

## The Fear: A Study of Consternation in Bradbury's "The Night" (1947) Through the Main Character

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**Abstrak** – Studi ini meneliti ketakutan dalam novel *The Night* (1947) karya Ray Bradbury melalui pengalaman karakter utama, Shorts. Dengan menggunakan teori Fisher tentang rasa takut, penelitian ini berfokus pada bagaimana faktor lingkungan dan kontrol diri mengatur emosi manusia, terutama pada mengenai pengalaman rasa takut. Karena itu psikologi di karya sastra akan digunakan untuk mengelaborasi ketakutan yang ada di cerita pendek ini. Studi ini menerapkan metode kualitatif untuk mengeksplorasi narasi, dan mengungkapkan bagaimana elemen eksternal, seperti lingkungan dan reaksi orang lain, serta elemen internal seperti peristiwa masa lalu dan pikiran dalam diri, mempengaruhi rasa takut yang dialami Shorts. Temuan ini menyoroti bagaimana faktor-faktor tersebut memberikan dampak untuk memicu perilaku manusia, menekankan hubungan yang rumit antara keadaan eksternal dan kondisi psikologis internal. Melalui narasi Shorts, penelitian ini menggarisbawahi interaksi dinamis antara dunia eksternal dan emosi manusia.

**Kata Kunci:** *The Night*, Ray Bradbury, ketakutan, emosi

**Abstract** – This study examines the fear in Ray Bradbury's *The Night* (1947) through the lens of the main character, Shorts. Using Fisher's theory, this study focuses on how environmental factors and self-control regulate human emotion, especially fear. Thus, psychology in literature was applied to elaborate the fear in the short story. The study uses qualitative methods to investigate the narrative, revealing how external factors, such as the environment and the emotions of others, as well as internal factors, such as prior events and inner thoughts, influence Shorts' fear. The findings demonstrate how such elements influence human behavior, stressing the complex link between external situations and internal psychological states. Through Shorts's narrative, the study underscores the dynamic interaction between the external world and human emotion.

**Keywords:** *The Night*, Ray Bradbury, fear, emotion

### INTRODUCTION

Fear is the pattern of toxicity, distress, hurt, non-self-regulation in systems, or what some call the disease and oppression of the cycle of violence (Fisher, 1995). Debiec & LeDoux (2004) mentions that fear is a natural part of life, and it occurs whenever we are threatened. Their statement is in line with Adolphs (2013) who says that fear is a psychological state with specific functional properties conceptually distinct from conscious experience; the functional properties that define the state of fear are those that, in the light of evolution, have made this state adaptive for coping with a particular class of threats to survival, such as predators. Therefore, fear is a complex feeling of two strains, alarm and anxiety (Tuan, 1979). It is caused by sets of stimuli in a context-dependent way Adolphs (2013). Fritscher (2024) suggests, "Fear is caused by several cases including trauma and several things that can trigger fear such as specific situations in the form of heights, specific objects in the form of snakes or spiders, the future, events that are only imagined, dangerous environments, and even the unknown." Usually, our bodies will respond to fear in specific ways when we confront a perceived threat, such as sweating, increased heart rate, and high adrenaline levels that make us extremely alert. As fear is common, it becomes a theme of literary works, including Bradbury's "The Night" (1947).

Ray Bradbury's short story "The Night" (1947) highlights fear through the main character, a boy called Shorts. The depiction of fear subtly alludes to the elements surrounding the character, ensuring that each section of the story propels the narrative ahead with tension. This short story tells the story of Short's journey to accompany his mother to look for his brother who did not come home from playing with his friends, even though it was late at night. The beginning of the short story is simple with a description of the nighttime atmosphere in a suburban neighborhood, yet the author adds small details such as rustling sounds and shadows to create tension that will later lead to fear. As the story progresses, Shorts and his mother continue to search for his brother at night. The



characters' fear is shown by their reactions, both physical and psychological. The fear reaction is triggered by threats around the characters, both external, such as their surroundings at night, and internal through the character's own mind. The dark and tense atmosphere of the night and the place like a ravine that is visited by Shorts and his mother make fear even more accentuated and become the main conflict in this short story.

Because fear in “The Night” is intriguing to be discussed, getting knowledge of it is crucial. Among many experts who talk about fear, Fisher is one of them. Fisher (1995) mentions that fear, “... emerges as a pervasive pattern of toxicity and distress within human systems, embodying what some describe as a cycle of violence and oppression.” Fisher believes that fear is not inherent in human nature, but rather culturally constructed, a reaction to conditioning that is neither natural nor necessary for survival or creativity. Fear is portrayed as a man-made phenomenon, inherently destructive and toxic to all life, distinct from the natural processes of death and decay. Moreover, Fisher suggests that fear manifests as a symptom of non-self-regulation, contributing to human suffering, violence, and oppression. Fisher's theory is reinforced by Battaglia (2022), he stated that from an evolutionary perspective, it is crucial to develop a clear understanding of the most important aspects of life. However, what is referred to as emotional memory that cannot be erased can be overwhelming and have negative consequences for individuals who have experienced trauma and may experience feelings of helplessness and loss. In addition, fear is an adaptive emotional state in the presence of a threat, so fear can turn on the defensive fear system (Steimer, 2002). However, it can become maladaptive and pathological if the fear is unreasonable, excessive, and significantly disrupts the routine of daily life (LeDoux, 2003).

Some prior literary studies have focused on the analysis of fear. Jweid's (2020) study emphasizes the important psychological impacts of fear repression in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" (1843). In their study, Rezaee & Jafari (2020) discuss the significant causes of fear and its negative manifestations for Eastern individuals in traditional conservative communities. Lajqi (2021) also examines the fears depicted in Edgar Allan Poe's works, such as the fear of death, the fear of madness, and the fear of being buried alive. Anish & Priya (2022) deeply the various approaches used by characters in R. Chudamani's short fiction to confront fear, illustrating how each character navigates and responds to their fears in distinct ways. In his journal, Satriyo (2023) discusses the depiction of fear in the form of demons in Tatsuki Fujimoto's Chainsaw Man manga through the attributes worn by the demons. In addition, Ulya & Hidayah's (2023) research found the fear of dystopia and its effects on the characters in Park Eun Kyo's The Silent Sea series (2021). There is also the discovery of motives and effects of fear in the novel *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding, researched by Vakhtangishvili (2023). In her thesis, Mobekk (2023) discusses feminists' use of the dystopian genre to express fear and anxiety to challenge the dominant discourse on gender. In contrast, Muhammad & Li (2024) pass fully into how the characters in Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Left Hand of Darkness* face fears constructively. Hariyono (2024) also underscores the expression of fear felt by the city dwellers in Sofia Samatar's *The Huntress* through darkness, fear, and courage.

However, this study is different from the previous studies mentioned. This focuses on fear in “The Night” (1947). In Bradbury's short story, the fear experienced by the main character arises due to factors around him and within himself. These factors show that the internal and external aspects of a person can affect that person's psychology. The current research seeks to expand the investigation of fear by bringing in new points of discussion that have not been addressed before. Fisher's theory in his book *An Introduction to Defining 'Fear': A Spectrum Approach* emphasizes that the inability to self-regulate can cause fear and have an effect on suffering. This theory is used to support research that reveals that internal self-regulation can affect how the body will process the presence of fear triggered by external and internal factors of the body itself. Specifically, this study attempts to fully explore the factors that lead to fear to fill the existing research gap. By considering the existing issues, this study aims to provide insight into how things around humans and within humans themselves can trigger emotions, one of which is fear.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research applies a qualitative descriptive method, which is important and influential in the fields of social sciences and humanities (Creswell, 2018; Denzin & Lincoln, 2018). As Syamil (2023) stated, a qualitative method provides deep insights into human experience, social context, and the complexity of the phenomenon under study. It means that the qualitative method studies various things about human experience, trying to understand and interpret a phenomenon and its relation to the human experience. The method involves collecting data through words or pictures rather than numerical data. The research will use these data to explore the meaning, experience, and social context related to the phenomenon under study. The data for this research were obtained from the short stories studied, journals, and online articles related to this research. The data obtained were in the form of dialog and narration from the short stories that describe fear. The data was obtained through several steps in the collection process. First, it was reading and rereading the short story “The Night” (1947) to understand the content of the

short story. Second, it was making notes about the main data that shows fear behavior. Third, it was skimming reading sources related to the issue under study to find opinions that support this research. After collecting the data, the next step was describing and interpreting the data; hence, the readers could get the knowledge to understand the discussion. The next step was analyzing to prove the fear experienced by Shorts, the main character in "The Night". As the last step, the conclusion of the whole research was drawn.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part is going to answer what makes the main character of "The Night" (1947) afraid. Using Fisher's conceptual structure demonstrates how fear, which is rooted in cultural conditioning and lacks self-regulation, perpetuates cycles of harm and blocks individual and social well-being. Answering what makes the main character afraid also involves the structure of the story: the beginning, the rising action, the climax, and the resolution. Hence, the answers are external factors such as The Quest that Led Short to Fear and how Others Could Influence Shorts into Fear; also, the internal factors such as Experience is Also The Best Trigger, and The Fear is Only in Mind. These things all smashed Shorts at one time, leading him to lose control of his emotions and thus generate fear.

### 1. The Quest that Led Shorts to Fear: The Beginning

The story begins with an introduction to the characters and the neighborhood, as well as the atmosphere around the characters, which signifies the exposition part. On the first page, there is the narration, "You [Shorts] and your mother are all alone at home in the warm darkness of summer," which illustrates that the main character is at home alone with his mother. From that narrative, there is information about the situation around the main character (Shorts) and his mother, which shows that the story revolves around summer, and the word "darkness" shows that the time in the story is night. In that house, Short first waited for his mother, who was ironing clothes, then his mother told Short to buy ice cream before the shop closed. It is shown by a dialogue saying,

"When will Dad be home from the lodge-meeting?" you [Shorts] ask.

"About eleven-thirty or twelve," Mother replies. She [Mother] takes the ice cream to the kitchen, divides it. Giving you [Shorts] your special portion of chocolate, she [Mother] dishes out some for herself and the rest is put away. "For Skipper and your father when they come." (Bradbury, 1947, p. 157).

When Shorts asks for his father's return and his mother leaves ice cream for Shorts' father and Skipper, that situation shows that Shorts and his mother do not live in the house alone, but two other family members are not at home, they are Shorts' father and his older brother, Skipper.

Then, when the mother asks about Skipper to Shorts on page 158, "I [mother] wonder where your brother [Skipper] is?" Mother says after a while. Her [mother] spoon scrapes on the dish. "He [Skipper] should be home by now. It's almost nine-thirty." It is indicated as a spark that informs the problems which indicate the inciting incident part.

Skipper did not come home; this is the beginning of the rising action that will bring us to the climax of this short story. As a parent, Mom was worried because it was getting late. Paired with the late hour, parents are going to be anxious if their children are not coming home soon. The concern is valid because it fits the circumstance suggested before, that is, darkness, which may attract people's minds to negative thoughts when the situation arises. This was mentioned in Prendergast's book (2022), which indicates that darkness is frequently utilized to denote evil beings. That is, darkness might reflect undesirable attributes. This portrayal depends on people's thinking and relates to human sensory experiences; therefore, it might cause nervousness or fear if humans are in an environment of "darkness," and that is concerning Shorts's mother. Then, through the following narration, "You [Shorts] notice Mom's eyes sliding, blinking; the way she stands undecided and is nervous" (Bradbury, 1947, p.159). The mother's concern is shown first when she continuously calls out to the skipper and gets no response, and the second is when the mother is nervous. According to Jones (2022) Nervousness is a feeling of fear, worry, or apprehension that is usually tied to a specific situation and resolves when the situation is over. As a mother or parent, she will be very worried about the safety of her children. She was afraid that something would happen to the Skipper.

From the incident of Skipper not coming home, the increasingly panicked mother finally decided to look for

Skipper in Short's. They both went out of the house in the quiet and dark. This incident will be the beginning of the climax, which will cause fear in Short.

The story continues with Shorts and his mother continuing through the small town at night in search of Skipper. They arrive near a German Baptist church with a ravine behind it. The narrative states, "Now you have walked another block and are standing by the holy black silhouette of the German Baptist Church at the corner of Chapel Street and Glen Rock. In the back of the church, a hundred yards away, the ravine begins. You can smell it. It has a dark sewer, rotten foliage, and a thick green odor. It is a wide ravine that cuts and twists across the town, a jungle by day, a place to let alone at night, Mother has often declared." (Bradbury, 1947, p.160). The narrative, which is the opinion of Short's mother, is embedded in Short's mind about what the ravine is like. According to World Landforms, a ravine is like a canyon or a valley with steep sides but smaller and usually larger than a gully. From that, the ravine is not a safe and good place to play, and it is rooted in Short's mind.

The data shows us that there would be something between Shorts and the place with the characteristics mentioned, darkness and silence. This will lead to emotions of nervousness or fear. Dunn (2020) emphasizes that darkness has been associated with negativity throughout history, disregarding the positivity, beauty, and sensory experiences that darkness may provide. That assumption is reinforced by the narration, "You [Shorts] should feel encouraged by the nearness of the German Baptist Church, but you [Shorts] are not—because the building is not illuminated, is cold and useless as a pile of ruins on the ravine edge." As it is known, the church is a place of worship. A person who adheres to a religion will certainly be moved to visit a place of worship. However, instead of visiting, he does not want to go to the place because the atmosphere in the place makes him uncomfortable because there is no light at that place. Hvaas (2023) mentioned that light creates a feeling of safety, which means that a situation without lighting causes the sensors in Short's body to direct him away from the place due to a sense of nervousness or fear.

In the next narrative, the narrator discusses death, which is connected to the main character, Shorts. However, the author does not immediately shift the topic of discussion because it turns out that death and the previous atmosphere are related. The narrator draws Short into his old memories and feelings about death.

"Death is the waxen effigy in the coffin when you [Shorts] were six and Grandfather passed away—looking like a great fallen vulture in his casket, silent, withdrawn, no more to tell you [Shorts] how to be a good boy, no more to comment succinctly on politics. Death is your little sister, one morning, when you [Shorts] awaken at the age of seven, investigate her crib and see her staring up at you with a blind blue, fixed and frozen stare until the men come with a small wicker basket to take her away. Death is when you [Shorts] stand by her high chair four weeks later and suddenly realize she will never be in it again [because his little sister was dead], laughing and crying, and make you [Shorts] jealous of her because she was born. That is death." (Bradbury, 1947, p.160).

From the deaths that Short had seen, both when his grandfather and his sister left him to feel alone. The two deaths that he had seen made him feel "abandoned" because death is not only distressing and overwhelming, but it is accompanied by loneliness—both for the dying and for those who care for him or her (Chentsova-Dutton et al., 2002). After his grandfather's death, Shorts felt empty in the absence of the activities he used to do with his grandfather. From the death of his sister, there is an assumption that Shorts had guilt over his jealousy, but on the one hand, he was regretful of that feeling. Association of Child Psychotherapists (2020) states, that it is natural and normal for an older child to respond to the birth of a new baby with feelings of jealousy because, for the older child, the terrible reality of a new baby is that they are no longer the center of their parent's universe. From the deaths he saw, he felt loneliness as his emotional response. According to Mack & Smith (1991), the grief and loss experiences of children are often demonstrated emotionally. The child may experience feelings of emptiness, anger, confusion, desertion, and insecurity. In addition, he is almost certain to feel responsible, and guilty, about the loss he has experienced. McEntire & Nancy (2003) adds that children express guilt about remembered misbehavior or missed opportunities to express affection.

The data above illustrates that when Short is in a dark situation or minimal lighting, what he thinks about is death, which once made him feel lonely, empty, and guilty. This makes it clear that dark or poorly lit situations cause Short's mind to dwell on things that make him uncomfortable. As Hvas (2023) said, darkness is associated with danger, and what Shorts is thinking about is part of the state of danger that has happened to him. The narrator adds, "But this is more than death. This summer night wading deep in time and stars warm eternity. It is the essence of all the things you will ever feel or see or hear in your life again, being brought steadily home to you all at once." [Bradbury, 1947, p.161]. It is assumed that the narrator wants to tell that Shorts will face that night more than the feeling when Shorts faces death. It was a feeling that Shorts would one day encounter again as he lived life. As it is known, the incident of death that Shorts had experienced made him feel bad things. With the narration

above, it can be concluded that what Short experiences will be more gripping than what he has faced before.

Shorts' position in the dark made him feel unsafe. Shorts' thoughts have been distorted by the horrible things he has heard from his mother, which have become beliefs that keep him on edge, as well as the deaths of his grandfather and sister. These bad feelings are churning inside Short. Here, the elements begin to emerge that Shorts must overcome to control his internal self. Following Fisher's theory, if in this phase, Short is not able to regulate what is stirring inside her, it can cause fear to emerge over time.

## 2. How Others Could Influence Shorts into Fear: The Rise

The fear in Shorts does not come out of nowhere. Fear is in every human being because fear is one of the most basic human emotions. In this story, several things can trigger the fear that develops in Short's character, which can be seen in the continuation of the scene from the story.

In this scene, it is described that Shorts feels brave to walk forward, contrary to his unwillingness to approach the church because he feels that there is a mother figure who is an adult who will make him safe.

“Here and now, down there in that pit of jungled blackness is suddenly all the evil you [Shorts] will ever know. Evil you [Shorts] will never understand. All the nameless things are there. Later, when you [Shorts] have grown, you will be given names to label them with. Meaningless syllables to describe the waiting nothingness. Down there in the huddled shadow, among thick trees and trailed vines, lives the odor of decay. Here, at this spot, civilization ceases, reason ends, and a universal evil takes over.” (Bradbury, 1947, p.161).

Color is a powerful communication tool that can signal action, influence mood, and even influence physiological reactions. Certain colors have been associated with physiological changes, including increased blood pressure, increased metabolism, and eyestrain (Cherry, 2024). Throughout history, black is a somber color that has been tied to death and all things evil. It is explained by Zhao et al. (2024) In their journal, they stated that in literature, black often symbolizes darkness, evil, and death. In the Western hemisphere, black is associated with grieving. Moreover, black is the symbolic color of nobility, mystery, and cold.

According to those statements, the blackness of the forest pit in the data above is associated with the evils that reside within. Black is associated with mystery, the unknown, and the hidden. In their journal, Black is used to create an atmosphere of evil, terror, and despair Zhao et al. (2024). Therefore, black as a color has many negative connotations that contribute to creating a tense environment, which this black color has will intersect with darkness. From the narrative and several claims about the meaning of the black color, the situation that Short faces may frighten him. It will be one of the factors that trigger his fear.

In the next scene, the belief in his mother as a brave adult who can protect him begins to fade when Shorts sees that his mother is trembling. “You [Shorts] realize you [Shorts] are alone. You [Shorts] and your mother. Her hand [Mother's hand] trembles” (Bradbury, 1947, p.161). Fear often involves both physical and emotional symptoms. Some of the symptoms that the person feels are tachycardia, sweating, shivering, trembling, dry throat, weakness of legs and arms, stomach pain, or accelerated breathing (Craske et al., 2011). When one of them happens to Shorts's mother, it indicates that she is in fear.

As a child, Short thought that his mother was an adult who knew everything and would make him safe. Nevertheless, Shorts knows from his own eyes that his mother also has a sign of fear. Children between the ages of 4 - 9 are the most afraid, and this decreases with an increase in age. The apprehension adults express when children go near something unknown confirms their fear, and thus, they also develop the fear of the unknown, which strengthens the fear of the dark (Khrisna, 2016). A child's belief that his parents can protect him is now gone from Short's head as he sees his mother also in a state of fear.

Shorts were filled with doubt, indecision, and questions about himself that were already filled with fear. Bad thoughts filled Short's head. “You [Shorts] realize that all men are like this. That each person is to himself alone. One oneness, a unit in a society, but always afraid. Like here, standing. If you [Shorts] should scream now if you should holler for help, would it matter?” (Bradbury, 1947, p.161). By doubting his mother and adults whom he thinks can also feel fear, Shorts feels that no one will protect him, so he is wary of being alone and isolated, and now loneliness rules his mind. This is how other people or outside factors can trigger fear of oneself, which in this story is depicted through the interaction between Shorts and the situation of the place, and his interaction with his mother. The external factors received by Short cause his body to work harder to manage his internal self. Here,



Short's inability to manage his internal self makes Short's condition more complex in fear.

### 3. Experience is Also the Best Trigger: The Peak

The climax of the story is marked by the peak of Shorts' fear, which begins when Shorts begs God to keep his mother alive. "You [Shorts] swallow hard, cling to her [mother]. Oh Lord, do not let her [mother] die, please, you [Short] think. Do not do anything to us [Shorts and his mother]. Father will be coming home from the lodge meeting in an hour, and if the house is empty...?" (Bradbury, 1947, p.162). We can see that the Shorts also hope that nothing will happen to them. He did not want his mother to die. He thought, if something happened to them, how about his father? It might be assumed that Shorts is also afraid that if anything happens to them, his father will be alone at home. From the previous discussion, it might be stated that Short's fear of loneliness was caused by the feeling of abandonment from the death that Short has encountered. This part starts to prove Fisher's theory. Short's inability to manage the negative elements that are churning within his body is now causing him to develop fear.

Signs of Shorts' fears were growing and growing. "Mother advances down the path into the primeval jungle. Your voice trembles. 'Mom. Skip's all right. Skip's all right. He is [Skipper] all right. Skip's all right.'" (Bradbury, 1947, p.162). Here, Shorts called out to his mother in a trembling voice to stop what his mother was doing. Shorts did not want anything bad to happen to them. From what Shorts did to stop his mother with a trembling voice, that sign clarifies that Shorts is really in fear. The bad thoughts of Shorts that he tried to control within herself eventually brought out the obvious sign that Shorts was scared.

Moreover, what Short thought of death triggered Short's fear. As it is known, the thought of death is one of the internal factors in Short's fear. When mom says, "... never come out again," on page 6, which explains the fate of people who go into the forest and never come back, Shorts is haunted by his negative thoughts. "Never come out again. That could mean anything. Tramps. Criminals. Darkness. Accidents. Most of all-death. Alone in the universe" (Bradbury, 1947, p.162). The shadow of loneliness after the previous death made Short experience anxiety about another death that might be experienced again by the people around him. This is in line with the statement of Guner et al. (2023) that loneliness can hurt people's physical and psychological well-being and increase death anxiety. Those negative thoughts lead to death, and death brings about a loneliness that makes Shorts feel terrified.

Shorts' experience of death that he has faced creates a fear in him of abandonment that leads to loneliness. "Life is a horror loved in them [million small towns that are dark and lonely] at night when at all sides sanity, marriage, children, happiness, are threatened by an ogre called Death" (Bradbury, 1947, 162). Death is a certainty in life. However, people are often unprepared for the inevitable encounter. That is exactly what Shorts had experienced, causing him to swallow his fears.

### 4. The Fear Is Only in Mind: The End

From the previous discussions, it is known that fear can help to protect us from danger and prepare us to act. However, fear can also lead to longer-lasting feelings of anxiety if the body cannot take control of its mind. As far as the story goes, Short's fear also comes from what he imagines.

"From dew-sodden forests and dells and rolling hills where dogs tilt heads to moons, from all around the great silence is sucked into one center, and you [Shorts] at the core of it. In ten seconds now, something will happen, something will happen. The crickets keep their truce, the stars are so low you [Shorts] can almost brush the tinsel. There are swarms of them, hot and sharp. Growing, growing, the silence. Growing, growing, the tenseness. Oh, it is so dark, so far away from everything. Oh God!" (Bradbury, 1947, p.163).

This was the peak of all the peaks of fear that Shorts experienced. The silent atmosphere in the forest made Shorts even more frantic about his fears. The darkness made Shorts feel isolated. Shorts only knew that something was going to happen, but he did not know exactly what was waiting for him. Unfortunately, the fear has taken over Short, so his imagination keeps spinning about the bad things that will happen to him later. In her journal, Fritscher (2023) said that while fear is a natural response to some situations, it can also lead to distress and disruption when it is extreme or out of proportion to the actual threat.

Then, Short did not leave any room for positive thinking in his mind. What happened next was something that

turned out to be far from Short's bad thoughts. In this story, the falling action is characterized by the arrival of Skipper and his friends. All the darkness and fear that ambushed Shorts instantly disappeared. In line with Fisher's theory, in this case, Short was unable to control himself by continuing to accumulate negative thoughts, which triggered even more fear.

Thus, the resolution of the story is Shorts' relief and happiness that Skipper is back and alive. Again and again, Short's fear of death, characterized by his thinking of his brother who had died of pneumonia, made him shiver. However, Skipper's presence beside him stopped his trembling. From this, it is known that Shorts does not want to lose Skipper either. The death that keeps looming over Shorts makes Shorts afraid of things that are not certain to happen. Here, Skipper's presence helps Shorty to solve his problem of fear.

On page 164, at the end of this short story, from the dialogue below:

“Mom says, ‘That’s your father.’  
It is.”

That page might lead one to conclude that the meaning of the dialogue was about how Scott's fear was completely over when his mother told him about his father's whereabouts. His mother's statement calmed Short down because everything was okay. There was no loss that he was facing. There was no more death to make him abandoned and lonely. Hence, at the end of the story, it emphasizes that the fear Shorts experienced finally disappeared because of the presence of people who indicated that nothing bad happened to them. All he was afraid of was his mind; he was constantly thinking negatively. This final aspect of the study demonstrates Fisher's theory through Short's inability to control himself, which can create fear. In Short's circumstances, this is because he must regulate everything that causes fear, both within and outside.

## CONCLUSION

From this analysis, it is depicted that Short's fear is influenced by several things. Because of his and his mother's quest to find Skipper, we know that there are internal factors in the form of past events that continue to overshadow Shorts, that is, death and the darkness around, which makes Shorts afraid of losing again. Shorts's inability to control his negative thoughts also becomes an internal factor to form his fear. Then, the external factor that triggers Shorts' fear is the worry of another person, his mother, who makes Shorts feel fear instead of feeling safe when he is with his. Moreover, the situation and atmosphere of a place can trigger fear. Indeed, fear exists in every human being. Fear can be triggered by internal or external factors. Facing fear is not an easy thing. Humans need to practice self-control, minimizing negative thoughts that are not necessarily going to happen. In addition, if humans have good self-control, in the future it can minimize the fear that will arise from within. Shorts to the adventure that night, what happened to him, and what the causes have been dissected in this analysis so that we know how the story runs from beginning to end with causes and effects in the conflict experienced by the main character, which can be found in real life.

The main limitation of this study is the lack of references in recent years, which could impact the findings' utility in considering nowadays events. This limitation is due to the lack of access to up-to-date sources that relate specifically to the topic under review. Therefore, future research is recommended to integrate more recent sources to increase the relevance and validity of the findings. In addition, collaborating with other researchers or institutions with a wider range of reference sources can be an effective strategy to overcome similar research obstacles.

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