about the past, the time when they were dating. It seems that they have their time back a year ago when they were dating. They know that they still love each others. But when they realize that they cannot be together anymore, it hurts their heart. It is getting worse when Alan, Tim’s brother, comes back from the hospital and does his strange action. This, sometimes, happens whenever he comes back from the hospital. It makes John realize that he does not belong to there. John leaves Savannah’s house without saying good-bye. In the same night John begins to recall everything happening on his visit this year, about his father’s funeral, Tim, Alan and Savannah at the most (pp. 287 – 321).

In the morning, John goes to the hospital to meet Tim to say good-bye because he has to go back to Germany for his duty. After meeting Tim, John feels that his love to Savannah is wrong. He thinks that love should bring joy and
peace. At that time, the love does not bring joy anymore but it brings pain not only to him but also to both Savannah and Tim. He realizes that his coming to Lenoir will tempt Savannah and ruin her marriage. Whenever he remembers Tim’s request to promise that John will love Savannah with the devotion he felt, which means that he suggests John to love Savannah when he died, it makes John even worse (pp. 321 – 326).

From the facts above, John wants to make everything right. He realizes that he does not belong in Savannah’s marriage life even though they still love each other. This makes John want to fix everything go back to what it should be. Then, he decides to leave Savannah. He says it to Savannah when they meet in the parking lot. As much as he loves her, he does not want to break up her marriage. He knows that even though Savannah loves him, she loves Tim too. Furthermore, Tim is her husband and he needs her to support him, all of her. As stated before that one of John’s characteristics is mature. John’s awareness about the reality (ego) that Savannah is married woman controls his id to take his lover back to him and his super ego to be a better man by not ruining one’s marriage. The reflection helps John to realize that Savannah is married woman. There should not be any room for Johns or others to come inside and ruin it. That is why he promises to Savannah that they would never meet each other again (pp. 326 – 329).

b. John wants to prove his love to Savannah

It is stated repeatedly that John loves Savannah so much. For the first time they are dating John says that he loves her. And even when Savannah married Tim, John still loves her.
“You still love her, don’t you?” I kept my expression steady, but he read me anyway...” (p. 323)

John also admits it when Tim asks him whether he still loves Savannah or not. Even Tim knows that Savannah also loves John more than she loves him by the way she looks at John (pp. 323 – 324). Even in their last meeting, John says that he loves Savannah twice.

“... As much as I love you, I’m not willing to break up a marriage for it...” (p. 328)

“I love you, Savannah, and I always will,” I breathed. “You’re the best thing that’s ever happened to me. You were my best friend and my lover, and I don’t regret a single moment of it....” (p. 329)

John still says love though it was their last time to talk to each other. It can prove that he loves Savannah so much. And in the epilogue, it is also stated that John helps Savannah by giving the money by selling all of his father’s coin collection to bring Tim to have vaccine trial from MD Anderson. He also follows Tim’s progress from his lawyer. He finally, in the distance, sees Savannah, Tim and Alan a year later (pp. 331-333).

He sells the coins because he finally understands what true love really meant. Tim tells and shows him that love means we care about another person’s happiness above our own happiness, no matter how painful and hard the choices we face might be. He does it even though he knows that his feeling to Savannah will never change (p. 334). The conversation between him and Tim changes John’s view of love. This understanding moves John to sell his father’s coin collections and give it to Savannah anonymously through his lawyer even though his heart was broken and he cannot chase Savannah again. He helps Tim’s
treatment without expecting any reward. He sells his father’s legacy and donates the money to Savannah because John wants to make Savannah to be happy and prove his love to her.

This is an intrinsic motivation because John did it without expecting any reward. He just wants to make Savannah to be happy. Even though the cause that changes John’s understanding about true love comes from his conversation with Tim, but he does it for his own sake. According to Hufman, Vernoy M. and Vernoy J (2000), intrinsic motivation means the desire to perform an act for its own sake, while extrinsic motivation means the desire to perform an action because of external rewards or avoidance of punishment. John does not avoid any punishment or expect any rewards by giving away his father’s legacy to Savannah. He does it sincerely for Savannah’s happiness because he loves her and he wants to prove it. John also realizes that he should leave Savannah and let her live her own life without him.
CHAPTER 3

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter will be divided into two parts. The first part is the conclusion which is found in the discussion in chapter two. The second part provides recommendations for the future researchers and for the English teachers.

3.1. Conclusions

This part will discuss the conclusion about the analysis in the Chapter Two. There are two conclusions according to the analysis above. The first conclusion is about John’s characteristics and the second conclusion is about John’s motivation in giving away his father’s legacy as seen in Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* novel.

The first conclusion about the analysis deals with John’s characteristics in this novel. In analyzing the characteristics of John, theory of characterization is implemented at the most and theory of personality is implemented as the supporting theory. Based on the Murphy’s theory of characterization, John is an active person. He joins the army and has good figure. He also likes to reflect his life. He often reflects about what has happened in that day. He also reflects whenever he gets mad to Savannah and leaves. In his leaving he will reflect about what has happened and go back to Savannah and apologize. The third characteristic of John is that he has high solidarity. When 9-11 incident hits the United States, he chooses to re-enlist his duty rather than to keep expecting his discharge and settling down with Savannah because of the bounding of friendship
and responsibility for his country. He postpones his plan to settle down with Savannah two years longer. The fourth characteristic of John is that he is firm and consistent. When he decides to be a better person by leaving his past life, he really means it and leaves it. Also, when he decides to leave Savannah, he really leaves her. What he can do is just observing Savannah in the distance. He actually has time to come closer and talk to her, but he does not do it.

The second conclusion about the analysis deals with John’s motivation in giving away his father’s legacy to Savannah. Based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs, love needs motivate John and Savannah for bounding in a relationship and also motivate John to love Savannah so much. The last needs are self-esteem needs which lead John to prove his love to Savannah by not ruining her marriage with Tim, leaving her and giving his father’s legacy to help them. According to Hufman, Vernoy M. and Vernoy J., John’s motivation in giving away his father legacy is that because John wants to face the reality that Savannah, at that time, is a married woman. The second motivation is that because John wants to prove his love to Savannah. He learns that if he loves Savannah that much, he will let her happy by not ruining her marriage and helping her to pay for her husband’s treatment.

3.2. Recommendations

This part will provide the suggestion for both the future researchers who are interested to analyze the Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* novel and the English teachers who want to use Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* novel as their teaching material.
It is hoped that this study would benefit the readers of Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*, especially those who are willing to study further this novel. This study will help them in studying the literary work itself, since it will give them some additional information in understanding this novel particularly in analyzing the characteristics of the main character, and the psychological approach used in this research.

It is also hoped that this research could give benefits to the English teacher since this research used literature as the main subject. Literature is also used in the teaching activities especially in reading. The English teacher can also use Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* as the materials in the reading class for beginner level. The lesson plan will be attached in the Appendix 3.
REFERENCES


APPENDICES
APPENDIX 1

Dear John

Nicholas Sparks

Summary

John dropped out of school and enlisted in the Army, not knowing what else to do with his life until he met the girl of his dreams, Savannah. Their mutual attraction quickly grew into the kind of love that leads Savannah in waiting for John to finish his tour of duty, and John wanted to marry Savannah. But 9/11 incident changed his plan to settle down with Savannah. John felt it was his duty to re-enlist. The long separation found Savannah falling in love with someone else and broke up with John.

After his father passed away, John went back home to have his father’s funeral. After the funeral, he went to visit Savannah. In his meeting with Savannah, John faced many new things such as the fact that Savannah had married to her best friend, Tim, who is also John’s friend when he met Savannah. Another new thing that he found out is that Tim has illness which endangered his life. Savannah wanted to bring him to alternative treatment, but she did not have enough money to bring him. The last great thing that John figured out was that Savannah still loved John. This fact was strengthened by Tim who said that Savannah’s love to John was greater than her love for him. Tim also wanted John to promise when he died, John had to take care and love Savannah as his love to her. But in the end, John made a big decision in his life that he did not want to ruin Savannah’s marriage life and decided to leave her. Even, he sold all of his
father’s coin collection and anonymously gave it to Savannah for Tim’s alternative treatments to make her happy.

Summarized by: Melyna Trianingsih
APPENDIX 2

BIOGRAPHY OF NICHOLAS SPARKS

Nicholas Sparks is one of the world’s most beloved storytellers. All of his books have been New York Times bestsellers, with over 97 million copies sold worldwide, in more than 50 languages, including over 65 million copies in the United States alone.


*Safe Haven*, Sparks’ eighth film adaptation and on which he served as a Producer, opened February 14, 2013, taking top box office honors for Valentine’s Day. The ninth film adaptation of one of his novels, *The Best of Me*, will open in
October and the tenth, *The Longest Ride*, will open next spring. Along with *The Lucky One, Message in a Bottle, A Walk to Remember, The Notebook, Nights in Rodanthe, Dear John* and *The Last Song*, adaptations of Nicholas Sparks’ novels have a cumulative worldwide gross of over three-quarters of a billion dollars.

In 2012, Sparks and his publishing agent and creative partner Theresa Park, launched Nicholas Sparks Productions, with Park as President of Production. A film and television production company, they currently have an overall deal with Warner Brothers Television. Just months after launching the company, Nicholas Sparks Productions set up five television projects, to be developed in collaboration with four different networks: TNT, ABC Family, MTV and Lifetime. The company recently announced the acquisition of Gayle Sayers’s life and memoir rights for a feature film to be co-produced with Michael Costigan. Nicholas Sparks Productions, in association with Senator Films, anticipate moving forward with a local language feature film for the German speaking audience in the near term.

*Deliverance Creek*, which marks Sparks’ television producing debut, will premiere as a special two-hour event on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014 on Lifetime. With an original script written by Melissa Carter and directed by Jon Amiel, *Deliverance Creek* stars Lauren Ambrose. From Nicholas Sparks Productions and Warner Horizon, Melissa Carter, Nicholas Sparks, Theresa Park and Jon Amiel serve Executive Producers.

Sparks lives in North Carolina with his family. He contributes to a variety of local and national charities, and is a major contributor to the Creative
Writing Program (MFA) at the University of Notre Dame, where he provides scholarships, internships, and a fellowship annually. Along with his wife, he founded The Epiphany School in New Bern, North Carolina. As a former full scholarship athlete (he still holds a track and field record at the University of Notre Dame) he also spent four years coaching track and field athletes at the local public high school. In 2009, the team he coached at New Bern High School set a World Junior Indoor Record in the 4 x400 meter, in New York. The record still stands.

In 2011, Nicholas and his wife launched the Nicholas Sparks Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to improving cultural and international understanding through global education experiences for students of all ages. Between the foundation, and the personal gifts of Nicholas and Catherine Sparks, more than $10 million dollars have been distributed to deserving charities, scholarship programs, and projects. Because Nicholas and Catherine Sparks cover all operational expenses of the foundation, 100% of donations are devoted to programs.

Taken from: http://nicholassparks.com/about/

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APPENDIX 3

LESSON PLAN

Subject : English
Student Level : Beginner in English courses
              Basic Reading Skill class
Materials : Describing Things, Places and Person
Skills : Reading and Writing
Time Allocation : 100 minutes

I. Competence Standard
After completing the course, the students are able to improve their reading comprehension and develop their English vocabulary buildings.

II. Basic Competences
1. The students are able to improve their reading skill about describing things, places and person and understand the reading passage taken from Nicholas Sparks’ Dear John novel.
2. The students are able to improve their writing skill about describing things, places and person.

III. Indicators
1. The students are able to define the meaning of the uncommon vocabularies taken from the passage.
2. The students are able to identify the specific information from the passage.
3. The students are able to write about describing things, places and person

IV. Learning Objectives
1. The students are able to define the meaning of the vocabularies taken from the passage by guessing from the context.
2. The students are able to identify the specific information from the text by answering some question about the passage.
3. The students are able to write about describing things, places and person.

V. Learning Materials
Parts of Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John*.

VI. Learning Strategies
Class-discussion and individual assignment.

VII. Teaching-Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Time Allocation</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Pre activities 10’</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>5’</td>
<td>The students respond the greeting and the questions about the last meeting material review asked by the teacher.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>5’</td>
<td>The students get the information about the competence, the goals and the handout about the materials of the study.</td>
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<td><strong>Whilst activities 80’</strong></td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>5’</td>
<td>The students look at the pictures in the handout and answer the questions given about the picture in class discussion.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>The students read the passage briefly and look for the uncommon vocabularies.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>The students look for the meaning of the vocabularies found in the dictionary.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>The students read the questions given in the worksheet.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>The students read the passage once again and answer the questions about description from the passage.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>10’</td>
<td>The students discuss the answer of the worksheet together in class discussion.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
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<td>The students ask about describing things, place and person in class discussion.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>15’</td>
<td>The teacher helps the students to answer the questions asked by the students through the class discussion. (If there is question which cannot be answered yet, the teacher asks the student to look for the answer at home and will be discussed in the next meeting.)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>20’</td>
<td>The students write description about things well-known without saying what it is in front of the class.</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td></td>
<td>The student reads their writing product in front of the class while the other students try to guess the thing meant by their friend.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Post activities 10’</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>5’</td>
<td>The teacher and the students review the materials which have been discussed before.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>The teacher helps the student to make self-reflection about today learning.</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>2’</td>
<td>The teacher tells the students about the next meeting materials and closes the class.</td>
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VIII. Assesment

The teacher evaluates the students based on the rubric below.

C. Vocabulary buildings

Score = Total number x 1.25

= 8 x 1.25

= 10
D. Answering the questions

Score  = Total number x 2
       = 5 x 2
       = 10

E. Writing the Description

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>Diction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Paraphrasing the sentences</td>
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<td>Total 20</td>
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Total Score  = (Score C + Score D + Score E) x 2.5
              = (10 + 10 + 20) x 2.5
              = 40 x 2.5
              = 100
APPENDIX 4

DEscribing things, places and person

A. Answer the questions below!

1. What picture is it?
2. Where is the tower located?
3. Have you ever gone to that place?
4. Is there anything famous about the city? What are they?

B. Read the reading passage carefully!

My name is John Tyree. I was born in 1977, and I grew up in Wilmington, North Carolina, a city that proudly boasts the largest port in the states as well as a long and vibrant history but now strikes me more as a city that came out by accident. Sure, the weather was great and the beaches perfect, but it wasn’t ready for the waves of Yankee retirees up north who wanted someplace cheap to spend their golden years. The city is located on a relatively thin spit of land bounded by the Cape Fear River on one side and the ocean on the other. Highway 17 – which leads to Myrtle Beach and Charleston – bisects the town and serves as its major road. When I was a kid, my dad and I could drive from the historic district near the Cape Fear River to Wrightsville Beach in ten minutes, but so many stoplights and shopping centers have been added that it can now take an hour, especially on the weekends, when the tourist come flooding in. Wrightsville Beach, located on an island just off the
coast, is on the northern end of Wilmington and far and away one of the most popular beaches in state. The homes along the dunes are ridiculously expensive, and most of them are rented out all summer long. The Outer Banks may have more romantic appeal because of their isolation and wild horses and that flight that Orville and Wilbur were famous for, but let me tell you, most people who go to the beach on vacation feel most at home when they can find a McDonald’s or Burger King nearby, in case the little ones aren’t too fond of the local fare, and want more than a couple of choices when it comes to evening activities.

Like all cities, Wilmington is rich in places and poor in others, and since my dad had one of the steadiest, solid-citizen jobs on planet—he drove a mail delivery route for the post office—we did okay. Not great, but okay. We weren’t rich, but we lived close enough to the rich area for me to attend one of the best high schools in the city. Unlike my friends’ homes, though, our house was old and small; part of the porch had begun to sag, but the yard was its saving grace. There was a big oak tree in the backyard, and when I was eight years old, I built a tree house with scraps of wood I collected from a construction site. My dad didn’t help me with the project (if he hit a nail with a hammer, it could honestly be called an accident); it was the same summer I taught myself to surf. I suppose I should have realized then how different I was from my dad, but that just shows how little you know about life when you’re kid.
My dad and I were as different as two people could possibly be. Where he was passive and introspective, I was always in motion and hated to be alone; while he placed a high values on education, school for me like a social club with sports added in. he had poor posture and tended to shuffle when he walked; I bounced from here to there, forever asking him to time how long it took me to run to the end of the block and back. I was taller than him by the time I was in eighth grade and could beat him in arm-wrestling a year later. Our physical features were completely different, too. While he had sandy hair, hazel eyes, and freckles, I had brown hair and eyes, and my olive skin would darken to a deep tan by May. 

(Taken from Nicholas Sparks’ *Dear John* page 9 – 11)

C. Vocabulary Buildings

Look for some uncommon vocabularies from the passage and find the meaning in your dictionary! (You may add the table yourself)

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<th>WORDS</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
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D. Answer the question below based on the passage you have read before!

1. What is Wilmington and where is it?

______________________________________________________________________________

2. What are bounded the Wilmington?

______________________________________________________________________________

3. What does Highway 17 look like?

______________________________________________________________________________

4. What does John’s house look like?

______________________________________________________________________________

5. What does his father look like?

______________________________________________________________________________

E. Write one to two paragraphs about famous things, places or person you know and let your friends guess what it is!