



Unraveling Determinism in Jodi Picoult's *The Book of Two Ways*

Dr. Hiba Meteab Faja
University of Al-Qadisiyah
College of Education
Department of English
hibam.sultan@qu.edu.iq
Abstract

Jodi Picoult, famous for her thought-provoking storytelling, has once more explored into profound themes in her 2020 novel, *The Book of Two Ways*. As readers engage in a captivating exploration of the book, they come across the age-old philosophical inquiry of determinism, which challenges the degree to which individuals' lives are influenced by destiny or personal choice. This article will examine how Picoult addresses this complicated theme and the significant implications it carries for both her characters and the readers.

Keywords: Jodi Picoult, *The Book of Two Ways*, determinism, free will, existence.

كشف الحتمية في كتاب جودي بيكولت "كتاب الطريقين"

د. هبة متعب فجة

جامعة القادسية - كلية التربية - قسم اللغة الإنجليزية

hibam.sultan@qu.edu.iq

الخلاصة

جودي بيكولت، المشهورة بقصصها المثيرة للتفكير، استكشفت مرة أخرى موضوعات عميقة في روايتها لعام 2020، "كتاب الطريقين". عندما ينخرط القراء في استكشاف أسر للكتاب، فإنهم يصادفون الاستفسار الفلسفي القديم عن الحتمية، والذي يتحدى الدرجة التي تتأثر بها حياة الأفراد بالمصير أو الاختيار الشخصي. هذه المقالة ستوضح كيفية معالجة بيكولت لهذا الموضوع المعقد والآثار الهامة التي يحملها لكل من شخصياتها والقراء.

الكلمات المفتاحية: جودي بيكولت، كتاب الطريقين، الحتمية، الإرادة الحرة، الوجود

Introduction

Jodi Picoult is a contemporary American author known for her challenging novels that delve into complex ethical, moral, and societal issues. Her writing often explores the intricate interplay between fate and free will, a theme closely associated with the concept of determinism. Determinism posits that events and choices are influenced by a combination of factors, including genetics, environment, and past experiences, ultimately leading to a predetermined outcome. Thus, is a philosophical concept that proposes that all events, including human actions, are the inevitable consequences of antecedent events and the laws of nature. In simpler terms, it suggests that our actions and choices are predetermined, rather than products of free will. In many of Jodi Picoult's works, including her novel *The Book of Two Ways*, the theme of determinism takes center stage. This captivating novel follows the journey of Dawn Edelstein, a death doula who finds herself at a crossroads after surviving a near-death experience. As she navigates her past and present, Dawn grapples with



questions of destiny and the choices that have shaped her life. The narrative weaves together multiple timelines, exploring the intricate web of decisions and circumstances that have led Dawn to where she is.

Picoult's exploration of determinism in *The Book of Two Ways* prompts readers to consider the extent to which our lives are shaped by external forces versus personal agency. The characters in her books often confront moral dilemmas and ethical quandaries, illustrating the complex nature of human decision-making. Through her engaging storytelling and multidimensional characters, Picoult challenges readers to reflect on the role of fate, coincidence, and choice in their own lives.

View of Literature

Jodi Lynn Picoult is an American author known for her extensive literary contributions. With 28 novels and numerous short stories to her name, she has also delved into the world of Wonder Woman. Her books have garnered immense popularity, with approximately 40 million copies in print worldwide and translations available in 34 languages. In recognition of her talent, she received the New England Bookseller Award for fiction in 2003 (Graham, 2019).

Picoult's writing style is characterized by captivating popular fiction, often revolving around family sagas. Her narratives frequently explore moral dilemmas and procedural dramas that put family members at odds with each other. She has often been associated with the genre of chick-lit. Throughout her career, Picoult fearlessly tackled a wide range of contentious and ethical issues, including abortion, the Holocaust, assisted suicide, race relations, eugenics, LGBT rights, fertility matters, religion, the death penalty, and school shootings. Despite her immense popularity and ability to spark debate, she remains somewhat ignored by academia, challenging traditional notions of literature through her exceptional storytelling prowess (Shapiro, 2019).

Picoult, born in May 19, 1966 in Nesconset, New York, on Long Island, grew up with one younger brother. In June 1983, she completed her education at Smithtown High School East. Her family identifies as "non-practicing Jewish" (Picoult, 2011). At a young age of five, Picoult penned her first story titled "The Lobster Which Misunderstood." Both her mother and grandmother were teachers, and their profound influence played a crucial role in shaping her as a writer (Graham, 2019).

Picoult's educational background includes studying creative writing at Princeton University with Mary Morris, graduating in 1987 with an A.B. in English after completing a 320-page senior thesis titled "Developments." During college, she even had two short stories published in *Seventeen* magazine. After graduation,



she engaged in various jobs, from textbook editing to teaching eighth-grade English, while also earning a master's degree in education from Harvard University. Picoult received two honorary Doctor of Letters degrees, one from Dartmouth College in 2010 and another from the University of New Haven in 2012 (Shapiro, 2019).

Over the years, Picoult's books have achieved significant recognition. "Nineteen Minutes," a novel tackling the aftermath of a school shooting, debuted at number 1 on the New York Times best-seller list upon its release in March 2007. Similarly, "Change of Heart," published in March 2008, also secured the top spot on the same list. Her works "Handle with Care" (2009) and "House Rules" (2010) also reached number 1 on the New York Times best-seller list (Yabroff, 2009).

Picoult has often been labeled as a chick-lit author, but she has pointed out that while this may cost her critical acclaim, it allows her to connect with a broader audience and influence more readers. She expressed her desire to be recognized as a writer who tackles important issues, even if it means not being celebrated by literary awards (Shapiro, 2019).

In addition to her literary endeavors, Picoult has been actively involved in various charitable causes. She has been associated with organizations like Positive Tracks, the New Hampshire Coalition Against the Death Penalty, and Vida: Women in Literary Arts. Picoult co-founded the Trumbull Hall Troupe, which provides children with a fun and educational theater experience, with proceeds going to local charities (Graham, 2019).

However, not all aspects of Picoult's career have been smooth sailing. In 2019, she engaged in a public criticism of a college student's opinion about a certain author's novels. This led to controversy and eventual apologies from Picoult due to resulting harassment and bullying (Shapiro, 2019).

More recently, in 2023, some of Picoult's books were removed from a school district in Florida for review due to concerns of potentially inappropriate content. Picoult contested these claims, stating that her books address significant issues such as racism, abortion rights, gun control, gay rights, and other topics that encourage critical thinking among young readers (Yabroff, 2009).

Throughout her illustrious career, Jodi Lynn Picoult has received numerous honors and awards, including the Alex Award from the Young Adult Library Services Association and the Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, among others. Her dedication to literature and her willingness to tackle complex issues have solidified her position as a prominent and influential figure in the literary world. Picoult's bibliography includes a diverse array of works, such as:



Songs of the Humpback Whale (1992)	Leaving Home: Short Pieces (2011)	Sing You Home (2011)
Harvesting the Heart (1993)	House Rules (2010)	Between the Lines, co-written with Samantha van Leer (2012)
Picture Perfect (1995)	Handle with Care (2009)	Lone Wolf (2012)
Mercy (1996)	Change of Heart (2008)	The Storyteller (2013)
The Pact (1998)	Wonder Woman: Love and Murder (2007)	Leaving Time (2014)
Keeping Faith (1999)	Wonder Woman (vol. 3)	Small Great Things (2016)
Plain Truth (2001)	Nineteen Minutes (2007)	The Book of Two Ways (2020)
Salem Falls (2001)	The Tenth Circle (2006)	A Spark of Light (2018)
Perfect Match (2002)	Vanishing Acts (2005)	Wish You Were Here (2021)
Second Glance (2003)	My Sister's Keeper (2004)	Mad Honey, co-written with Jennifer Finney Boylan (2022)

Some of her works have also been adapted for film and television:

1. The Pact (2002) - Lifetime Original Movie
2. Plain Truth (2004) - Lifetime Original Movie
3. The Tenth Circle (2008) - Lifetime Original Movie
4. My Sister's Keeper (2009) - Feature film
5. Salem Falls (2011) - Lifetime Original Movie
6. Wish You Were Here (TBA) - Netflix Original film

Picoult's bibliography reflects her versatility as a writer, covering a wide range of themes and genres. Additionally, her works have made successful transitions to the screen, further solidifying her impact on the literary and entertainment worlds. At the same time, there are numerous controversial opinions about her works, such as her novel *The Pact* (2002), wherein the female main character dies within the first few pages of the book. This occurrence often elicits strong reactions from readers, provoking contemplation about the reasons behind the main character's early demise (Hidayah, 2018).

Additionally, most criticism centered around Picoult's novel *My Sister's Keeper* (2009); Susianti, Thoyibi, & Hikmat (2014) stated that he narrative was skillfully woven, yet it didn't culminate on a cheerful note. A quintessential



example of Picoult's style, evoking deep emotions and prompting introspection on one's potential reactions and emotions in such circumstances. Undoubtedly, this is an incredibly poignant book. The characters in this book are incredibly manipulative and skillfully portrayed to evoke a sense of aversion in the reader. It demands a proficient writer who can wield the characters' words to manipulate the readers' emotions effectively.

On the other hand, the novel *Plain Truth* received much praise because it delves into the Amish community. In the book, Picoult (2004) stated in chapter sixteen that our society upholds the value of individualism, whereas the Amish community is strongly rooted in communal bonds. For us, an individual standing out is unremarkable due to our appreciation and anticipation of diversity. Conversely, among the Amish, there exists no allowance for straying from the established norms. Conformity holds significance as it shapes the very fabric of their society, forging a shared identity. Failing to conform brings forth psychological distress, leading to a profound sense of isolation when one has always been accustomed to belonging.

However, Runtukahu, Rorintulus, & Sabudu (2022) in their paper entitled as "Self-Control in Jodi Picoult Small Great Things" claimed that *Plain Truth* delves into themes of romantic affection, familial love, and the potential clashes that might arise between these two forms of love. It delves into the notions of uniqueness and selfhood. Primarily, it centers around the ideas of truth and absolution. The novel delves into the intricate nature of truth, revealing that it can be deceptive at times. Moreover, it underscores the profound significance of forgiveness, portraying it as the ultimate offering that humans can bestow upon or receive from one another.

Lastly, in essence, Jodi Picoult's journey as an author has been one of artistic exploration, societal reflection, and the powerful impact of storytelling. Her ability to navigate difficult themes, create relatable characters, and ignite conversations on pressing issues showcases her significant contribution to contemporary literature. As her bibliography continues to evolve, one can only anticipate the lasting influence her work will have on generations of readers and writers to come.

Conceptual Framework

Determinism, in philosophical terms, asserts that past events and the laws of nature determine or establish future events. In analytic philosophy, the focus on determinism revolves around its accuracy in describing the progression of events in the world. Additionally, determinism plays a crucial role in the metaphysical discussion concerning the existence of free will. Consequently, it becomes essential to explore different forms of determinism, critiques aimed at it, and



how the concept of determinism applies to the ongoing debate on free will (Furlong, 2019).

Types of Determinism

There are two primary types of determinism: Causal determinism and Correlative determinism.

1- Causal Determinism

Causal determinism asserts that past events and the laws of nature directly cause future events. In this perspective, a deterministic causation exists between past and future occurrences. An example of a causally deterministic theory is Newtonian physics, which explains how all events are causally determined by previous events and natural laws. For instance, using Newton's laws of motion and gravity, one can predict the trajectory of a satellite around its orbit based on its initial conditions. However, a conceptual challenge arises concerning the initial event in the chain of causation. Aristotle proposed the idea of an "unmoved mover" or a divine agent as the cause of this initial event, thus introducing the concept of agent causation (Dzelajei, 2023).

The debate among determinists revolves around whether causation in determinism should be understood as event causation (causation between events) or agent causation (causation by agents or beings (Koperski, 2020).

2- Correlative Determinism

On the other hand, correlative determinism posits that past events and the laws of nature fix, but do not directly cause, future events. This form of determinism suggests a deterministic correlation between past and future occurrences. Unlike causal determinism, correlative determinism does not require a direct causal link between events but emphasizes the fixed relationship between them (Willoughby, 2019).

Determinists engage in important discussions concerning the nature of determinism and whether it should be perceived as fundamentally causal or if other interpretations, like agent causation, are more suitable. Yet, throughout history, philosophers have strived to defend their positions with minimal assumptions. Peter van Inwagen (1983) is a proponent of such minimalist philosophy and proposes an intriguing perspective on determinism. He suggests that determinism can be upheld without invoking a causal connection between past and future events. Instead, van Inwagen posits that determinism can be understood as a thesis concerning propositions that express information about past and future states of the world.



According to van Inwagen, determinism operates under the following conditions:

1. For any given time, there exists a plan that expresses the state of the world at that specific time.
2. There is a set of laws of nature (denoted as L) that apply universally to all states of the world.
3. If, for example, plan A expresses the state of the world at a particular time, and another plan B expresses the state of the world at a subsequent time, then A and B logically entail C. Subsequently, The C is the determinism.

Van Inwagen's concept of determinism avoids the use of the term 'cause' and instead relies on a notion of future-to-past uniqueness. However, his correlative determinism does not explain how past events come to uniquely determine future events. Therefore, how these deterministic correlations originate in the first place?

In the history of philosophy, two answers have been proposed to tackle this question: occasionalism and pre-established harmony. Occasionalism, introduced by Nicholas Malebranche (1674), asserts that God alone is the cause of all events. According to this view, God intervenes to ensure that any past event leads to a corresponding future event. Thus, the correlation between past and future events is attributed to God's intervention, but this perspective faced criticism due to its less than satisfactory portrayal of God and His abilities.

In contrast, Gottfried Leibniz (1686) developed the thesis of pre-established harmony to explain the progression of events in the world. Similar to occasionalism, Leibniz's view holds that God is the sole cause of all events. However, in pre-established harmony, God intervenes only once to determine the course of all future events. This idea can be likened to arranging thousands of dominos in a specific way so that when one is hit, all the others fall in succession according to a predetermined order.

Determinism and the Question of Free Will

Determinism plays a central role in metaphysical discussions concerning the existence of free will, which pertains to the capacity to make choices and decisions. Within this debate, different philosophical stances emerge. Such as hard determinists maintain that not only is determinism true, but its truth also negates the possibility of free will. On the other hand, soft determinists, also known as compatibilists, believe that while determinism is true, it does not necessarily rule out the existence of free will. Another perspective is held by libertarians, who argue that free will can exist precisely because determinism is not true (Hacking, 2020).



Philosophers' disagreements about the existence of free will often align with their interpretations of determinism. For example, Peter van Inwagen (1983), opposing soft determinism, perceives determinism as a view concerning the relationship between events in the world (event causation). Conversely, Roderick Chisholm (2018), supporting soft determinism, interprets determinism as a view concerning the relationship between world events and agents (agent causation). Meanwhile, Robert Kane (2018), a prominent libertarian, rejects determinism entirely.

However, some philosophers, like Immanuel Kant (2005), view the free will debate as primarily a matter of defining 'free will' rather than a debate about the truth or nature of determinism. Others, like Harry Frankfurt (2018), argue that the question of free will is not as crucial as the issue of moral responsibility, as the existence of moral responsibility does not necessarily hinge on whether we possess free will or not. Nevertheless, the majority of scholars recognize that the truth and nature of determinism significantly impact the question of free will. As a result, the topic of determinism will continue to be a subject of discussion in philosophy in its own right.

Critics of Determinism

While the question of whether determinism should be understood as a causal thesis is intriguing, a more fundamental concern is whether any form of determinism is true. Indeterminism is the opposite thesis, suggesting that not all future events are predetermined by past events. Indeterminists typically embrace either causal indeterminism or randomness as their viewpoint (Gisin, 2021).

Causal indeterminism posits that past events still play a role in causing future events, but the causation operates in a non-deterministic manner. Proponents of causal indeterminism generally adopt some form of indeterministic causation, such as probabilistic causation. The attraction towards causal indeterminism can be attributed to the success of quantum physics, particularly the Copenhagen interpretation. According to this interpretation, it is impossible to predict with absolute certainty all future states of a physical system. For example, based on Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, one cannot predict the precise angular spin of an electron along the z-axis and x-axis at any given time. Consequently, the spin states of an electron arise indeterminately from its past spin states (Lu & Wang, 2021). However, the challenge with causal indeterminism lies in constructing a coherent and unproblematic theory of indeterministic causation, as well as ruling out deterministic explanations for quantum mechanical phenomena.

Deterministic Explanations in Quantum Physics

Although the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum physics has proven highly successful in elucidating quantum phenomena, there exist competing



deterministic theories that can equally account for the same phenomena. These theories are referred to as hidden-variable theories in the literature, with Bohmian mechanics (Bohm 1952) being a prominent example. Hidden-variable theories propose the existence of unobservable variables that enable physicists to describe a physical state in a deterministic manner, even though they cannot be accessed experimentally.

Consequently, relying on quantum physics to argue for causal indeterminism presents a challenge, as quantum theory can be interpreted in a deterministic fashion. The philosophical rationale for this conundrum lies in the Quine-Duhem thesis from the philosophy of science (Duhem, 1998). According to this thesis, any physical theory can be underdetermined by the evidence supporting it, as all physical theories require background assumptions to account for physical phenomena, and these assumptions can be manipulated to accommodate various theories. As a result, quantum phenomena that may appear indeterministic can be explained deterministically, albeit in a more intricate manner, simply by adjusting the background assumptions.

Theories of Causation with Indeterminism

Philosophical theories that explore indeterministic causation have not been without their challenges. Specifically, theories of probabilistic causation have faced criticism for being built upon a false premise. All probabilistic causation theories assume that a cause increases the probability of its effect. Michael Tooley (1999) articulates this assumption, stating that "a cause which contributes probabilistically to bringing about a certain effect must at least raise the probability" (p.68). However, this view of causation can be challenged with a particular type of counterexample.

A classic counterexample provided by Germund Hesslow (1976) points out that taking contraceptive pills or being pregnant can cause thrombosis onset, which is abnormal blood clotting. However, since taking contraceptive pills decreases the probability of becoming pregnant, it actually lowers the probability of thrombosis onset. Thus, we encounter a scenario where a cause (taking contraceptive pills) decreases the probability of its effect (thrombosis onset). As a result, there are philosophical obstacles to making theories of indeterministic causation plausible.

Despite these challenges, some philosophers, like Wesley Salmon (1984), avoid the criticism by representing causation as a process rather than a simple relation between events. Salmon's process theory of probabilistic causation not only addresses Hesslow's criticism but also explains how causal indeterminism can be a viable concept.



In conclusion, determinism, the belief that past events and natural laws determine future events, holds significant implications in philosophical discussions. Its relevance extends to the ongoing debate over the existence of free will, where various perspectives, such as hard determinism, soft determinism, and libertarianism, offer divergent viewpoints on the compatibility of determinism with free will.

Different forms of determinism, including causal determinism and correlative determinism, provide distinct interpretations of the causal relationships between events in the world. Peter van Inwagen's concept of determinism, based on propositions about past and future states of the world, offers an alternative approach without invoking direct causation.

However, challenges arise in reconciling determinism with indeterministic causation. Philosophical theories of probabilistic causation face criticism for their assumptions, and the success of deterministic interpretations in quantum physics adds complexity to the debate on causal indeterminism.

Despite these challenges, the exploration of determinism and its impact on the question of free will continues to be a central topic in philosophy. Researchers and scholars grapple with the complexities of different deterministic theories, hidden-variable interpretations, and the subtleties of causation to shed light on the nature of the universe and our capacity to make choices and decisions.

Discussion

In order to comprehend the concept of determinism in Picoult's *The Book of Two Ways*, it is crucial to divide this segment of discussion into five subsections. Each subsection illuminates a specific theme within the novel, thereby aiding readers in garnering pertinent information pertaining to a fundamental question of existence: Do humans possess free will to guide their lives, or is it predetermined? To address this inquiry, several significant concepts are elucidated as follows:

1- A Clash of Choices:

The Book of Two Ways centers around Dawn Edelstein, a death doula who is given a second chance at life after surviving a plane crash. This life-altering event prompts Dawn to reflect on her past decisions, bringing determinism to the forefront. As Dawn navigates between her present life and the life she might have led, readers are invited to question whether her choices were truly her own or predetermined by circumstances beyond her control.

From the first pages to the last sentences of the novel, the heroine faces choices in her life. There is always a need for selecting one road rather than the other. At the beginning of her life, as a PhD candidate, Dawn was in Egypt to get her



degree as an archaeologist and she fell in love with her colleague Wyatt, but she faced the first choice in the novel. She was called to come home after her mother was diagnosed with cancer. Now she has a choice to stay in Egypt and finish her study or leave everything and go home to take care of her sick mother and young brother: "I wonder what would have happened if our roles had been reversed: if I had stayed, and he had gotten the call that changed the rest of his life" (Picoult, 2020, p. 81). As it is clear, she chose to leave her study and go back to Boston to take care of her mother.

According to the conceptual framework, Dawn's decision to leave her study and become a death doula is analyzed according to correlative determinism. In this view, the effect of her past choice is indirectly determined by her future events. In other words, when Dawn left Egypt, she didn't directly become a death doula. This happened after a period of time. Due to her mother's death, Dawn had the choice of returning to finish her study, but she stayed to take care of her young brother and became pregnant from Brian, the man she met at the hospital. Therefore, the past event of her choice led to the future events of her life, but not in a direct way.

After becoming a death doula and marrying Brian, Dawn started the journey of regret for the choices she made; she always questions herself about those choices: "I feel gently along the fissure, the crack that separated my life from what I thought it would be to what it would become. What if, what if, what if" (p. 223). After fifteen years of that marriage, she suddenly decides to go back to Egypt in order to see if she might repeat the past or at least confess to herself and her past lover that she might have made a mistake in leaving him the first time: "I have had a good life. But, maybe, I could have had a great one. How do I tell the man I left behind that I think I might have made a mistake?" (p. 93).

The reader can feel throughout the book that Dawn was unhappy and searching for an excuse to escape her married life, especially when her husband cheated on her with another woman. "You act like nothing happened," I say to Brian. "But something did. You made a choice to hire her. You made a choice to go to her apartment. You could have been with us that night. You should have been. I can't unthink that" (p. 107). The idea of choice haunts Dawn in every corner. She looks at everything as a matter of choice; this may be a reminder of soft determinism, where some choices from the past were partially determined by a higher force like God. This may work as a bandage for someone who made bad choices and justified them according to a higher power. Actually, this is part of human nature—people tend to believe that the events of their lives may be caused by a plan or the laws of nature and not solely their will or determinism, as Peter van Inwagen believes.



Dawn's choice of career may determine her way of thinking, as becoming a death doula may help her find relief in accepting that there are things that are inevitable in life, such as death: "I deliver this the way I always do: matter of fact, no sugarcoating or pretending that death is not inevitable" (p. 63). This way of thinking may excuse the heroine from taking full responsibility for the choices in her life. In this case, Dawn does not believe in free will; she does not want to acknowledge that she had free will. She wants to blame life and the universe for her choices. She wants to blame determinism for her present life:

I've thought about that, too. If you had asked me fifteen years ago, I would have said that by now, I'd be published and well-established in the field of Egyptology. Maybe I would be a curator for the Met, ... Maybe I'd be a professor with my own concession in Egypt, ... Maybe I'd teach at Queen's College at Oxford, ... Maybe I would be at the Grand Café on High Street, scrambling through my purse to find a few pound coins for my latte, ... Maybe that man would be Brian, in town to give a guest lecture on multiverses at Oxford's physics department. This is what I tell myself: that we were inevitable. That it was meant to be. (p. 67).

As shown by her words, there are a lot of 'maybes'; Dawn dreamed of having another life if she may be made different choices. She wants to shift the responsibility to something else and that releases her from the 'maybe' pattern of her thinking. This echoes Nicholas Malebranche, who asserts that God alone is the cause of all events.

2-The Power of Quantum Physics:

Picoult skillfully weaves the principles of quantum physics into the narrative, enhancing the exploration of determinism. Quantum mechanics suggests that at the microscopic level, particles behave in an indeterminate manner until observed, leading to multiple possible outcomes. This parallel between the subatomic world and human existence raises the question of whether our choices are predetermined or if we possess the power to alter the course of our lives.

The writer presented her views on determinism through the character of Brian, a scientist and physicist. The first time Dawn and Brian met, he tried to explain to her the power of physics in determining the world. He based his ideas on hidden-variable theories with Bohmian mechanics. This theory proposes the existence of unobservable variables that enable him to describe a physical state in a deterministic manner, even though they cannot be accessed experimentally. For example:

We have this spinning electron, and a trigger, and a gun...but now, you take the place of the cat. If the electron spins clockwise, the trigger goes off, the gun fires, and you're dead. If the electron spins counterclockwise, the trigger doesn't



go off, the gun never fires, and you live. We're playing Russian roulette with an electron (p. 98).

Brian's analogy of playing "Russian roulette with an electron" illustrates the complexity of hidden variables impacting seemingly undetermined choices. He used the movement of the electron and its effect on the shooting gun to illustrate that there are hidden variables connected with the choice of existence and nonexistence of the trigger. These variables may seem undetermined, but the result is determined based on the electron's indeterminism. Changing variables for the same electron will lead to different results; for example, the laws of quantum mechanics will split a person into two versions: one who is killed, and one who is not. In one cosmos, the person will leave the physics lab, go pick up his/her kid from school, have a drink on the back doorway, and watch a movie. In the other world, everyone will be attending his/her funeral (pp. 98-99). Brian believes that the laws of physics split people into many different versions of themselves, each considering their track as distinctive and providential. Brian's belief in the existence of multiple versions of ourselves, each following a distinctive and providential track, exemplifies the profound implications of quantum mechanics on human existence (p. 86). His concept of "quantum suicide experiment" unveils the subjective nature of determining outcomes, where only the living version of oneself experiences the results, creating a statistical near impossibility of perceiving anything else. As he states in the following:

He spreads his hands. "Here's where it gets really interesting. The dead version of you has no experience of where you are and what's happening. Because, face it, you're dead. On the other hand, the live, conscious version of you bears witness to the fact that you've survived the experiment. So the only outcome you will ever perceive, if you run the quantum suicide experiment, is the one where you live. You can literally run it a thousand times, and every single time—a statistical near impossibility—you will survive...because that is the only version of you that can experience anything" (p. 99).

However, Brian was very passionate about physics, and his daughter Meret followed him in this interest. However, at the end, he discovered that Meret was not his biological daughter; she was Wyatt's. This revelation came to light when Dawn revealed that she was already pregnant from Wyatt when she slept with Brian. Dawn had no idea about this, and it links to the Copenhagen theory, which states that it is impossible to predict future events based on past events. Brian discussed this theory at the beginning of their relationship with Dawn, saying, "Here's the problem with quantum immortality: it's subjective, not objective. Even if you can prove it exists, you'd only be able to prove it to yourself—not to anyone else. To them, you'd just be a really stupid dead person" (p. 100). Amidst Brian's passion for physics, this surprising revelation about his



daughter Meret challenges the notion of determinism. The revelation that she is not his biological daughter but rather Wyatt's raises questions about fate, randomness, and the impact of past events on future outcomes. This is reminiscent of the Copenhagen theory, where predicting future events based on the past proves elusive.

Brian was trying to explain that the determinism of the world is identified according to physics. Everything to him is a practical theory. This may have been one of the elements that Dawn did not like about her husband. She is a passionate woman who used to have curiosity about the world and ancient cultures. A woman who traveled to Egypt just to study the mummies and finds passion in archaeology.

Dawn exemplifies the potential for changing the future by making different choices when presented with similar past decisions. Her return to Egypt and the choice between her family and her former love, Wyatt, demonstrates the possibility of rewriting one's life narrative when provided with a second chance (pp. 98-99). In this case, the past is repeated for Dawn, giving her another chance with the man she loves. Dawn is lucky enough that she had another chance. This reminds the reader of Gatsby, who was sure he could repeat the past, but he couldn't. In a conversation in chapter six of *The Great Gatsby*, Nick Carraway told Gatsby that he can't repeat the past; "'You can't repeat the past.' 'Can't repeat the past?' he cried incredulously. 'Why of course you can!'" (Fitzgerald, 2017, p. 118). Therefore, in comparison, the tragic character of Gatsby serves as a poignant reminder that not everyone can repeat the past and alter their destiny. Dawn's ability to seize a second opportunity to be with Wyatt stands in contrast to Gatsby's futile pursuit of recreating his past with Daisy Buchanan.

In conclusion, Picoult's skillful incorporation of quantum physics into the story encourages readers to reflect on the interplay of determinism, hidden variables, and the potential for transformative choices in shaping the trajectories of our lives. The parallel between the microcosmic world of particles and the macrocosmic world of human existence leaves us pondering the mysterious interconnections that may govern our destinies.

3-Character Agency and Personal Responsibility:

Throughout the novel, Picoult presents various characters grappling with their sense of agency and personal responsibility. Dawn, for instance, is torn between her duty as a mother and her passion for archaeology, leading her to question the impact of her decisions on both her family and herself. By highlighting these internal conflicts, Picoult emphasizes the intricate relationship between determinism and personal choice.



Dawn is always questioning herself. She is in a constant battle between what is her responsibility and what is not. Her choice of being a death doula may seem like a way of excluding herself from the responsibility of others – as if she can't do anything in the face of death. This reflects a hard determinism exemplified by Peter van Inwagen, where the laws of nature free people from having the will to change the situation.

But what does it really mean to be good? Is it finding a calling that helps other people? Is it running to the bedside of someone who is dying? Is it putting someone else's needs before your own? You could argue, I suppose, that any of those actions are about not selflessness, but martyrdom. Driven not by ethics, but guilt. (p. 222)

However, the narrator does not provide straightforward answers to these questions. Instead, they raise an important counterargument. The narrator considers whether such actions driven by selflessness could instead be seen as "martyrdom" rather than genuine ethical behavior. She is asking about the moral responsibility that is held by Kant and Frankfurt which they believe that determinism is really exist but the person has the moral or ethical responsibility to provide reaction to the determinism.

The lines suggest that being good might not solely be about selflessness or making sacrifices for others. The author introduces the idea that some people might engage in acts that appear good, not out of genuine ethics, but because of feelings of guilt. This implies that the motivation behind an action matters in defining its true goodness. The passage invites readers to reflect on the complexities of human behavior and the underlying motivations behind acts of kindness or selflessness. It challenges the notion that being good is solely about making sacrifices or constantly prioritizing others. Instead, it encourages deeper introspection into the true intentions and ethical underpinnings of our actions.

Escaping from the personal responsibility, Dawn believes that she has no free will in making any decision: "There's really no such thing as a right or wrong choice. We don't make decisions. Our decisions make *us*. (p. 327). Here, Dawn suggests a philosophical perspective on decision-making and its consequences. She implies that the concept of moral absolutes is subjective and depends on various factors such as personal beliefs, cultural context, and individual circumstances. What might be considered a "right" decision for one person could be perceived as "wrong" by another. This what Kant believes in his moral philosophy. This view highlights the complexity of decision-making and the absence of universally objective criteria for defining choices as entirely right or wrong.

The statement "We don't make decisions" suggests that decision-making is not a simple, linear process where individuals consciously and independently choose



an option. Instead, it implies that our decisions are influenced by numerous internal and external factors, such as past experiences, emotions, beliefs, and external circumstances. These factors shape our thought processes and perceptions, ultimately guiding our choices. But once a decision is made, it sets us on a particular path, shaping our experiences, emotions, and future choices. In this sense, decisions are not isolated events but cumulative experiences that contribute to the development of our identities and the trajectory of our lives.

Overall, Dawn tries to challenge traditional notions of decision-making as a purely rational and independent process with objectively right or wrong outcomes. She suggests that our choices are influenced by various factors and that the consequences of our decisions are dynamic, shaping who we become. It encourages a deeper exploration of the complexities of decision-making and the understanding that our choices play a significant role in shaping our lives.

Dawn chose a career that helps her remain objective in her behaviors. She does not want to become deeply involved in the lives of her clients, allowing her the freedom to avoid taking any personal responsibility for their outcomes. In one scene, a client named Win is facing the last day of her life due to cancer. Dawn appreciates Win's personality, but she also maintains her distance, not seeking to form a personal friendship with her: "I could see myself being friends with, had we met under different circumstances. That alone is probably enough reason for me to realize I need more distance; yet I somehow know she will become my client. "Is there anything I can get you right now? (p. 64). This passage portrays a complex emotional dynamic between the narrator and Win. She recognizes the potential for friendship but feels the need for distance due to unspecified circumstances. Despite this, there is a sense of inevitability that she will come into contact professionally, suggesting that their paths will intersect in some capacity. The question asked by the other person at the end of the passage adds a touch of uncertainty and curiosity, leaving the reader to wonder about the direction their relationship will take. But, of course, Win died at the end, leaving Dawn questioning whether it was her personal responsibility to save Win or not. However, determinism established itself to negate any kind of free will from the people.

In conclusion, throughout the novel, Jodi Picoult masterfully explores the complexities of agency and personal responsibility through the lens of her protagonist, Dawn. Dawn's internal struggles exemplify the intricate relationship between determinism and personal choice. As she navigates her roles as a mother, death doula, and archaeologist, she grapples with the impact of her decisions on others and herself. Picoult raises thought-provoking questions about the nature of goodness and the motivations behind acts of selflessness, challenging the idea that moral responsibility is solely about making sacrifices for others. The novel delves into the philosophical perspectives of Kant and



Frankfurt, underscoring the subjective nature of decision-making and the absence of rigid moral absolutes. Dawn's career choice provides her with a sense of objectivity, allowing her to maintain distance from her clients and their outcomes, but it also raises questions about the boundaries between professional detachment and personal connection. Ultimately, the novel leaves readers contemplating the complexities of human behavior and the ever-evolving nature of individual choices. By blurring the lines between determinism and free will, Picoult invites us to reflect on our own paths, acknowledging that our decisions shape us as much as we shape them.

4- The Role of Ancient Egyptian Mythology

Intertwined with the themes of determinism are the beliefs and rituals of ancient Egyptian mythology. The Egyptian "Book of Two Ways", which refers to the paths taken by souls in the afterlife, serves as a recurring motif in the novel. In which The Coffin Texts included a significant component known as the "Book of Two Ways", is recognized as the earliest known depiction of the afterlife's layout. This book was exclusively discovered in specific coffins located in Middle Egypt during the Middle Kingdom period. Typically painted on the bottom of these coffins, the "Book of Two Ways" depicted two distinct routes within the goddess Osiris's realm of the deceased: a land path represented in black and a water route depicted in blue. These routes were separated by a lake of fire (p. 12).

Following the map was akin to choosing between taking a ferry or driving around, but interestingly, both paths ultimately led to the same destination: the Field of Offerings, where the departed could enjoy eternal feasting with Osiris. However, there was a significant caveat to consider—some of these pathways led nowhere, while others directed the traveler towards perilous encounters with demons or circles of fire. Embedded within the text were magical elements that aided the individual in overcoming the guardians of the gates (ibid).

Picoult cleverly draws parallels between the ancient beliefs in fate and the modern-day characters' struggle with their own destinies. By doing so, she encourages readers to ponder the age-old question of whether our lives are guided by a higher power or if we are merely products of our environment and circumstances.

"The two ways" in the book may refer to the two journeys that Dawn had in her life to Egypt. In the first one, she chose to go back to Boston and leave her studies. In the second path or try, she chose differently and expected a different result. However, the end of her second journey was not clear, as the writer did not provide the main characters with a specific conclusion. The story left things unresolved, leaving the end open. When the reader finishes the novel, they will



find the last words between Dawn and her daughter without a specific end. The conclusion remains open-ended:

"So," Meret asks. "What are you going to do?"

Maybe this is all love is: twin routes of pain and pleasure. Maybe the miracle isn't where we wind up, but that we get there at all.

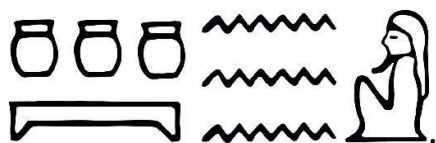
I open my mouth, and I answer. (p. 339)

In these lines, Meret initiates the conversation by asking her mother about her plans or decisions. This question sets the stage for the contemplative and introspective dialogue that follows. Here, Dawn muses on the nature of love. She proposes that love might involve experiencing both pain and pleasure simultaneously, as if they are intertwined, inseparable paths. In other words, love may not be solely about happiness or pain but a complex blend of both emotions. Their final conversation carries a profound message about the journey of life and love. Dawn suggests that the true miracle lies not only in reaching a particular destination or achieving a specific outcome but in the very act of going through the journey itself. The experiences, challenges, and growth along the way are what make life and love extraordinary. Finally, after contemplating Meret's question and sharing her thoughts on love and life's miracles, Dawn responds to Meret's initial query. The text leaves the answer to the reader's imagination, allowing them to interpret the character's decision or response based on their own understanding of the story and its themes.

Overall, this passage captures the deep reflections and uncertainties that can accompany life-altering decisions, emphasizing the complexities of human emotions and the significance of the journey itself in matters of love and personal growth.

Additionally, the structure of the novel reflects the parallel storytelling that showcases the determinism in Dawn's life by likening it to the lives of ancient Egyptian mummies. Though there are fifteen chapters in the novel, six of them are entitled the same, "Land/Egypt." In these chapters, Dawn and Wyatt present rich information about the culture of Egypt and the history of pyramids. There are mentions about the hieroglyphic language and its translations, such as:

Wyatt begins doodling on a folded piece of paper towel. "Chaos isn't such a bad place," he says,... On the napkin, he has drawn the hieroglyphic signs that write *nun*





Chaotic waters, I translate, surprised that I can still decipher this. It could be referring to rain, or it could be referring to inundation. It can be positive, like when the Nile floods and waters the crops. Or it can be devastating, and demolish a city. Ancient Egyptians believed that the first and most necessary ingredient in the universe was chaos. It could sweep you away, but it was also the place from which all things start anew (p. 93).

However, there are many Arabic words mentioned in the book, such as "inshallah," "doctora" (p. 15), "*Sabah el-noor*," (p. 10), and "Shokran" (p. 9). The use of these words reflects the credibility of the writer and her commitment to writing this book seriously. She endeavors to be authentic and genuine, paying attention even to the smallest details, including mentioning Arabic food like "aish shamsi" (p. 16), describing the appearance of Egyptian workers, and depicting their clothing and behavior accurately. All of these elements may indicate the main character's longing to be a part of another world and culture. This longing can be interpreted as a means of escaping from her own life and immersing herself in something mesmerizing.

Throughout all six chapters of *Land/Egypt*, Dawn explained how happy she was in Egypt and how, during that time, she felt connected to her feminine nature and desired by Wyatt. The passion between them was explicit to everyone around them. She described in detail their lovemaking and compared it to her cold/safe relationship with her husband, Brian. Dawn stated that her feelings for Wyatt were genuine love, and even the way he kissed her felt like a dream or something from a fantasy land. Every time she talks about their intimacy and touches, it seems like she is experiencing the sensation of being touched like a virgin for the first time. This intense sensation and passionate lust indicated her deep longing to be loved and desired by a man with whom she was completely and totally in love;

His thighs bracketed mine, but he was careful to not rest his weight on me. He unraveled me, pulling back the edges of my shirt and shucking my pants as if they were lotus petals,... He poured bourbon on me and licked me dry, his mouth moving from one breast to the other. Sand scratched between us when he fitted his body against mine. Pain and pleasure;...

"Dawn," Wyatt whispered.

A name was once seen as part of the soul, and now I understood its magic...I stared into his eyes when he sank inside me. We moved together, a chord of music I could never sing out loud, but would never stop hearing. Somewhere in time, others drank and danced. A star flashed green on the horizon.

We were ancient.



HIS HANDS TANGLED in my hair. Brushed sand off my belly. Scrapes, cuts, teeth, elbows. Wyatt curled around me like Mehen, the protective serpent that encircled the sun god in the Book of Two Ways, protecting him from chaos. I lost track of the number of times we came together, or slipped apart. And even then he touched me or I touched him, until the distance between us was like the line between sea and sky, so hazy it was impossible to see where one stopped and the other started (p. 154).

In conclusion, the role of ancient Egyptian mythology in the novel serves as a compelling backdrop that intertwines with the themes of determinism and the characters' struggle with their own destinies. The depiction of the "Book of Two Ways" and its significance in the afterlife reflects the idea of different paths leading to the same destination, raising questions about the nature of fate and free will.

Through Dawn's contemplative conversation with her daughter Meret, the novel emphasizes the profound message that life's true miracle lies not only in the end result but in the journey itself. Love and life are portrayed as intertwined paths of pain and pleasure, and it is the experiences and growth along the way that make them extraordinary.

Moreover, the parallel storytelling that draws connections between Dawn's life and ancient Egyptian mummies further reinforces the determinism theme. The novel's attention to detail and use of authentic Arabic words and cultural elements indicate the protagonist's longing for something mesmerizing, hinting at her desire to escape from her own life and immerse herself in a different world and culture.

Overall, the novel skillfully weaves together ancient Egyptian mythology, themes of determinism, and complex human emotions to create a thought-provoking narrative that leaves readers pondering the mysteries of life, love, and the significance of the journey itself.

5-Reconciling Determinism and Free Will

Picoult does not seek to provide definitive answers regarding the nature of determinism but rather encourages readers to reflect on the coexistence of fate and free will. By acknowledging the complexity of our lives and the interplay between external circumstances and personal choices, she challenges us to confront our own beliefs about determinism and consider the intricate tapestry of factors that shape our existence.

The writer discussed the theme of death as the clearest reflection of the philosophy of determinism; "Everyone' surprised by death, which is kind of ridiculous, when you think about it. It's not exactly a spoiler. But I think that what really shocked me is how many people can't see the shape of the life



they've lived until they get to the very end of it. You know?" (p. 82). The statement reflects on the concept of death and the common human response to it. Let's break it down:

1. "Everyone's surprised by death, which is kind of ridiculous when you think about it. It's not exactly a spoiler."

This part implies that death is an inevitable and universal event that happens to every living being. Despite this inevitability, many people are taken by surprise when it occurs. The idea of being "surprised by death" is compared to finding out an unexpected twist in a story (like a spoiler) when it should be something we inherently understand as part of life.

2. "But I think that what really shocked me is how many people can't see the shape of the life they've lived until they get to the very end of it."

This part delves into a deeper observation. The speaker is expressing surprise at how many people fail to perceive the overall trajectory or significance of their own lives until they are near the end of their journey. It suggests that people often get caught up in the day-to-day struggles and distractions of life, making it challenging to gain a clear understanding of the bigger picture until the later stages of life.

The statement highlights the importance of reflection, introspection, and self-awareness throughout life. By being more mindful of our actions and choices as we go along, we may better grasp the shape and meaning of our existence, making the end of life less surprising and more purposeful. Overall, it is a contemplation on the human condition and a reminder to appreciate the present while also gaining insight from our life's experiences.

Picoult repeated the theme of death throughout all her novel, her main character with her choice of career is by itself is an emphasis on the idea that everything in life is already determined. Perhaps this is her hopeless way of relieving her regret for life choices; "Life and death are just flip sides of the same coin," I say, (p. 82). This metaphor suggests that life and death are not separate entities but rather intertwined aspects of the natural cycle of existence. It encourages people to recognize the impermanence of life and the importance of cherishing the time they have, as death is an inescapable part of the human experience. Additionally, this expression might also refer to the idea that the meaning and significance of life are better understood and appreciated in the context of its finiteness. The awareness of our mortality can lead to a deeper appreciation for the moments and experiences that life offers, encouraging us to make the most of our time on Earth. The same idea is repeated in "Life and death are heads and tails. You can't have one without the other." (p. 162).



Picoult, through the voice of Dawn, seems to be well-informed about Arabic culture and its concept of death. All of this is to illustrate the idea that regardless of anyone's social and religious background, they will all eventually die. She states that at some point in our lives, we will all face death. It is an outcome that cannot be avoided, as it is a natural consequence of being born. Death spares no one, regardless of their spiritual enlightenment, power, wealth, or motivation. Even great figures like Buddha, Jesus, and Mohammed could not escape it, and the same fate awaits all of us, including you and me. No matter the gifts and achievements we accumulate throughout life—be it education, wealth, status, fame, family, or friends—they hold no influence when the moment of death arrives. In fact, sometimes, our attachments to these things can make facing death even more challenging. Take a moment to ponder what you are currently doing to prepare yourself for death. Embrace the truth that death is an inevitable part of life, and it is essential to come to terms with this reality (p. 177).

Conclusion

The Book of Two Ways presents a captivating exploration of the clash between choices and determinism in the life of its protagonist, Dawn Edelstein. Through her journey of reflection and self-discovery, the novel delves into the complexities of decision-making and the profound impact of past choices on future outcomes. Dawn's life is marked by pivotal moments where she faces difficult decisions, each leading her down a different path. The conceptual framework of correlative determinism is evident in the novel as Dawn's past choices indirectly influence her future events. This notion challenges the idea of direct causality and prompts readers to question whether some higher force or plan might be at play in shaping our lives.

Quantum physics serves as a compelling backdrop to the narrative, introducing the concept of hidden variables and the subjective nature of determining outcomes. Brian, the physicist in the story, passionately explains the interplay of quantum mechanics, leaving readers to ponder the existence of multiple versions of oneself in different realities. This concept challenges the traditional views of determinism and free will, raising questions about the potential for altering one's destiny when presented with new choices.

Dawn's return to Egypt and her encounter with Wyatt exemplify the possibility of rewriting one's life narrative through transformative decisions. It underscores the importance of second chances and highlights the contrast with tragic characters like Gatsby, whose futile pursuit of the past led to a different outcome.

Ultimately, *The Book of Two Ways* leaves readers contemplating the mysterious interconnections that may govern our destinies. It encourages us to embrace the power of choice while acknowledging that determinism and hidden variables



may also play a role in shaping our lives. The novel reminds us that our paths are not always linear, and that embracing uncertainty can lead to unforeseen opportunities and profound personal growth.

As we close the book on Dawn's journey, we are left with a sense of wonder about the complexities of life, the interplay of choices and determinism, and the potential for transformative decisions to shape our existence. Jodi Picoult's masterful incorporation of quantum physics invites us to explore the depths of our own lives, embracing the power of choice while recognizing the mysterious forces that may also be at play.

Thus, Picoult skillfully weaves elements of ancient Egyptian mythology into the narrative, using the "Book of Two Ways" as a metaphor for the divergent paths in life. The exploration of quantum physics further deepens the contemplation on determinism, showcasing the potential for multiple outcomes in a quantum universe.

The novel does not offer definitive answers on the nature of determinism, and that is part of its brilliance. By leaving some questions unanswered, Picoult invites readers to reflect on their own beliefs and philosophies about life, destiny, and the human experience. The story also explores the concept of personal responsibility and agency. It challenges traditional notions of moral absolutes and selflessness, suggesting that the motivation behind our actions matters as much as the actions themselves.

Through Dawn's journey and introspection, the novel emphasizes the importance of self-awareness and reflection. It reminds us that our decisions, no matter how seemingly insignificant, shape the trajectory of our lives and contribute to the complex tapestry of existence.

Ultimately, *The Book of Two Ways* is a provocative and introspective exploration of the human condition. It encourages readers to contemplate the mysteries of life, love, and the intricate balance between determinism and free will in shaping our destinies. As we navigate our own paths, the novel serves as a reminder to cherish the present, embrace the complexities of human emotions, and find meaning in the journey itself.

REFERENCES

"A Conversation with Jodi About Keeping Faith". JodiPicoult.com. Retrieved October 13, 2011

Bohm, D. (1952). A suggested interpretation of the quantum theory in terms of "hidden" variables. I. *Physical review*, 85(2), 166.



Chisholm, R. M. (2018). Human freedom and the self. In *Agency And Responsibility* (pp. 126-137). Routledge.

Duhem, Pierre (1998). "Physical Theory and Experiment". In Curd, Martin; Cover, J.A. (eds.). *Philosophy of Science: The Central Issues*. New York: Norton. pp. 257–279.

Dzelajei, B. (2023). Popper's Propensity Interpretation of Quantum Physics as a form of Modal Metaphysics. *European Journal of Physical Sciences*, 6(2), 11-24.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. (2017). *The Great Gatsby*. Free eBooks at Planet eBook.com.

Frankfurt, H. (2018). Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person. In *Agency And Responsibility* (pp. 77-91). Routledge.

Furlong, P. (2019). *The challenges of divine determinism: a philosophical analysis*. Cambridge University Press.

Gisin, N. (2021). Indeterminism in physics and intuitionistic mathematics. *Synthese*, 199(5-6), 13345-13371.

Graham, Ruth (November 15, 2019). "The 2017 College Grad Who Got Attacked by a Horde of YA Authors Had No Idea What She Was Getting Into". Slate Magazine. Retrieved November 23, 2019.

Hacking, I. (2020). Probability and determinism, 1650–1900. In *Companion to the history of modern science* (pp. 690-701). Routledge.

Hidayah, N. (2018). *Internal Conflicts Faced by the Main Characters of My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult*. Doctoral dissertation. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim.

Hesslow, G. (1976). "Two Notes on the Probabilistic Approach to Causality". *Philosophy of science*, 43(2), 290-292.

Kane, R. (2018). Responsibility, luck and chance: Reflections on free will and indeterminism. In *Agency And Responsibility* (pp. 158-180). Routledge.

Kant, I. (2005). *Notes and fragments*. Cambridge University Press.

Koperski, J. (2020). *Divine Action, Determinism and the Laws of Nature* (p. 168). Taylor & Francis.

Leibniz, G. W. (2020). Damnation and Divine Justice. *An Anthology of European Neo-Latin Literature*.



Lu, X. M., & Wang, X. (2021). Incorporating Heisenberg's uncertainty principle into quantum multiparameter estimation. *Physical Review Letters*, 126(12), 120503.

Malebranche, N. (1958). *Nicolas malebranche*. Librairie Philosophique J.

Picoult, Judi. (2020). *The Book of Two Ways*. New York: Penguin Random House.

Picoult, J. (2000). *Plain Truth: A Novel*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Runtukahu, P. W., Rorintulus, O. A., & Sabudu, D. (2022). SELF-CONTROL IN JODI PICOULT SMALL GREAT THINGS. *JoTELL: Journal of Teaching English, Linguistics, and Literature*, 1(10), 1180-1195.

Salmon, W. C. (1984). *Scientific explanation and the causal structure of the world*. Princeton University Press. Tooley, M., ed. (1999). *Laws of Nature, Causation, and Supereminence*. New York: Garland.

Shapiro, Lila (November 16, 2019). "Famous Authors Drag Student in Surreal YA Twitter Controversy". Vulture. Retrieved September 7, 2020

Susianti, A., Thoyibi, M., & Hikmat, M. H. (2014). *Between Selfish And Altruistic Desires In Jodi Picoult's Novel My Sister's Keeper (2004): A Psychoanalytic Criticism* (Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta).

Van Inwagen, P. (1983). Fiction and metaphysics. *Philosophy and literature*, 7(1), 67-77.

Willoughby, E. A. & et al (2019). Free will, determinism, and intuitive judgments about the heritability of behavior. *Behavior genetics*, 49(2), 136-153.

Yabroff, Jennie (2009). "Does Jodi Picoult Hurt Literature?". *Newsweek*. Retrieved May 10, 2011.