

Analysis of Morality, Greed, and Self-control in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory through Freud's Id, Ego, and Superego

M. Leghashree¹

M.A. English, Department of English, PSG College of Arts and Science.

Dr. Kausalya. D²

Associate Professor of English, PSG College of Arts and Science.

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Abstract:

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is a children's fiction novel that revolves around those aspects that show the how important role parents need to play in shaping the character of a child. The novel emphasizes how parental guidance, as well as values, beliefs, and ethical standards, are carried by children into adulthood through the presentation of child characters. As the primary moral family educators, parents instill beliefs as to the difference between right and wrong, and the words and deeds of each parent are influential in terms of how the children respond to society. The storyline proves the positive and negative aspects of parents who provide the best for their kids. At the same time, there is a lesson in being wrong when they lack good qualities in their child. Through examining the evolution of character, this article explores the effects of parents on children's moral and behavioral development and the important part that structure and discipline play in molding a child's future.

Keywords: Ethics, Desire, Greed, Parental influence, Child development

Introduction:

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is a beloved children's novel by Roald Dahl, first published in 1964 by a British writer renowned for his contributions to children's literature. His works are famous for their imaginative plots, dark humor, and unique characters. His skillful and distinctive blend of fantasy with moral lessons explores themes of good versus evil, courage, and justice while maintaining a whimsical and mischievous tone throughout his stories. His books have been translated into multiple languages and have inspired films, plays, and musicals, making him one of the most celebrated and influential writers in children's literature. Over the years, Dahl wrote numerous beloved classics, including *Matilda*, *The Witches*, and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, but it was *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964) that truly solidified his reputation as a master storyteller. Unlike novels for adults,

children's books explore the conflicts and challenges the children's characters encounter in their everyday lives. In addition, the issue of morality and moral values are always associated with children's books. Thus, this research aims to discuss morality by analyzing the children's characters.

The concepts of morality, greed, and self-control in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* can be categorized by Freud's Id, Ego, and Superego model. Freud's psychoanalytic model provides a guide to see how human behavior is affected by the three psychological elements: Id, Ego, and Superego. The Id represents raw desires, Ego mediates between the Id and the real world, and the Superego is responsible for enforcing individual moral standards. The actions and outcomes of the children's tour of Willy Wonka's chocolate factory are clear signs of these forces at work. Using this perspective on the characters, we can see that greed and the unchecked forces of the subconscious (embodied here by the Id) lead to unfortunate results, while self-control and moral integrity (embodied here by Charlie) are rewarded in a straightforward fashion. This interpretation offers an original perspective on Dahl's narrative and emphasizes the significance of balance in moral education in shaping behavior.

The actions and choices of children who come to Willy Wonka's factory illustrate the themes of morality, greed, and even self-restraint in a highly detailed manner. With regard to Freud's psychoanalytic theories of the Id, Ego, and Superego, this analysis looks at what actions were taken by the characters and the consequences that followed in light of these psychological constructs. Freud's approach to psychology, where the Id is the representation of one's dreams and aspirations, the Ego is the amalgam of one's wants and reality, and the selected Superego, which oversees law and order, is utterly useful in understanding the conflicts the characters went through. This article explores the child's behavior in the factory as a reflection of psychoanalytic forces and the consequences of desires unfettered by discipline, the measure of self-control exercised, and the self-restraint conditions imposed by the characters in their social interactions. In so doing, the novel's profound statements regarding people and their growth in morality are explained.

The story of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* unfolds the story of little Charlie Bucket, a humble and poor boy who wins a golden ticket to the magical chocolate factory of Willy Wonka. The very essence of the book sharply contrasts Charlie's selflessness against the overindulgences of the other children who had also gotten their tickets. Freud's psychoanalytic theory, espousing the concepts of Id, Ego, and Superego, could certainly look to the actions of these children as exemplary of the interplay of forces present in the psyche affecting human behavior. Nurtured positive traits are always there, while an absence of such nurturing leads to negative influences. This interaction is apparent in the characters of the children who win golden tickets, with each of them reflecting the moral lessons or lack thereof imparted by their parents.

The children's growth is deeply shaped by multiple factors, particularly the guidance

and discipline their parents offer, which plays a vital role in forming their character. Words of parents and their guidance throughout all the actions of the children influence their overall behavior. Children learn right and wrongdoings from their parents. They might be exposed to negative parental examples if they are not guided properly. Parents play a major role in influencing the choices, behavior, attitudes, habits, and values of their children. In most cases, it is the parents who insist on the actions and reactions of responses of the children toward society.

The novel follows a progression from indulgence and impulsive actions to self-discipline and moral growth, aligning with Freud's concept of psychological development. Thus, this novel is not merely a fanciful tale but also a moral story, exploring the repercussions of greed, the significance of self-control, and the profound impact of family through the stream of progress of the children is significantly impacted in multiple ways including how much structure and discipline parents provide to children on shaping one's character.

Augustus Gloop is depicted as a selfish child who is gluttonous. Since he eats everything he sees, he has no sense of hunger. Augustus does not pay much attention to rules, as seen when he hears Willy Wonka's order not to drink from the river of chocolate. Greedy and impetuous, he eventually meets with doom when he falls into the river and gets sucked through the pipes to the factory. Augustus epitomizes the Id in Freud's psychoanalytic theory, giving vent to primal desires and impulses and not bothering about the results. This character is a warning against unchecked greed and self-control. He typifies this aspect of the human psyche while he is lusting after food, especially chocolate, and does not care about rules or moderation.

“Oh, give me a bucket, so I can drink it right” (Dahl 144). Id: immediate craving and impulses: This line clearly shows Augustus's impulsive behavior by way of expressing an immediate craving without thinking of any possible consequences.

He rationalizes his impulsive actions with a need-by-interest kind of statement (thirst). It is an attempt to balance out his need with a logic argument, erasing the broader view of the consequences.

Violet Beauregarde is portrayed as a highly competitive and self-centered girl, fixated on winning and always striving to be the best. Her obsession with chewing gum causes her to disregard Willy Wonka's warnings and insist on trying an experimental gum despite being cautioned. This stubbornness leads to her transformation into a giant blueberry, a direct result of ignoring advice. From a Freudian perspective, Violet represents the Id—acting solely on impulse and desire without considering the repercussions. Her excessive competitiveness and impulsivity ultimately cause her downfall, illustrating the dangers of unchecked pride and the lack of self-control. Violet's character offers a valuable lesson about the need for balance and restraint, emphasizing that ambition must be tempered with careful consideration and respect for limits.

“I want the gum!”. (Dahl 190). She says that she is the world’s best gum-chewer, and she’s going to be the first person to try it! Id (Primitive Urges and Immediate Satisfaction).

Violet's competitiveness takes over her obsession with being the best and proving herself, leading her to disregard the potential consequences of her actions, focusing only on her desire to be the first. “Oh, be quiet, Mother, and let me finish!” (Dahl 193). She says that she knows that she should listen to Wonka, but she really wants to try it anyway. “Maybe it’s worth it.” - Ego (Balancing Desire with Reality). She briefly reflects on her actions and considers the consequences, which shows some level of reasoning and internal conflict between her desire and reality, though her desire still prevails. “I feel most peculiar” (Dahl 195). “Maybe I shouldn’t try it... but who cares? I want to prove that I’m the best.” Superego (Moral Conscience and Societal Rules). She claims that although she is aware that she should listen to Wonka, she is nonetheless eager to give it a shot. This shows a moment where Violet understands the right thing to do (ignoring the warnings is wrong), but her desire to compete takes over, and she chooses to act based on her need to win.

Mike Teevee is portrayed as an obsessed, self-centered boy with a strong desire for instant gratification, particularly when it comes to television and technology. The Id, which desires instant gratification without regard to the future, is what motivates his actions. Regardless of the consequences, he is addicted to watching TV and always wants more of it. He ignores any caution or ethical considerations when he learns that Willy Wonka plans to transmit a television broadcast through his chocolate factory because he is so eager to witness this new technical marvel. Since he frequently acts on his need for immediate gratification without considering the repercussions, Mike's Ego is not completely established. His obsession with TV shows his lack of self-awareness and disregard for the dangers of his actions.

“I’ll be the first to ever be on TV. I’ve got to do it!” (Dahl 262) Id (Desire for Instant Gratification) - His impulsive, self-centered desire to be the first to experience something new without considering the consequences. “I want to watch television!” (Dahl 271) Ego (Reality and Consideration of Consequences) - Even though Mike’s behavior is impulsive, this line shows some internal conflict with the reality of the situation. It suggests that he does not fully consider the consequences but still acts on his desire. “That isn’t exactly how it works!” (Dahl 252) Superego (Moral and Societal Rules) - This dialogue illustrates how Mike dismisses moral or societal guidelines, focusing only on his own selfish desires, showing the absence or weakness of his Superego.

Veruca Salt is one of the spoiled children in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. She is portrayed as a demanding and entitled girl who always gets what she wants, regardless of the consequences. Her behavior is driven by the Id, as she constantly acts on her desires and shows little regard for rules or morals.

“I’ve decided I want a squirrel! Get me one of those squirrels!” (Dahl 221) Id (Immediate

Desire and Impulse) - She expresses her desire without thinking about the consequences, showing her entitlement and impulsiveness. Veruca fully considers the consequences or tries to balance her desires with reality. Her Ego is almost entirely underdeveloped, as she doesn't think about long-term effects or how her actions impact others. Her Superego is weak or absent. She disregards social norms and moral guidelines. She sees no issue in throwing tantrums to get what she wants and never considers the impact of her actions on others. She never considers moral boundaries or the advice of others. Her actions reflect her lack of self-control and disregard for the rules.

Charlie is the embodiment of balance, and his actions show a strong alignment with the Ego, which mediates between the desires of the Id and the moral compass of the Superego. While Charlie experiences desire and wants the chocolate, especially after receiving the golden ticket, he shows restraint and control over his impulsive desires. He doesn't act recklessly like the other children, and his needs are always in check with his moral values. Id (Immediate Desire and Impulse). His behavior showcases his Ego as he demonstrates self-control and considers the consequences of his actions. For example, when Charlie receives the chocolate, he shares it with his family instead of indulging in it alone, showing his ability to balance desire with the needs of others. Ego (Balancing Desire and Reality).

He consistently displays Superego traits, as he follows the rules, respects authority, and acts with kindness and generosity. His moral integrity and adherence to ethical behavior set him apart from the other children in the factory. Superego (Moral Judgment and Social Rules).

Charlie and Grandpa Joe represent the harmonious interaction between the Id, Ego, and Superego. Charlie's ability to demonstrate moral integrity, temper his desires, and act selflessly in contrast to the other children reveals his well-developed Ego, while Grandpa Joe reinforces moral teachings and moderation, guiding Charlie toward ethical choices in the face of temptation. Although Charlie could be jealous of the spoiled children who also found Golden Tickets. Instead of yearning for materialistic things, Charlie focuses on his loving family and the simple joy of enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of the factory with Grandpa Joe.

Conclusion:

Through this novel, the behavior of children in the story demonstrates how psychological factors shape actions. Characters like Augustus Gloop, Violet Beauregarde, and Veruca Salt, driven by unchecked impulses, highlight the dangers of greed, impulsivity, and lack of self-discipline. In contrast, the protagonist, Charlie, represents the importance of self-control, moral values, and success through integrity, influenced by a balanced psyche. The narrative emphasizes the importance of balancing desires with ethical considerations and underscores the role of guidance in shaping one's character. Ultimately, the story serves as both an enjoyable adventure and a valuable lesson in self-control, morality, and personal growth.

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