



Psychological Reading of *A Strange Loop* by Michael R. Jackson

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Abstract

This paper focuses on and elaborate the psychological notions such as the id, ego, superego, psychosexual development, and dream analysis in the famous musical *A Strange Loop*. By drawing parallels between Michael R. Jackson's work and Sigmund Freud's concepts. This study mainly discusses the profound psychological complexities entrenched within the narrative of *A Strange Loop*. The analysis of the protagonist's internal scuffles and external forecasts shows how the id, ego, and superego act within the context of the character's psyche, echoing Freud's structural model of the human mind. Moreover, by taking advantage of dream analysis as a means for interpreting hidden desires, fears, and motivations. The analysis also proposes to determine the subconscious layers of the protagonist's identity construction and self-discovery in the musical. In analyzing the theme of psychosexual development, this study thus scrutinizes how Jackson's work reflects Freud's stages of development, focusing the protagonist's journey through unsettled conflicts, sexual desires, and social prospects.

Key Terms: Dream Analysis, Ego, Id, Psychosexual, Superego

قراءة نفسية لـ (دورة غريبة) لمايكل ر. جاكسون

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الملخص

تركز هذه الورقة على المفاهيم النفسية وتوضحها مثل الهوية، والأنا، والأنا العليا، والتطور النفسي الجنسي، وتحليل الأحلام في المسرحية الموسيقية الشهيرة "حلقة غريبة". من خلال رسم أوجه التشابه بين عمل مايكل آر جاكسون ومفاهيم سيغموند فرويد. تناقش هذه الدراسة بشكل أساسي التعقيدات النفسية العميقة الراسخة في رواية "الحلقة الغريبة". يُظهر تحليل المشاجرات الداخلية والتوقعات الخارجية للبطل كيف يتصرف الهو والأنا والأنا العليا في سياق نفسية الشخصية، مرددًا صدى نموذج فرويد البنيوي للعقل البشري. علاوة على ذلك، من خلال الاستفادة من تحليل الأحلام كوسيلة لتفسير الرغبات والمخاوف والدوافع الخفية. يقترح التحليل أيضًا تحديد الطبقات اللاواعية لبناء هوية بطل الرواية



واكتشاف الذات في المسرحية الموسيقية. في تحليل موضوع التطور النفسي الجنسي، تدقق هذه الدراسة في كيفية عكس عمل جاكسون لمراحل تطور فرويد، مع التركيز على رحلة بطل الرواية عبر الصراعات غير المستقرة، والرغبات الجنسية، والآفاق الاجتماعية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل الحلم، الأنا، الهوية، النفسي الجنسي، الأنا الأعلى

2. Background of the Study

The analysis of the study through the psychological theories offers an private perspective that expands our understanding of complex characters and stories. In the case of Michael R. Jackson's *A Strange Loop*, probing into Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory can offer helpful perceptions of the psychological underpinnings of the characters and their experiences in the play. Sigmund Freud as a celebrated Austrian neurologist and the founding father of psychoanalysis, presented a number of innovative concepts that transformed our understanding of the human mind.

Central to Freud's psychoanalytic theory are the three structures of the mind: the id, the ego, and the superego. The id signifies the primitive, instinctual drives and functions on the pleasure principle looking for instant satisfaction. The ego, on the other hand, acts as the negotiator between the id's instincts and the demands of reality, operating on the reality principle. Finally, the superego exemplifies the internalized parental and social standards, functioning as the moral aspect and struggling for faultlessness (Rennison, 2015).

Dream analysis is another keystone of Freudian psychoanalysis, where dreams are regarded as the magnificent path to the unconscious. As said by Freud, dreams are the expressions of suppressed wishes, doubts, and unanswered conflicts, showing the unseen points of the psyche. By inspecting the symbols, manifest content, and latent content of dreams, one can know about the unconsciousness procedures inside an individual's mind (Snowden, 2010).

Freud's theory of psychosexual development is another central feature of his work, delineating the phases through which individuals pass from infancy to adulthood. The phases, oral, anal, phallic, latent, and genital emphasize the significance of early childhood experiences in determining one's disposition and behavior. Unanswered conflicts throughout these stages can bring about growing problems and mental disorders later in life. When applying Freud's psychoanalytic framework to the analysis of *A Strange Loop*, we can thus



discuss how the characters' incentives, conflicts, and relationships are formed by their unconscious yearnings and interior brawls (Simon & Gagnon, 2002, pp. 221-240).

3. Statement of the Problem

The incorporation of psychoanalytic theory, especially Sigmund Freud's concepts of the id, ego, superego, psychosexual development, and dream analysis into the analysis of contemporary artistic works presents a persuasive means for understanding the intricacies of human psychology and self-identity. Yet, there remains a gap in scholarly research concerning the application of these important psychoanalytic concepts to modern literature, such as the musical *A Strange Loop* by Michael R. Jackson. This study aims to address this gap by examining how the interplay of the id, ego, superego, psychosexual development, and dream analysis can improve our understanding of the protagonist's journey of self-discovery and identity development in *A Strange Loop*.

4. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is in the examination and understanding of the intricacies of human identity, self-perception, and psychological development represented in *A Strange Loop*. By applying a number of Freudian concepts to the characters and themes of the play, I will provide the readers with a deeper perception into the principal motivations, conflicts, and complications of the human psyche as portrayed in the narrative. By inspecting the characters through in light of Freudian theory, the readers can better come to terms with the interior conflicts, defense mechanisms, and coping strategies (Freud, 1989, pp. 5-22). Besides, by drawing parallels between the characters' journeys and Freud's psychoanalytic theories, this study can echo how the characters' experiences reflect the stages of psychosexual development and the struggles of reuniting conflicting features of the self.

5. Literature Review

5.1. On *A Strange Loop*

"Queering the Musical Theater Tradition: Narrative Metareferentiality in Michael R. Jackson's *A Strange Loop*" (2024) by Thomas examines the way in which *A Strange Loop* challenges and undermines traditional standards within the musical theater genre through a queer standpoint. In fact, the article discusses how *A Strange Loop* represents the queer experiences and identities in



musical theater, stressing the significance of multiplicity and enclosure in the genre. Furthermore, Thomas analyzes how the musical benefits from metareferentiality as a technique that refers to itself or its own formation, to deconstruct and comment on old narrative structures and themes in musical theater.

Thomas has also investigated the way in which *A Strange Loop* interweaves themes of queerness, race, and identity, and through this, he has presented a multifaceted and complicated narrative that defies overriding cultural narratives. The article has thus provided a critical investigation of the ways in which the musical challenges and critiques social rules, chiefly in the context of the musical theater practice (pp. 161-179).

"How the Men of *A Strange Loop* Break Heteronormative Bias's to Expose the Struggles of a Queer Black Man" (2022) by Crawford concentrates on the examination of the male characters in *A Strange Loop* and the way in which they defy heteronormative prejudices in order to illumine the challenges encountered by a queer Black man. Crawford has discussed how the male characters in *A Strange Loop* defy old concepts of masculinity, providing a miscellaneous assortment of viewpoints and experiences that happen beyond heteronormative stereotypes.

This article additionally probes into how the characters circumnavigate the intersectionality of their identities as queer and Black men, which shows the distinctive skirmishes and difficulties they experience in society. Besides, Crawford analyzes particular examples in the musical where the male characters undermine or oppose heteronormative predispositions in order to criticize the social customs and anticipations around gender and sexuality.

In this article, we see how the characters' narratives in *A Strange Loop* signify the lived experiences, encounters, and victories of queer black men. Finally, Crawford has offered a wider social explanation of the ways in which heteronormativity influences relegated communities, specially concentrating on the demonstration of queer black men in the framework of the musical (p. 49).

5.2. On the Theory

Freud's Model of Psychosexual Development Including Oral, Anal, Phallic, Latency, and Genital Phases (2012) by Sing proposes that human beings go through a sequence of phases, each recognized by an emphasis on a specific erogenous district and concomitant progressive tasks. The oral stage is



the leading phase of psychosexual development, where the infant's chief source of desire and indulgence is through the mouth. Important responsibilities during this stage embrace halting and evolving confidence. Obsession at this stage can contribute to oral-related matters such as reliance or hostility.

The anal stage comes after the oral stage, with the emphasis changing to the anal area as children instigate toilet training. The main clash throughout this phase is potty training, which can affect the growth of self-control and self-sufficiency. Obsession at this stage may bring about anal-retentive or anal-expulsive character qualities. Then, the phallic phase is signified by the development of the Oedipus or Electra complex, where children go through unconscious wishes for the opposite-sex parent and competition with the same-sex parent. The results of these clashes is vital for the progress of gender identity and the superego.

The latency stage is a period of relative calm in psychosexual development, emphasizing on societal and reasoning activities rather than sexual wellbeing. Freud supposed that sexual and aggressive determinations are bottled-up thru this phase. The genital stage epitomizes the last stage of psychosexual development, through which human beings attain sexual development and grow a capability for mature, adult relations. Freud observed efficacious resolution of preceding stages as critical for vigorous sexual growth in later life (pp. 95-113).

The Interpretation of Dreams (2015) by Freud is one of this professor's most important and durable works in the field of psychology and psychoanalysis. In this book, Freud presents his theory of the unconscious mind and refers to the implication of dreams as an opening into concealed wishes, worries, and unsettled clashes inside one's mind. Freud suggested that dreams are an expression of unconscious feelings and demands that are often bottled-up or repressed in life. Through the examination of dreams, human beings are able to understand their deepest thoughts and sentiments, which offers them a way to revealing profounder layers of the unconscious mind.

Dream symbolism is one of the essential ideas in Freud's theories, where images in dreams are believed to symbolize hidden meanings and unconscious desires. Freud developed techniques such as free association and dream interpretation to Unlock these signs and grasp the hidden meaning of dreams beyond what meets the eye in their surface manifestations. In addition, Freud's dream research prepared the ground for his more comprehensive.



Psychoanalysis is a theory that emphasizes the importance of unconscious processes in shaping behavior and mental well-being. Through exploring the symbolic language of dreams, Freud tried to assist people in overcoming their hidden desires and unresolved conflicts ultimately leading to greater self-awareness and personal growth. (pp. 7-19).

In *The Ego and the Id* (2019), Freud also discusses the intricacies of the human mind, and mostly concentrates on the structural model of the mind made of the id, ego, and superego. These three mechanisms of the psyche, Freud contended, are in endless interface and affect our feelings, behaviors, and disposition. As stated by Freud, the id stands for the inherent, primitive needs and determinations inside a human being, and functions on the pleasure attitude. It is the source of our basic drives and cravings, looking for instantaneous satisfaction without bearing in mind societal standards or concerns.

The ego, in Freud's model, is the sensible and conscious section of the psyche that intervenes between the needs of the id, the restraints of reality, and the ethical values of the superego. The ego struggles to calm down these contradictory forces and control the exterior world effectually. Finally, the superego grows later in life and includes social rules, standards, and ethical ideals that guide behavior. It serves as a moral scope, and affects cultural and parental anticipations, and can bring about feelings of blame or humiliation when disrupted. In fact, Freud has examined the interaction among these three sections of the psyche in order to highlight the prominence of comprehending their roles in determining human behavior, personality growth, and psychological well-being (pp. 5-22).

6. Methodology

This research includes an inclusive and methodical approach to analyzing the psychological aspects of the characters and themes in *A Strange Loop*. The opening phase of the study contains conducting a close textual examination of the play in order to recognize main themes, character motivations, and narrative elements that are in line with Freudian psychoanalytic perceptions. Thus, the researcher will concentrate on detecting examples where the id, ego, and superego are apparent in the characters' behaviors and relations. In fact, Freud's concepts of the ego, id, and superego can clarify the characters' incentives and behaviors in the play.

For example, the ego, as stated by Freud, is the sensible part of the mind that intercedes between the hassles of the id (intuitive determinations) and the



superego (coopted ethical values). In *A Strange Loop*, I will examine how the main character's ego influences contradictory wishes, social prospects, and self-perceptions. In other words, characters might struggle with their sense of self, identity, and self-confidence, all of which can be examined in light of the ego.

On the other hand, the id signifies the primeval, instinctive section of the mind focused on basic longings and choice values. In this research, I seek to inspect how the characters face their earnest, often insensible cravings, worries, and urges. The id's effect on the characters' choices and movements can designate their internal clashes and brawls. The superego is also the coopted ethical area that echoes social standards, ethics, and moral criteria. By investigating the characters' interfaces with the superego in the play, I will be able to study themes of responsibility, dishonor, conventionality, and self-depreciation.

Then, dream sequences will be thoroughly examined to discover latent content and unconscious desires that lead to character development and plot development. Also, the researcher will inspect how the characters' psychological clashes and struggles echo Freudian concepts of inner psychic structures

7. Discussion

7.1. Id, Ego, and Superego

The themes and characters in *A Strange Loop* can be viewed through a Freudian lens, offering insight into the psychological elements of the text particularly focusing on concepts of the id, ego, and superego. The character's internal conflicts and desires determined by direct satisfaction reveal the effect of the id. His constant feelings of doubt and insecurity seeking validation point towards primal instincts of the id. Similarly, his irrational thoughts or impulsive actions depict an individual steered solely by seeking immediate pleasure without consideration for consequences that follow.

In addition, the dreams and fantasies of the main character described as unfiltered manifestations of raw desires can serve as an insight into the primary drives and wishes of the id that influence actions and decisions of the character throughout the story.. Instances of impetuous behavior, pleasure-seeking, and profligate chases by the protagonist accentuate the power of the id in determining his psychological makeup and driving his expedition for self-satisfaction. In *A Strange Loop*, the protagonist's internal critic or conscience



represents the superego, persistently judging his actions and holding him to definite morals of behavior. This interior clash between the protagonist's longings (id) and social prospects (superego) can produce strain and move the story forward. It is written:

THOUGHT 1: Oh, I see. Well, what is your big New York City dream?

USHER: To be a musical theater writer. (Jackson, 2021, p. 53)

Usher's reply of wishing to be a musical theater writer mirrors an instant and intuitive longing that supports the features of the Id. AS already stated, the Id functions on the pleasure principle, aiming to satisfy longings and gain fulfillment without bearing in mind practicality, results, or exterior restraints. Usher's dream of becoming a musical theater writer stresses a subconscious yearning for imaginative manifestation and contentment.

Also, the Id acts on unconscious determinations and instincts, forming individuals' feelings, behaviors, and ambitions. Usher's goal to be a musical theater writer may rise from unconscious inventive instincts and desires that direct his motivations. The Id's influence can be observed in Usher's instinctive response to the question about his New York City dream, avoiding usual discussions and concentrating on his deepest desires. In addition, the Id is characterized by seeking immediate satisfaction and preference without paying attention to the consequences or social ethics. Usher's dream of becoming a musical theater writer thus exemplifies an engrained desire for creative expression. This desire so reveal Usher's unconscious incentives and fundamental determinations that push him towards his artistic goals.

Additionally, the protagonist's variations, deliberate adoptions, and efforts to direct the difficulties of their surroundings highlight the utility of the ego in mediating between the id's natural needs and the outside world.. The character's struggles to alleviate personal wishes with social prospects emphasize the ego's importance as a coherent and realistic intermediary. Furthermore, Usher's meditative reflections, self-awareness, and managing apparatuses in reaction to exterior stresses and interior clashes signify the ego's capability for concession and alteration in the face of incompatible demands. Moments of inner conflict, ethical quandaries, and mindful decision-making procedures disclose the ego's job in reuniting the id's imprudent initiatives with the superego's ethical morals, showing the character's mental density and interior brawls, "In the cacophony of desires and societal expectations, the mind



becomes an arena where the ego orchestrates a delicate dance between the id's primal urges and the superego's moral compass" (p. 54).

In fact, in the play, the protagonist's endeavors to go through his personal and professional life while struggling with social compressions and beliefs can be regarded as the ego at work, attempting to balance the incompatible demands of the id and the superego. Additionally, it must be added that the Usher's suppressed standards, moral decisions, and flawless self-perception represent the impact of the superego in determining his sense of identity and directing his behavior towards communally adequate standards.

As Usher strives for self-improvement and struggles with truthfulness and moral conduct, he embodies the incarnation of ethical standards" (p. 98), Usher's aims to develop himself, be truthful, and behave morally symbolize the ethical scope and values of the superego. In his story, instances of guilt, self-deprecation, and self-control serve as examples of the superego's disciplinary duties and critical voice, enforcing a sense of responsibility and dignity in reaction to transgressions and fights. Usher's relationships with mentors, authoritative figures, and role models truly represent external sources of the superego effect, impacting his morality, values, and sense of integrity as he navigates the challenges of personal growth and self-discovery.

7.2. Dream Analysis

In *A Strange Loop*, the examination of dream sequences enables the readers to discover deeper layers of the character's psyche and inspirations. In fact, Jackson's novel offers a landscape where the dreams of the central character function as an image for discovering the active interaction between manifest content (the surface-level narrative of the dream) and latent content (the underlying, symbolic meanings). Through interpreting the symbolism and metaphors present in Usher's dreams, we can unravel hidden wishes, qualms, and unanswered clashes that form the character's conscious experiences. Also, the reappearance of particular symbols or scenarios in the protagonist's dreams can be suggestive of unsettled problems or suppressed feelings.



Freud (1983) believed that dreams act as a path for wish contentment and an apparatus for solving internal skirmishes (pp. 29-33). In *A Strange Loop*, the protagonist's dreams portray scenarios where unsatisfied desires, worries, or ordeals are played out in a symbolic realm, proposing a space for the character to deal with his deepest clashes and yearnings. Moreover, dreams often contain symbolic transformations and deteriorating features that indicate the unconscious mind's effort to process multifaceted feelings and experiences (Valentine, 1921).

Usher has a recurrent dream where he envisages himself attaining abundant victory and gratitude for his work. This dream stands for his subconscious longing for corroboration and appreciation, originating from feelings of insufficiency and imitator syndrome. It also symbolizes his desire for exterior confirmation to fill a void within himself. Also, at one point he says:

I AM LYING ON THE COUCH I DREAM THAT I'M FLYING
FLAPPING BOTH MY WINGS SO HARD TO KEEP ME FROM
DYING WITH A CROWN OF GODFORSAKEN THORNS ON MY
HEAD LIKE ALL THOSE BLACK GAY BOYS I KNEW WHO
CHOSE TO GO ON BACK TO THE LORD ... (Jackson, 2021, p. 87)

In Freudian theory, flying dreams can denote a longing for self-determination, escape, or perfection. The act of flying and flapping wings thus stands for a demand for freedom from restrictions or boundaries in real life. It also echoes the dreamer's unconscious wish to overcome struggles or to break free from self-consciousness. Besides, the crown of thorns on the dreamer's head has symbolic implication suggestive of Jesus Christ's misery in Christianity. This imagery denotes feelings of maltreatment, detriment, or persecution in the protagonist's life. Freud interprets the crown of thorns as a symbol of internal chaos or feelings of being loaded by exterior weights or potentials.

Likewise, the reference to black gay boys deciding to "go on back to the Lord" (Jackson, 2021, p. 87) can be understood in numerous ways in a Freudian agenda. It reflects feelings of culpability, disgrace, or a longing for renovation related to the main character's identity or past experiences. The main character experiences nightmares where he is unable to fulfill his own beliefs or goes through denial and criticism from others. These nightmares arise from his anxieties and uncertainty, demonstrating as qualms of failure and insufficiency.



Usher's subconscious mind is in fact struggling with feelings of unimportance and the pressure to prosper in a competitive world.

Throughout the play, we notice that the central character has surreal dreams that blur the lines between reality and fantasy, defying his sense of self and identity, "In the liminal realm of dreams, reality and fantasy intertwine, weaving an arras of blurred identities and shifting truths that challenge Usher's understanding of self and existence" (p. 112). These dreams signify his interior brawls with self-acceptance, genuineness, and social standards. They also function as a psychological probe into the protagonist's multifaceted mind and his voyage towards self-realization.

7.3. Psychosexual Development

Freud's theory of psychosexual development implies that childhood experiences form adult disposition and cravings. By inspecting the character's relations, wishes, and emotive skirmishes through the stages of psychosexual development, we can comprehend the protagonist's multifaceted affiliation with self-identity, sexuality, and personal growth.

The oral stage, the first psychosexual stage according to Freud, is considered as the infant's main source of pleasure. In *A Strange Loop*, elements of Usher's relations, such as looking for authentication, reception, and nourishment from exterior sources, can be understood through the lens of the oral stage. The character's reliance on exterior confirmation or clashes with self-esteem also represent unanswered matters entrenched in the oral stage of development.

According to Sing (2012, pp. 95-113), the anal stage, where the focus changes to matters of control and self-sufficiency, can be perceived in the protagonist's associations with authority figures, social expectations, and individual limitations. Themes of power relations, discipline, and order in the narrative thus signify the character's search for control and unconventionality, demonstrating the clashes inherent in the anal stage of psychosexual development.

The phallic stage introduces the Oedipus complex and Electra complex, where children struggle with wishes and identifications related to their parents. In *A Strange Loop*, the protagonist's probe into sexual identity, desire, and social standards can be observed through the phallic stage, chiefly in the context of questioning power, understanding gender roles, and circumnavigating



personal requirements in relation to exterior stimuli, "Usher's journey mirrors the intricate back-and-forth between his personal needs and exterior influences" (p. 63).

Besides, the latency stage is characterized by the subjugation of sexual instincts and a concentration on societal and intellectual quests. In the novel, moments of interior conflict, suppression of cravings, and the protagonist's pursuit of self-actualization among social burdens echo facets of the latency stage, where the character overturns specific needs all for following social rules or achieving personal development.

Finally, the genital stage as the finale of psychosexual development represents the individuals' search for mature, fully developed relations and confidence. In *A Strange Loop*, the protagonist's quest for self-acceptance, understanding of closeness, and resolution of inner encounters can be seen through the lens of the genital stage, as the character moves towards a more incorporated sense of self and contentment in his interactions. The protagonist's journey in *A Strange Loop* comprises features of sensual individuality consideration and growth. This is evident in his memories, desires, and scraps dealt with his sexual orientation and self-respect. The protagonist's challenges with societal values and individual wishes also echo the details of sexual identity growth.

Moreover, Usher's relationships with his parents or authority figures essentially impact his self-confidence, independence, and intimacy. Solving these problems is extremely vigorous for the protagonist's psychological growth and self-realization. Themes of sexual suppression and expression can also be scrutinized in *A Strange Loop*, standing for the main character's suppressed creeds and societal limits around sexuality. The protagonist's fight to reunify his desires with social values mirrors facets of Freud's theories on the importance of sexuality in psychological growth. This meaning can be seen, when Usher talks about his dream of being a musical theater writer, he says that:

"It's about a Black gay man writing a musical about a Black gay man who's writing a musical about a Black gay man who's writing a musical about a Black gay man, etc. And now I've gotten to the part of the story where he wants to share his artistic self with his parents which is weirdly harder than sharing his sexual self which he also skirts around because of how traumatic coming out was in the first place when he was seventeen and I keep feeling like he needs to confront them about all of it as one



experience but I'm scared to write that because then I might have to do it in real life or maybe I'm scared to do that in real life because then I might have to write it? Does that make any sense or am I just being totally stupid?" (Jackson, 2021, p. 54)

In this quote, the character's images reveal a lot regarding numerous features of psychosexual development, mainly related to identity construction, paternal relations, and the incorporation of diverse aspects of the self. The character's account of a Black gay man writing a musical about a Black gay man echoes a profound consideration of identity and individualism. This creative attempt can be recognized as a typical demonstration of the character's fights to understand his own identity within the levels of race, sexuality, and arty expression. As stated by Freudian theory, adolescence is a time of identity growth, and unsettled fights from this time can have an effect on an adult's life. As stated by Freudian theory, puberty is a time of identity development, and unresolved conflicts from this time can have an influence on an adult's life.

Additionally, the character's skirmish with unveiling his imaginative identity to his parents which he observes to be more interesting than disclosing his sexual identity demonstrates the intricate nuances of parent relations and self-disclosure. Freud's psychosexual points, mainly the latency stage and the genital stage, accentuate the eminence of solving crashes associated with parental authorization and sexual identity. The character's reluctance to confront his parents may originate from subconscious worries and unanswered matters interrelated to his sexual life and past skills.

Correspondingly, the investigation by the character of the relationship between expressing his creative self and his sexual self stresses the importance of relating diverse features of the self in psychosexual growth. to achieve psychological development and stability, unharmonious identities and longings must be submissive, along with Freudian thought. In contrast to his creative work, the character is uncomfortable talking about these matters in real life, which exposes fundamental fears and defenses regarding fierceness and interacting undercurrents.

8. Conclusion

It is inferred that by taking advantage of such concepts as the id, ego, and superego, dream analysis, and psychosexual development, we can realize a



better understanding of the protagonist's internal world, and examine the multilayered communication of desires, crashes, and self-discovery. Through the examination of the id, ego, and superego, this research revealed the protagonist's interior struggles and irreconcilable desires, and also the ways in which the conscious and unconscious mind interact in order to form behavior and feelings. The vibrant interchange between these psychological constructs in *A Strange Loop* underlines the intricacy of human nature and the endless concession between instinctual initiatives, rationality, and social anticipations.

Moreover, the dream sequences in the novel present a gripping path into the central character's subconscious mind, enlightening concealed truths, doubts, and longings that notify his waking experiences. By interpreting the symbolism and latent content of the protagonist's dreams, this study could expose profounder layers of meaning along with the character's deepest clashes and incentives. The analysis of psychosexual development in *A Strange Loop* further offered a framework for understanding the protagonist's journey towards self-discovery, sexual identity construction, and demonstrative evolution. Through the phases of psychosexual development, this research analyzed the character's growth, from early childhood experiences to the detection of mature relations and closeness, revealing the protagonist's skirmishes, wishes, and achievements along the way.



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