

## CHARACTERIZATION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE MOVIE ORION AND THE DARK (2024)

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### ABSTRACT

Character is an important element in storyline and conveys messages about social life in a narrative. The purpose of this study is to analyze the characterization of the main character Orion in the movie Orion and The Dark (2024). This study uses the theory of intrinsic approach by Edgar V. Roberts. Roberts. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. The data used in this study are conversations between the main character and other characters from the movie Orion and The Dark (2024), which are available on the Netflix streaming platform. The object of this research is character of the main character named Orion. This analysis shows that Orion has timid, care, and faithful characters. Through this research, people can understand the importance of characters in a story in movies and other literary works. The conclusion of this study is the character of Orion in the movie Orion and The Dark (2024) has characterizations including care, faithful, helpful, timid, and judgmental. The impact of this research can provide knowledge of the importance of characterization in a story for the community.

**Keywords:** Characterization, Character, Orion and the Dark

### INTRODUCTION

Movie, as a form of modern literature, has become one of the most powerful media in describing and conveying various aspects of human life. Apart from being an entertainment, Wibowo (2006) said movies can also be a powerful artistic medium in representing various kinds of social, cultural, and human situations.

Character is an important element in storyline and conveys messages about human life in a narrative. Character can be an important element that differentiates movies from other media. Strong and well-defined characters can create a deep emotional bond with the audience and make the story more interesting. Character is an important element in making a story or plot in a movie. Characters in movies are not only limited to the entertainment aspect, but also carry deep implications for the understanding of humans, society, and the human condition as a whole. Through characters, movies become a medium to explore various themes and social lives that form the essence of human life.

In movie, the process of creating a character in a character is referred to as characterization. Characterization is an attempt to display the character of the character played with the aim of creating characters in a movie, novel, and other literary works. Through characterization, movies can be realistic, interesting, and complex characters

that are able to attract the attention of the audience and make them involved in the story. There are studies similar to this research, namely research conducted by Muhammad Syauqie with the title "ANALYSIS OF JACK'S CHARACTER IN THE WONDER FILM (2017)", Fitri Nurul Shobah with the title "Character Analysis of Abah's Main Character in Keluarga Cemara Film", Jihad Dzikri Fauzi with the title "ANALYSIS OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE GREAT GATSBY FILM (2013)", Aulia Shafa Prakusya with the title "KARAKTERISASI TOKOH UTAMA DAN NILAI-NILAI PENDIDIKAN DALAM NOVEL DUA PANGlima KARYA SUCI AMALIA DAN HUBUNGANNYA DENGAN PEMBELAJARAN BAHASA INDONESIA DI SMA", and Feronika Manderos with the title "ANALISIS KARAKTER TOKOH HAZEL GRACE DAN AUGUSTUS WATERS DALAM NOVEL THE FAULT IN OUR STARS KARYA JOHN GREEN". This study strengthens previous research by using the latest data source, which is a movie released in 2024.

In this research, the author will analyze the characterization of the main character in the film Orion and The Dark. The movie tells the story of a boy named Orion who is very timid and likes to imagine facing his fears on a journey through the night with his new friend, a big smiling creature named Dark. The purpose of this research is to show that characterization is an important element of a story so that people not only enjoy a story but understand the importance of characterization in a story.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

Character is an important element in a story. Characters are people featured in a narrative work, or drama, who are interpreted to have certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in action (Nurgiyantoro, 2015). Through characters, a story can become more in-depth and produce an interesting storyline. Characters in a narrative are divided into good characters and bad characters. Good characters include caring, faithful, and helpful traits. Meanwhile, bad characters include cowardice, selfishness, and judgment.

Based on good character traits, caring character is shown through attentiveness and concern for others. A character which has a caring character will be sensitive to the feelings of others and will be willing to help or provide support to others. Meanwhile, faithful character leads to a commitment to stick to a value, obligation, and relationship even when faced with pressure or temptation. In addition, helpful character can be explained as an individual trait that is naturally inclined to help and provide support to others in situations that require assistance.

Based on bad character traits, timid characters are described as individuals who have an excessive fear of certain situations or things in their lives. This trait appears in the behavior of the characters, where they tend to avoid things they are afraid of or feel anxious about things that are considered scary or threatening. Meanwhile, selfish characters refer to traits or behaviors that are based on personal interests without regard to the needs and interests of others. Selfish characters tend to prioritize their own benefits and interests. In addition, judgmental characters tend to be individuals who judge others harshly and one-sidedly. A character who has a judgmental character can make judgments or assumptions about others based on their own views without considering the views of others.

According to Edgar V. Roberts (1983:41), in his book entitled *Writing Themes about Literature*, there are 4 ways to find out the characters in literary works. First, what the character says about himself. Character can be revealed through what the character says about himself. By bringing up the concept of character introspection, readers and viewers are given direct insight into the thoughts, feelings, and views of the character. Second, what the character does. Through the behavior and actions taken by the character, the character and nature of the character can be raised and seen by the reader and audience. Third, what other characters say about the character. Through the words of other characters to the character to be studied, it can provide a different view and help deepen understanding of the character and personality of the character to be studied. Fourth, what the author says about the character. The author who creates the storyline and creates the character of the character can provide information about the character of the character, either directly or through narration. By combining four ways to find out the character in literary works, this research will get a deep understanding of the character of a character to be studied.

## METHODOLOGY

In this study, the method to be used is descriptive qualitative research method. According to Creswell, qualitative methods are an approach or research to explore and understand a central phenomenon (Prihandini, 2022). According to Sugiyono (2018: 35) descriptive research is research conducted to determine the value of independent variables, either one or more variables without making comparisons, or combining with other variables. The descriptive qualitative method is used in this study by observing data sources in the form of events in a movie Orion and The Dark (2024) that show characterization and describing the results descriptively. The data used in this study comes from a movie entitled Orion and The Dark (2024) whose object of research is the main character named Orion. The data source of this research are taken through conversations between Orion and other characters in the movie. To find out the character, this research uses the intrinsic approach theory by Edgar V. Roberts.

In this research, the data analysis technique used in this research has three stages:

1. Sorting out the data collected.
2. Classifying the selected data.
3. Analyzing by describing each data that has been classified.

## DISCUSSION

The findings of this movie show the character of the main character named Orion in the movie Orion and The Dark (2024). Based on Edgar V. Roberts (1983:43), there are four ways to find characterization, namely what the character says about him selves, what the character does, what other characters say about the character, and what the author says about the character, the following are the characteristics of Orion's character found in the movie.

1. Care



**Figure 1:** Scene 15:07 seconds

*Dark: Listen, I didn't ask to be a supernatural entity that evokes dread and despair. Im just a regular guy trying to do my job. But people always pick on me. Truth is, almost everyone is scared of me. Or hates me. Or thinks I'm evil. Some people think I'm nothing. Hurts a guy.*

*Orion: Look, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to--*

*Dark: No, it's okay. You know, and I-I like people. That's the thing. It's just that so much of how you see yourself is through the eyes of others, you know? I just wish people would give me a chance.*

*Orion: I know how you feel. A lot of kids at school pick on me, too.*

When Dark is talking to Orion at 15:07 seconds, Dark talks about how he is always feared by others and considered a bad person. Dark also says that it hurts his feeling to get that treatment from others. Orion, who was scared and hiding behind the blanket, then came out of the blanket and showed sympathy to Dark by saying "I know how you feel". Through this scene, Orion sympathizes with Dark and shows concern for Dark after hearing Dark's story about what he experienced at work. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character does.



**Figure 2:** Scene 27:52 seconds

*Sleep is going to make a baby sleep with her "sleep hammer"*

*Orion: Stop!*

*Sleep: Do you mind? I can't have this blabbermouth freaking out while I'm trying to get work done!*

*Orion: None of what you're doing is okay! Smothering someone with pillow? Chloroform? A hammer? Not to mention, questions of hygiene with that kiss.*

*Sleep: Listen, I've been doing this job for thousands of years. I think I know what I'm doing, kid.*

When Dark take Orion to see Dark's friend Sleep at work, Orion witnessed Sleep making people sleep in a bad way. Orion sees Sleep smothering people with Sleep's sleeping pillow, drugging people with chloroform, and also about to hit a baby with a sleeping hammer. At 27:52 seconds, when Sleep is about to hit the baby with the sleep hammer, Orion screamed in panic and stopped Sleep immediately. Orion was worried if the baby was hit with Sleep's sleeping hammer. In this scene, Orion who immediately stopped Sleep from working showed concern for the baby. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character does.

## 2. Faithful



**Figure 4:** Scene 57:27 seconds



*Dark: Okay, break time's over, guys. Stop messing around. We need to keep moving.*

*Sweet Dreams: Can't wait to see the dawn of a new day.*

*Dark: Guys, don't make me do this by myself, please. All we need to work together. We're... we're friends.*

*(All of Dark's friends kept ignoring Dark and kept waiting for the morning to arrived.)*

*Dark: well, I really enjoyed spending all that time with you all. Have a good morning.*

*(Dark left the room, then Orion looked at Dark's friends but none of Dark's friends cared about Dark and kept waiting for morning to come. Orion rushed after Dark out of the room.)*

*Light: Good morning, everybody! Did someone say, "Light"?*

*Orion: Honestly, I don't know what anyone sees in him.*

*Dark: That makes one of us.*

At 57:27 seconds, Orion at that moment wants to make Dark and his friends see the beauty of the morning because Dark and his friends have never experienced the morning. But Dark cannot be exposed to light because he would vanish. After Orion talks to Dark's friends, Dark's friends start to think that Dark is one of the reasons why they are hated by others. Orion didn't mean to do that, he just wanted Dark's friends to experience the morning to understand the beauty of the morning. After that, Dark's friends began to hate Dark and wanted to wait for the morning. Dark tried to persuade his friends to go back to work but his friends didn't care and went back to waiting for the morning. Then Dark walked out of the room feeling sad. Orion, who was confused, rushed after Dark. Just before leaving the room, Orion saw Dark's friends but none of them cared that Dark was gone. After that, Orion immediately rushes back after Dark and accompanies Dark outside the room. In this scene, Orion shows his faithful character towards Dark. He still followed Dark and accompanied Dark when none of his other friends cared about Dark. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character does.



**Figure 5:** Scene 1:10:25 seconds

*Orion: It's going to suck us in! what happens now?*

*Dark: I don't know. But being with you, somehow, it makes the horror of the unknown less horrible.*

*Orion: I know what you mean.*

*Dark: It's been a pleasure knowing you, Orion.*

*Orion: The pleasure is all mine.*

In 1:10:25 seconds, when the rope used to save Dark from being sucked into the black hole is about to tear, Orion is confused about how to save them both. Then Dark says that he is happy to know Orion. Orion, hearing this, hugs Dark and says that he is also happy to know Dark. In this incident, Orion has a faithful character. Orion remains faithful to accompany Dark even though he will be sucked in by a black hole. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character does.

### 3. Helpful



**Figure 6:** Scene 2:53 seconds

*Gabe: AH! (Gabe ran so scared that he crashed into the locker in front of him.)*

*Orion: You okay, Gabe? (while giving his hand to Gabe to help him get up.)*

In the locker room, while Orion and his friends were changing their clothes, one of his friend named Gabe appeared, running in fear as if he was being chased by something he was afraid of. Shortly after Gabe ran, he accidentally crashed into the locker in front of him where Orion was changing his clothes. Gabe fell after crashing into the locker and Orion immediately gives his hand to Gabe to help him get back up while asking Gabe "Are you okay, Gabe?" Based on the scene at the duration of 2:53 seconds, Orion immediately helped his friend Gabe who fell, showing that Gabe has a helping character. Orion without thinking immediately gives help to Gabe without thinking about the situation in the locker room first. This action shows that Orion has a strong instinct to help others, even in situations that may be dangerous or uncertain. His responsiveness to Gabe's situation shows that Orion has a good character trait of being a helper. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character does.



**Figure 7:** Scene 1:09:10 seconds

*(A black hole appeared from behind the closet, and Dark was sucked into the suction hole. Orion tried to survive the strong suction of the black hole. Then Sweet dreams held out a long rope to Orion. Orion tied the rope and finally jumped into the black hole to save Dark who was sucked into the black hole.)*

*Orion: Hang on, Dark. I'm coming!*

*Dark: Orion, Over here!*

*Orion: Dark! (Orion reached out to Dark and helped him climb back out of the black hole.)*

When Orion finally meets Dark in the dream world, a black hole appears from behind the closet and sucks everything in. Dark is sucked into the black hole. Orion tried to survive the strong suction of the black hole while wondering how to save Dark. Then Sweet Dreams held out a rope that she had made from knotted cloth to Orion. Orion thoughtlessly tied the rope to his body and jumped into the black hole to save Dark who was sucked into the black hole. This shows that at 1:09:10 seconds, Orion has a helping character by throwing away his fear and jumping into the black hole to help Dark. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character does.

#### 4. Timid



**Figure 8:** Scene 0:21 seconds

*Orion: Hi. My name's Orion. I'm a kid, just like you, so we have that in common. Anyhow, I saw you sitting there by yourself and thought maybe you'd like some company.*

*(Orion walking up to Sally)*

*Orion: I know I would. So that's why I'm walking up to you right now and...*

*(Orion instantly passed by Sally)*

*Orion: Walking right past you. Why, you ask? Because, Sally, I'm afraid. Afraid of what, you want to know? So much, really. But in this case, rejection, humiliation... that you might tell your friends, and they would all laugh at me. And it's not just you I'm afraid of, Sally. And not just girls in general. It's most things, to be candid.*

At the beginning of the story, at 0:21 seconds, Orion walks towards Sally because he thinks she wants his company. However, the moment Orion gets close to Sally, he immediately avoids her and passes her by. Orion also said that he felt afraid of being rejected and humiliated. In this scene, Orion shows that he has a fear of being rejected and humiliated by others as he says it directly through his conversation. He has a timid character as he has excessive fear and always feels anxious about being rejected and humiliated. Orion has a deep-seated fear of how others will perceive him that makes him feel anxious and afraid. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character says about himself.



Figure 9: Scene 2:15 seconds

*Ibu Spinoza: Who can tell me which explorer first reached India by sea?*

*Lisa: Me, me, me! (Lisa raised her hand to answer the question.)*

*Orion: A tricky situation. Mrs. Spinoza usually calls on kids who don't raise their hands. But raising my hand so she won't call on me is dangerous strategy. Therefore I try to look invisible. But at the same time, not too invisible. I know the answer is Vasco da Gama. It's the answer to a great many questions in the fifth grade, but I'm afraid if called on, I might say "Gasco da Vama", or "Dasco ga Vama." Everyone would laugh. (Orion said in his mind.)*

*Lisa: Oh, Mrs. Spinoza, I know!*

*Ibu Spinoza: Yes? Lisa?*

*Lisa: Vasco da Gama.*

*Ibu Spinoza: Very good, Lisa.*

*Orion: I'm not real big fan of Lisa. But to be fair, there are a lot of things I'm not a big fan of. Murderous gutter clowns are high on my list. Cell phone waves giving me cancer. Mosquito bites getting infected. Falling off a Skycraper. Saying "good morning", "goob dorning!". Bees. Dogs. The ocean. I'm afraid of being responsible for my team losing. And of course, I'm afraid of locker rooms.*

While in class, at 2:15 seconds, Mrs. Spinoza asks her students "Who was the first sea explorer to reach India?" and Orion knows the answer to the question. But Orion is afraid to answer the question because he is afraid of saying the wrong answer. Orion was so afraid of being humiliated and laughed at by his friends. Shortly after Lisa answered the question correctly, Orion went on to say that he was afraid of many things such as killer sewer clowns, cancer-causing cell phone signals, mosquito bite infections, falling from tall buildings, bees, dogs, and the sea. From the things he was afraid of, Orion showed that he has timid character. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character says about himself.





**Figure 10:** Scene 10:48 Seconds

*Orion: This is bad! Very, very bad! It's literally the worst! Because all of the things I'm afraid of, I'm most afraid of the dark.*

When Orion was about to sleep at 10:48 seconds, he turned many lights on in his room to keep it bright. But no sooner had he turned on the lights and gone to sleep than lightning struck and all the lights in Orion's room went out. Orion immediately panicked and felt frightened. He said "of all the things I fear, I fear the dark the most." Orion is afraid of many things as he explained in Figure 10. But he is more afraid of the dark than all the other things he fears. In this scene, Orion's timid character is evident from his words about himself and his actions of panic and fear when his room becomes dark. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, which is what the character says about himself.

## 5. Judgmental



**Figure 12:** Scene 29:46 seconds

*(Insomnia is making people unable to sleep by whispering things to people who are sleeping.)*

*Insomnia: I'm never going to meet my deadline! She's sleeping pretty soundly. I'm gonna have to pull out the big guns for this one.*

*(Insomnia opened his suitcase and took a recording of the past entitled "stupid thing I said in 4th grade". Then he inserted the tape into the head of the sleeping people.)*

*Orion: All those sleepless nights were because of him? What a jerk--*

*Insomnia: Whoa, whoa, whoa. You think I'm the one doing that to you? Nuh-uh, pally. I'm just a megaphone for the thoughts people already got. Don't follow me around with this kid anymore, Dark. Okay? He's very judgy.*

In scene 29:46 seconds, when Dark takes Orion to see Dark's friend Insomnia work, Insomnia works by whispering something into the minds of people who are sleeping so that they stay awake and cannot sleep. Orion, who witnessed Insomnia at work, immediately felt annoyed and blamed Insomnia, saying "people have trouble sleeping because of him? You!". Insomnia, who did not accept it, immediately denied Orion's words and told Dark that Orion was very judgmental. Orion's attitude directly judges Insomnia's actions without considering the reasons behind Insomnia's actions. Orion blaming Insomnia without understanding the situation and Insomnia's reasons shows that Orion has a bad character, namely judgment. Through the conversation above, Insomnia says that Orion has a judgmental character because Orion immediately blames Insomnia for making people unable to sleep, which is part of Insomnia's job. Based on Edgar V. Robert (1983:43), this is one of the ways of revealing character, namely what the character does and what other characters say about the character.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Orion is the main character in the movie. Orion himself is told as a young boy who is still in school but has a fear of many things. However, Orion does not only have great fear. Orion has caring and loyal character traits. In this study, it can be concluded that the character of Orion in the film Orion and The Dark (2024) has characterizations including care, faithful, helpful, timid, and judgmental. However, the results of this study show that characterization in a literary work is very important to make a story more interesting for readers.

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