

## TEEN-SELF AND SOCIETY: A STUDY OF EMOTIONAL- SELF REGULATION IN JUDY BLUME'S YOUNG ADULT NOVEL TIGER EYES

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### Abstract

*Emotional development is fundamentally the way emotions change and remain relentless across the human lifespan. Social development is the way in which human learns to interact with each other. Emotional-self regulation refers to a child's capability to change his or her emotional state to either match that of the others in society or to make a child more comfortable in particular situation i.e. social or personal. It is a skill that a child develops over a period of time and involves both responding to situations with emotions that are socially acceptable and developing the ability to suppress emotions or delay spontaneous reactions when necessary. The present paper deals with three major aspects of socioemotional interaction in young adults. Firstly, it will analyze adolescents' relationships with their parents. Here, the social relationship is to be discussed with the framework of the establishment of autonomy from the parents. Secondly, it also examines the influence of the adolescent's peer group on attitudes, values, and behaviour. Peer groups play a major role in the development of friendship. Thirdly, the interaction with the members of the opposite sex-the phenomenon of dating in American culture discusses the psychological implications of norms associated with dating in adolescence presented in the novel. Judy Blume's young adult novel Tiger Eyes majorly deals with the socioemotional interaction with the parents and peers. Teen characters reflect the desire for increased independence and preference for spending time with peers, orienting increasingly to peers and for social influence and value clarification. Some teen characters are shown more attached to their parents but they prefer the company of their friends.*

**Keywords:** Teen-self, Psychological development, Social development, emotional self-regulation, autonomy.

Social interaction is a continuous process throughout the life cycle. However, some developmental shifts in social interaction takes place. Primarily, the emphasis of social world of the infant is a dependency relationship to caretaker. During childhood, the social emphasis is on a strong attachment bond to parents as well as on nonfamily interaction with groups of peers. During adolescence, the balance of power between parents and peers in social influence appears to even out. This developmental shift is followed, later in adolescence, by an emphasis on heterosexual interaction. Such social development is perceived in Blume's novel Tiger Eyes. Judy Blume is esteemed contemporary American Young Adult writer in the galaxy of Young Adult Literature. She was born on February 12, 1938, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. She attended New York University and was married before she earned her degree in education in 1961. By 1970, Blume had two children and had published two somewhat traditional children's books, but neither of them exhibited that would become the author's trademark; frank subject matter aimed at an adolescent audience. Blume's Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret (1970) was the first book to draw notice, not all of it positive. In the 1970s, placing frank discussion about first bras, menstruation, and breasts in a novel was not considered proper. But of course, Blume's young readers loved it. Libraries, however, had trouble with it. Her most challenged novels include Are You There God? It's Me Margaret (1970), Deenie (1973), Blubber (1974), Forever... (1975) and Tiger Eyes (1981). Between 1970 and the early 1990s, Blume wrote eighteen more young adult novels and three novels for adult readers. One of her most lovable characters, Farley Drexler Hatcher called "Fudge" was first brought to life in Blume's Tale of a Fourth Grade Nothing (1972). Blume's son Larry inspired this character. Fudge was so loved by readers that Blume created Superfudge (1980) and Fudge- a-mania (1990). Blume's grandson Elliot, according to an interview with Blume conducted by Mary Ann Grossman for the St. Paul Pioneer Press (October 4, 2002), encouraged the author to bring Fudge up to the twenty-first century. In 2003, Double Fudge was published. As of 2006, Blume lived in New York City, in Key West, Florida, and on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts, with her husband George Cooper, a law professor and also a writer. Some critics have acclaimed Tiger Eyes (1981) as Judy Blume's best work, which highlights the teen self who undertakes physical, psychological, emotional, and social journey. According to Robert Lipsyte in The Nation, "It is her finest book—ambitious, absorbing, smoothly written, emotionally engaging and subtly political. It is

also a lesson on how the conventions of a genre can best be put to use." (Book rage) Generally, Blume's novels deal with personal growth and sexual maturity on the one hand and a particular social issue on the other. *Tiger Eyes* follows this same format, but its protagonist is older and more mature than most of Blume's characters, and the writing is more masterfully crafted.

This is a story of fifteen-year-old girl Davey Wexler as she learns to cope with and eventually to accept her father's sudden death that illustrated in 218 pages and encompassed in 40 chapters. *Tiger Eyes* captures the fear, anger, and sorrow in suddenly losing father, but Blume was able to revisit and draw upon the memories of the painful year of her father's death while writing about Davey. Reader also meets all of the important people in Davey's life and moves with her from New Jersey to New Mexico. This novel does not deal solely with Davey's recovery from her father's death. There are the sweet bitter relationships of teen, parent, and extended family. Moreover, spices of romantic affair and prosocial value also included. Another mark of a Blume novel is humour. Because *Tiger Eyes* deals with a tragedy, there is less humour within its pages. The reader will appreciate the irony of Blume's choice of setting, placing this story of Davey's healing after a brutal murder in the midst of the "Atomic City," where bombs are made for the purpose of killing. Young adult readers especially those who have lost their parent and need help in coming to grips with the situation very well enjoy this fiction. Although no final answer is given in the fiction, the reader is left with the knowledge that Davey has weathered this storm, emerging strengthened and ready to get on with her life.

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### NARRATIVE OUTLINE OF TIGER EYES

*Tiger Eyes* is written in first person stream of consciousness point of view. It follows the format of most of Blume's novels. Written in simple prose, first-person narrative that also reads like a diary. The chapters are short and the characters and themes are developed through action and dialogue. As in Blume's other books, the plot explores the theme of maturity as the main character faces a challenge or tragedy. The ending does not have an obviously didactic moral or lesson, but instead reflects the protagonist's gradual understanding and growth. It is a formula that has proven to work for Blume.

*Tiger Eyes* is written from Davey Wexler's point of view. The novel employs present tense instead of the usual past tense. The description suggests as if events are happening at that moment. The style works to bring the reader into the writer's world. Moreover, Novel demonstrates how emotions connected with teen's father's death—denial, fear, grief, guilt, and anger influences social development. Davey Wexler is a fifteen year-old girl, close to sixteen, who lost her father in a horrific tragedy. Her father was in the 7-Eleven store that he owned and was shot to death in a robbery. She feels alone and lost, but most of all, she begins to fear both life and death. She no longer feels comfortable around her best friend Lenaya because she has questions that Lenaya can't answer. She can't handle hanging out with her boyfriend, Hugh, without thinking about the night her father was killed, when she and Hugh were together. She keeps a knife under her pillow and has secretly stashed something in her closet since the night of the shooting. She tries to return to school but has anxiety attacks every time she is around too many students. The fear of one of them doing her harm or worse, if one of them were among her father's killers makes Davey panic enough to pass out.

Davey's mother becomes worried after a few of these incidents and takes her to see a doctor. The doctor prescribes medicine for Davey and a suggestion that she should take some time in a different setting. Her mother decides to take her children, Davey and Jason to visit their aunt Bitsy and her husband in Los Alamos, New Mexico. Los Alamos is a predominantly white community based around the lab where Bitsy's husband works as a physicist. This lab was the site for building the first atom bomb and the whole idea makes Davey uneasy. Davey's mother eventually realizes that she can't handle returning to Atlantic City, and Davey is forced to enrol in the Los Alamos High School. Jason also enrolls in school, and Bitsy is delighted to take on the responsibilities that their mother can't handle. Walter on the other hand is not thrilled about Davey's laidback attitude toward what he considers 'serious' subjects in school and in life. She is frustrated with having to live in Los Alamos because of how different it is from her home and because of conflicts; she has with Walter and Bitsy taking over as her parents.

Davey eventually finds one good reason to be in Los Alamos in the character of Wolf. Wolf is a young man that she meets in a canyon during her first outing alone in Los Alamos. At first, she is distrustful of him but after a number of meetings in the canyon, Wolf teaches Davey, (who at first he only knows as Tiger) a lot about another side of Los Alamos. As she continues to deal with life in Los Alamos and getting over the loss of her father, Davey and Wolf's paths cross outside of the canyon. Davey meets and befriends an old man dying of cancer while she is volunteering as a candy striper. She spends time with the man every time she works at the medical centre and one day finds out that the man is Wolf's father. She and Wolf, whose real name is Martin, share the first emotional moment of their friendship. They previously made a point to keep things light and happy but when Davey sees what's happening to Martin's father, she confides in him about losing hers.

Davey makes another friend in school, named Jane. Jane has a drinking problem and it takes her, and Davey arguing about it for Davey to realize that she really didn't give Los Alamos or life in general a chance. When her

father died, she let everything die with it. Davey's growth during her time in Los Alamos, along with her interaction with her friends and even her family makes Davey realize that she couldn't let the night of her father's death haunt her forever. In the end, she buries the contents she hid in her closet in Atlantic City and Los Alamos, including her clothes from the night of the murder, covered in his blood. When Davey let these items go, she was ready to let the pain go with them.

The use of flashbacks within chapters and as separate chapters, as Davey gradually recalls details about the night of her father's murder, is very effective. In the flashbacks, there is a touching description of the special ritual that Davey and her father shared. After a while, she cannot bear to think about her father's death any more. She mentioned in the next chapter number twelve, "Stop! I tell myself. Stop thinking about that night. Concentrate on how good it feels to be alive." (62, Blume)

With the uses of flashback techniques, Blume also describes the protagonist's fancies and imaginations. Throughout the novel, Davey thinks about how things might be. As in chapter ten relates Davey's thought, "I think about quitting school and trying for a singing career. I can see it now and my name in lights on a revolving sign outside the Resorts International Hotel and Casino. Inside, the MC announces my debut: Ladies and gentleman... presenting Atlantic City own Davey Wexler!" (55 Blume). She imagines how she would become a singer and her family and friends would come to hear her and Wolf would give her white roses. These fantasies make her seem a real, vulnerable, and human character.

In addition to it, Blume has used symbolism in the choice of cities as well. Los Alamos is called the Atomic City because the first atomic bomb was built there. The city itself grew up around the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, the most important weapons development centre in the country, which was established in 1943. The city represents the leading in of the atomic era, a time when no one on earth felt safe any longer due to the chance of atomic warfare and the possibility of global destruction. On the other hand, the resort community of Atlantic City voted in 1976 to allow gambling in its casinos. Gambling brings with it elements of crime, the Mafia, and loss of morality; conversely, gambling offers the hope of winning.

Moreover, throughout the novel, Blume presents nearly every type of love and social relationships—love for a parent, a sibling, a pet, a family, an extended family, friends, first love, and romantic love. Davey finds that she can continue to love a person who dies even as she learns to live without that person.

At the end of *Tiger Eyes*, the Wexlers decide to leave the place that appears safe on the surface but harbours the seeds for destruction of the modern world. They take a gamble and return to their Atlantic City home.

## REFLECTION OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

### Fragmentation of family and friends

The beginning of the novel represents how the family is attending Davey's father's funeral. Everyone is distant and a little disoriented, as they get themselves together. At the funeral the heat adds to the discomfort of the occasion and causes Davey to get further lost in solitary thoughts. When she shares, "I've never felt so alone in my life." (3 Blume) However, she stands with her family and her aunt and uncle from New Mexico. She notices her friend Hugh standing off to the side. Even with everyone around, she feels completely alone to face her loss. Overall there is an obvious distance between everyone that Davey's father must usually fill. Davey's collection of newspapers covering her father's death is used to emphasize her confusion. Newspapers usually give all of the information the reader needs concerning events, but there are no answers for Davey in any of the articles. The newspaper proves to be the wrong place to look. "Nobody writes about how it feels when your father is murdered," (7 Blume) she notes.

Davey's conflict with her father's death is apparent. She cannot connect with anything or anyone, including her best friend, until she gets understanding of what losing her father really means. It seems she feels like an orphan. However, she is at her home surrounded by the mother, brother, uncle, aunt, and best friends. She finds herself as a changed person who is surviving a difficult loss in her family and searching for the answer to mysteries about past. She even tries to negotiate a complex balance between separation and connection. When she tries to separate herself from her best friend Lenaya and gradually from Hugh, his boyfriend and family members signal her psychological sides of autonomy.

For many years, research emphasized that family relationships were very stressful during adolescence of a family member. Here, Davey in her teen faces such havoc in her life that creates more complexity. Father's physical departure forces Davey to begin a search, to change, and to become more responsible. The death of her father also represents the disorder outside and inside the home. "I have mixed feeling when Walter and Bitsy leave. It's good to be by ourselves again. Just us. Just the family. But it's also a reminder that my father isn't here anymore. That he won't be back. That from now on it will be only the three of us." (12)

It is said that pressure on family make it harder for adolescents to attain independence in the context of close relationship. In terms of Davey's younger brother respond differently than Davey. He has a more innocent point of view than Davey. Whereas teen Davey is unable to speak, showing that she is coming to terms with bigger issues than that of her brother. Her silence is louder than Jason's inquisitive mind.

In the case with Davey the death of her father triggers intense feeling and makes her feel set apart from others. As Stringer rightly denotes,

“What I label “rare vision” for the protagonists of young adult fictions is what makes each person’s reality (his or her inner and outer world) unique and different from other people’s reality. It includes adolescents’ exposure to unique events within the family or in other situations that trigger intense feelings.” (20 Stringer)

Davey tries to develop different another vision regarding herself and society out of such significant life crisis. She gradually deteriorates physically and mentally. As she shares her condition that represents her anxiety, “I want to run. I want to run as far from school as I can. But I can’t move. Cant get my feet going. Cant breath. And then I pass out, hearing the thud of my head as it hits the floor.” (23) She has not interacted with anyone, but her mother and brother since Bitsy and Walter left and she still has no desire to. Her eating trends that were introduced in the second chapter have been ongoing because she has lost so much weight that her pants don’t fit. Her mental state is still fragile and again she cannot interact well even with one of her closest friends. When Hugh cries Davey still doesn’t cry and she can’t bear being close to him without thinking of her father. When she runs away from Hugh, her action represents how she is dealing with her emotions. She runs away and hides rather than face them with those around her, who are feeling the same pain.

She is even annoyed with her brother, distant with her best friend, distrustful of the nurse and the doctor and almost pities them for being so out of touch of what she is really going through. Davey has formulated her own inner circle that she feels no one will ever understand. The use of numbers to describe the time passing in Davey’s world emphasizes that for Davey not a lot of time has passed and she is still taking one day at a time. She doesn’t bracket the days into weeks, for example she counts out all thirteen days since she last had a shower and washed her hair. Even her mother doesn’t get the right amount of days since the funeral and guesses ten days.

Davey still feels uncomfortable with the people around her in New Mexico. She appreciates that her aunt and uncle have been nice to her, but she is a little annoyed by them and needs to take time to herself. As Davey is taking steps to get over the tragedy that they all faced, it seems that her mother’s progress is lessening. Davey notices that her mother is in a bit of a fog and she has left the parenting to Bitsy and Walter. It isn’t clear yet how Davey’s mother’s change will affect them but taking the trip seems to have caused adverse effects on Davey and her brother in comparison to their mother.

Moreover, Davey is not pleased over the transition the way both Davey and Jason have taken the parenting role as Davey’s mother, Gwen, is getting worse. It seems that with the physical absence of father is influencing psychological absence of mother too. As Stringer comments, “...parental absence in young adult novels may mirror mothers’ or fathers’ emotional unavailability to their children in some families. This detachment resembles psychologists’ description of the permissive-indifferent or neglectful style of parenting. Although they are physically present, these parents remain distant, cold, and unresponsive in their daily interactions with their children. (Stringer 19).”

Davey’s mother doesn’t recognize that any of this is going on. She is lost in the pain of losing her husband. It is the first chance she has stopped to come to terms with her loss, and it has overwhelmed her. Davey’s attitude clashes more with Walter and Bitsy as her mother becomes more distant. Davey can’t come to terms with anyone other than her parents playing a parental role in her life.

When she was forced to join school at new place in New Mexico, she was feeling little hesitant. She misses her mother, especially when she has returned to the real world. In addition, a certain discomfort continues to infuse between Davey and Walter. While Bitsy is overjoyed with her new family, Walter seems a little frustrated with the responsibility. All such changes make her more chaotic in her thoughts and behaviour.

At school, also she still won’t let herself become a part of her new high school. She excused her way out of the clubs that both Danielle and Jane have asked her to join. Davey wants to make her own separatist type of social group outside of those already formed in the school. Her thoughts and actions support the fact that Davey still thinks of Los Alamos as a temporary home for her. Davey thinks of herself as a special case, exempt from the rules around her and she walks out of school without permission. Going home and facing the extremity of her mother’s condition makes her realize that their stay in New Mexico is more permanent. Davey cannot imagine how she would have handled her mother’s breakdown had they been at home in Atlantic City.

However, she is moving on from the effects of losing her father, but she isn’t truly settling into life in New Mexico. Davey’s inability to make New Mexico home is also implied when she can’t bring herself to confide in Jane when she visits her place about Hugh or boys in general. Davey freezes up at the thought of her male classmates coming to visit, and her fear isn’t due to inexperience like Jane. The thought of being around a guy makes Davey think of what she was doing with Hugh when she heard the shots that killed her father. Davey holds some form of guilt for the incident and these feelings are beginning to come to the surface.

“I drop the bits of polish that I have peeled off my nails. They scatter to the floor like tiny flowers.” (138) The description of the nail polish chips falling is used as imagery for how Davey feels when it sinks in that her and her family really are not going home anytime soon. It seems that Davey and her mother have reconnected somewhat Davey’s mother is able to calm Davey about staying in Los Alamos. However, as soon as she counts on her mother for support, where it seems she would usually get it, her mother lets Walter and Bitsy take over the parenting once again. Davey is let down all over again and she turns to anger in response.

Davey sees Walter and Bitsy's lifestyle boring and finds herself uncomfortable to be fit in with them. Displaying Walter and Bitsy in a social setting presents another side to what was previously only seen as monotonous. They are happy with things as they are, the problem is simply that Davey's ideals contrast directly with Walter and Bitsy's. The issue is no longer who is right and wrong, it is just clear that they cannot be happy in one another's world. "they say that as long as I live in their house I have to live by their rules. Maybe so. But that doesn't mean I have to like them, or even accept them." (164) With that said, the suggestion that Davey needs to be back at home is reiterated. Unfortunately for her, neither her mother nor Jason is having a hard time conforming to life in Los Alamos. Davey's main problem with her mother lies in Davey's fear of her mother becoming like the Los Alamos natives. When Davey's mother begins to converse and flirt with Ned Davey is not ready to see her mother mingling with people and making friends there. She is critical of Ned because he carries the 'geeky' persona that Davey finds "blah" and mundane. She also wants her mother to focus on her and Jason before she starts socializing and working and carrying on her life there. Davey has not been able to use her mother as an outlet for the pain of her father's death and the more her mother becomes Walter and Bitsy, the less chance Davey will have. Davey notes that in order to get through to Walter she has to be devoid of emotion and if she has to relate to her mother in that same, way they may never connect.

Further the conflict between Walter and Davey at its pick when Walter's dissatisfaction with Davey's family comes to the surface. Walter puts all of his emphasis on education and the benefits that sometimes comes with it, including status and financial comfort. He sees Davey's attitude towards her grades and feels that she will remain stuck in a lower class bracket unless she changes. He clearly looks down on Davey's mother and father because they didn't plan their lives thoroughly. Walter has become a product of his environment and that environment directly contrasts that of Davey and her family. However, he hasn't taken the time to learn Davey's interests and perhaps Davey hasn't made them known because of her own stubbornness. Walter didn't even know that Davey enjoyed singing, and Davey had never mentioned it before now.

The way gradually Davey realises that she requires someone to reach out. Eventually she accepts her mother's advices to see the psychiatrist. The suggestion also shows that Davey's mother still isn't ready to deal with Davey directly and on her own concerning the pain Davey is still going through. Psychiatrist is the best person who is completely outside of Davey's world needed to be brought in to find what is bothering Davey the most. The disintegration of the family is the main reason while she no longer feels like she can count on her mother, her father has passed away and her brother is too young and can't handle the depth of what she is feeling. On the other end of her family is Walter and Bitsy, and they represent the opposite of everything Davey has known growing up in Atlantic City. Davey wants to release some of the emotions she is feeling, and her aunt and uncle aren't used to dealing with emotionally heavy situations. All of Davey's suppressed have turned into anger toward everyone around her. Miriam's character represents a neutral force, she is not a part of Davey's group of family and friends, she is in Los Alamos but looks more honest and down to earth than the norm. Once privacy concerns are addressed between Davey and Miriam, Davey's character opens up. All of the concepts that are insinuated through Davey's actions throughout the story are already being positioned clearly for the reader through this session. On the other hand, Jane is another contrasting character for Davey because she isn't like everyone else in Los Alamos, but Davey doesn't like the means she has chosen to stand out.

Thus, Davey's various ways of individuation is represented through striking frequency of unavailability of her parents. She establishes temporary psychological distance from mother and permanent physical distance from her father cause the chaos in the family. During this transition, she develops a new vision of herself and world. When she returns with her family to their home, their relationships are based on new terms.

#### Family Resemblances

Because of individuation, adolescents and parents view each other in a different light. Sometimes Davey also reacts and behaves differently from her mother and to the some extent with her extended family members too. The way Davey shares with Miriam, "well, she doesn't think for herself anymore. She does whatever they tell her to do. She lets them make all the decisions. She even lets them choose her friends." (188) thus, Davey expect that her mother should give support and show concern to her children but she is indifferent towards children. She feels as if her mother has left the parenting to Walter and Bitsy. On the other hand, Davey's mother thinks that Davey should behave flexibly and nicely with everyone and believe that Davey needs to overcome from the fear, and that's why she suggests her to visit psychiatrist. While Davey was badly in need of her mother's support, but it seems that she couldn't get from her mother and that makes her more depressed. On the other hand, she didn't disturb her and couldn't share her problems after seeing her in pain. Because of it, her extended family members Walter and Bitsy, who were playing parenting role in her life, make her annoyed. Even after meeting Wolf, for the first time Davey leaves Wolf feeling sad and she wanted to talk to her mother for comfort. When Davey reached home her mother was asleep with the shades drawn, and Davey felt that her mother has disappeared from her life. She misses her mother, especially when she has returned to the real world. In addition, a certain discomfort continues to brew between Davey and Walter. Further, she denotes,

"I get this feeling that my mother and I have changed places and I don't like it. That she is the little girl and I am the mother. I don't want this kind of responsibility laid on me and I am glad that Walter and Bitsy are around." (104)

Extremity of her mother's condition makes her realize that their stay in New Mexico is more permanent. Davey cannot imagine how she would have handled her mother's breakdown had they been at home in Atlantic City.

Further, when Davey brings the idea of Driver's Ed to her mother, Walter and Bitsy. She gives them information with hopes of getting into the spring class. She goes to her room, leaving them to think about it. Davey wants to drive most to be able to go to Santa Fe and get away from the limited mindsets and monotony of Los Alamos. Unfortunately, her family denies her and opines that, "Fifteen is much too young for Driver's Ed...There's no reason to rush it." (161) and she has to set herself apart from them so she starts yelling. She is tired of Walter and Bitsy's paranoid, overly cautious attitude. Davey's mother unsuccessfully tries to calm her, and Walter tries to be firm with her. His words only make Davey angrier and she directs her anger at him. Thus, it is insinuated that none of the adults are taking the time to understand what Davey is going through.

Davey further indicates about her problem with her mother that the way she coloured by the ways of Los Alamos natives and begins to converse and flirt with Ned, Davey is not ready to see her mother mingling with people and making friends there. She doesn't keep high opinion about Ned. She also wants her mother to focus on her and Jason before she starts socializing and working and carrying on her life there. Davey has not been able to use her mother as an outlet for the pain of her father's death and the more her mother becomes Walter and Bitsy, the less chance Davey will have. Davey notes that in order to get through to Walter she has to be devoid of emotion and if she has to relate to her mother in that same way they may never connect.

When Davey's mother suggests her to visit psychiatrist because she needs someone to reach out and she accepts her mother's offer to see the psychiatrist. The suggestion also shows that Davey's mother still isn't ready to deal with Davey directly and on her own concerning the pain Davey is still going through. Here, one may notice that as a parent Davey's mother realises that Davey is getting autonomy, and she changes her vision, she sees aspects of herself in her own daughter and perceive the differences. Davey's mother admits that she has been 'afraid' of spending time alone with Davey because she knew Davey would want to talk about her father. Davey has wanted to talk about her father to someone for a long time but now realizes that she no longer needs to. Davey's mother actualise that she wasn't blind to what Davey was going through. She just didn't have the capacity and courage to take charge of her role as a mother. Moreover, her mother makes her see that everyone around her, including Walter, Bitsy, Ned and others, were not the obstacles that Davey had to overcome. In actuality, both Davey and her mother had to find a way to come to terms with losing Davey's father before they could reach out to each other. When Davey's mother admits that she was and still is afraid of what she will have to handle without her husband. Davey knew the role that fear played in all of their lives she just needed time to figure out how it applied and how to get passed it.

The change in vision for adolescence as well as parents influences discipline in the home. Here, mother and daughter renegotiate their relationship. Davey sees a psychiatrist and gradually resolves her intense feelings regarding her father's death. As she becomes healthier, her relationship with her mother improves. Eventually, her mother sees the psychiatrist for help with her own problems. This mother and daughter become more open and expressive. In the past, Davey's mother was fearful of saying something that would upset her daughter. When Davey is packing and saying goodbye to everyone. It is clear that Davey's time in Los Alamos has opened her eyes to a lot and those that she leaned on now need her to assure them that things will be fine. Davey knew the role that fear played in all of their lives she just needed time to figure out how it applied and how to get passed it.

#### Cultural impact

The cultural force affects the development of the adolescent. The setting and the culture is reflected in the Tiger Eyes also influencing on protagonist's certain behaviour and psyche. Davey's unguarded personality toward other cultures and races contrasts directly with the general mind-set of those living in Los Alamos. Davey's best friend Lenaya is black and she doesn't explore that fact, until she notices that there are only one or two black students at her school. She asks Walter about it and counters his statement that there are few black scientists by informing him of Lenaya's goals to become a scientist. Davey has also noticed that Los Alamos' population is made up almost solely of Anglo, white people. Strangely they are the minority in the state of New Mexico. The Hispanic students live in the area because their parents work maintenance at the Lab. In turn when Bitsy asks Davey about Wolf and hears that he has a Hispanic last name, Bitsy assumes that Wolf or his father does maintenance work.

Moreover, Davey gets angry about the race issues in and around Los Alamos because she is unaccustomed to the unnecessary tension. When Davey takes a trip to Santa Fe with Jane and her parents their car is vandalized because they are from Los Alamos. Earlier that same day Jane shows her fear of Spanish people when a group of boys walk by and she freezes. She tells Davey about the rape statistics, assuming that because the boys are Spanish they would fall into the rapist category. "It makes me angry, this two-way hatred. I don't understand it." (152) Davey has always lived where all cultures usually interact freely and openly and she thinks the people of Los Alamos need to open their minds. Davey is happiest when she first arrives in Santa Fe and sees that it

almost parallels Atlantic City with its diversity. In Los Alamos there is no one to watch, except the housewives in the supermarket and even they have a sameness I find boring. In Santa Fe, the tourists mingle with the natives - the Spanish, the Anglos, the Native Americans, all together. (148)

Racial bigotry copes up throughout the novel. Three ethnic groups comprise the residents of New Mexico—white, Latino, and American Indian; each group looks down on the other two. Davey, whose best friend in New Jersey is black, exhibits more maturity and tolerance toward minorities than do her peers and the adults in New Mexico. For example, she will not accept the notion that all Hispanic men are out to rape white girls. Wolf in particular does not fit the local stereotype of "typical" Hispanics: he is very bright and works in the lab rather than in maintenance. Davey knows enough people who are exceptions to the stereotypes that she refuses to classify anyone solely on the basis of ethnic background.

The novel also discusses the concept of death takes place in the very city where atomic bombs— weapons capable of inflicting a multitude of deaths—are designed and made. The town's inhabitants are preoccupied with everything except the destructiveness of the weapons that they create "There are more than 250 clubs in this town and Bitsy belongs to nine of them, not counting morning walk, twice a week Jazzercise and batiking class," as Davey reports. Blume shows that healing and understanding can occur in such an atmosphere.

Los Alamos is in New Mexico, a predominantly Spanish state. Walter and Bitsy have always lived there but due to barriers they have set up in their lives never expose themselves to the Spanish language or culture. Walter, Bitsy and most people on The Hill are what Davey describes as Anglo.

"My family is Anglo. White. Caucasian. And we are in the minority in this state. But not in Los Alamos. Los Alamos is an Anglo town. Absolutely. And in our high school there are no Native Americans and there are only a handful of Hispanic kids, who happened to live here because their fathers work at the Lab, doing maintenance." (102)

They fear what is different, in this case their Spanish neighbors. In the time Davey spends in Los Alamos she exposes herself to other cultures and takes a liking to the language. Her curiosity begins because of Wolf, but she decides that she will sign up for classes in school. Davey is the only character out of her family and their friends who even uses a Spanish phrase. Thus, Davey is set aside from the others. She fought her family for assimilating to Los Alamos but unknowingly Davey found an aspect of New Mexican culture to assimilate to as well. Interestingly, Davey assimilates and learns without knowing and without becoming too much different from the girl she was before her father died. The few Spanish quotes that the Davey shares with the reader show that she has a lively, adventurous and sentimental side. The most pivotal moment between Davey and Wolf is when he tells her that he will see her again "Cuando los lagartijos corren" (155) Originally Davey doesn't know what it means but the words remain with her. Even when she doesn't see him when he promised, she is able to hold on to their pact, knowing she will see him again. Using Wolf's native tongue to represent Wolf and Davey's final tie, shows that the depth of their bond goes beyond the barriers around them.

Developing Prosocial behaviour

"The frequency of prosocial behaviour, behaviour mean to assist others, increases during childhood, then remains relatively constant during adolescence. Nancy and Eisenberg and Richard Fabes suggested that act of prosocial behaviour are based upon the development of prosocial moral reasoning, which involves increasing concern for others and ability to understand their suffering. Across childhood, prosocial behaviour is related to popularity, the presence of friendships, and high quality friendships." (Child development, ed. Salkind Neil, Macmillan USA GALE group 378)

With reference to Davey, Wolf's father, Mr. Ortiz becomes the spark that it takes for Davey to realize she has a lot of emotion built up concerning the death of her father. Davey meets Mr. Ortiz when she volunteers as a candy stripper at the local Medical Center. Davey starts her first duty of giving the patients water to drink. One of the patients she meets is an older man, who greets her by telling her "I've been waiting for you." (107) He is an older, frail man with a New Mexican accent. When Davey asks why he was waiting for her, he jokes that he was waiting for any pretty girl. Jane told Davey a story about how one of the patients flashed her sister, so Davey gets the feeling that he is ready to say something perverse. Instead, he shows her a dancing bear wind up toy that he got from his son. The man introduces himself as Willie Ortiz, and he is dying of cancer. Davey is surprised at how frank he is concerning his illness. "It's cancer you know...but I'm ready to die." He says it so easily I am sure I have misunderstood" (108) Davey doesn't know what to say and wonders why he had to tell her that he was dying. She resolves to look at the beautiful sunset. Willie tells Davey not to be sad, but Davey doesn't want to look at him in case he sees that she is close to crying.

For the first time since her father's death, Davey is forced to come face to face with the pain of death. Here is another example of Davey starting to acclimate herself with her new environment with her prosocial behaviour and gets potentially side-tracked by thoughts of her father's murder. The reality she has to constantly face is a sign that she has to come to terms with the pain she has experienced because she won't be able to avoid it. Willie Ortiz is an example of someone who has come to terms with death, and Davey doesn't know how to deal with it. However, her action might be motivated by empathy. Because of it she begins to like candy stripping and she looks forward to spending time with Mr. Ortiz.

Davey doesn't understand, but appreciates his high spirits in light of the fact that he is dying. She isn't prepared for the day she will have to accept his death. It hurts Davey to watch his condition worsening.

Nonetheless, every week Davey saves Mr. Ortiz' room for last so they can spend time together. He likes her to tell him about school and because he believes Davey has a swimmer's build he encourages her to try out for the swim team. Davey knows that she doesn't swim well but tells Mr. Ortiz that she would consider it. He always regretted not learning to swim and proudly lived through his son, the star swimmer of his high school team for three years. One day Davey comes to Mr. Ortiz' door, and it is closed. Davey thinks the worst and realizes she still isn't ready to deal with losing him. When Davey enters the room she is relieved to see him, and he has a visitor who he introduces as his son, Martin. When his son turns to face Davey, she is surprised to see that his son is Wolf. Wolf says 'hello' as if he is meeting Davey for the first time. Davey can't find the words to respond at first. Mr. Ortiz immediately begins bragging about his son. Meeting with Wolf at hospital motivates her to visit and serve at hospital.

The reality of death is in front of Davey once again as she witnesses Mr. Ortiz' condition as it worsens. This reality crosses over into her worry-free relationship with Wolf, starting with learning each others real names. In the hospital with Mr. Ortiz, there is no more Wolf or Tiger, and it is really as if they have never met before. Davey is shocked for two of her worlds to collide and is literally speechless as Mr. Ortiz introduces them. Both Davey and Wolf/Martin are uncomfortable with having to meet under such serious circumstances. Martin also has to endure his father raving about all of his accomplishments. Thus, she provides support to him as well as looks after his father out of empathy. The potential death of this mutual individual forces them to open up a little. Here another parallel is made between Wolf and Davey, as they have to let go of their facades at the same time.

Davey's reaction to Mr. Ortiz' death simulates how much pain she has been going through with her father's death. She had the chance to prepare for losing Mr. Ortiz and still couldn't handle the loss. Davey also didn't release her pain when her father died so she became overwhelmed with emotion when she heard the news about Mr. Ortiz. She admits that she was numb when her father died so now she cries for both losses and apparently for the pain of death overall. She admits to Wolf that since losing her father life and death are things that she has come to fear.

"Emotional arousal is an additional important motivator for prosocial behavior in general. Batson's (1987) empathy-altruism model examines the emotional and motivational component of prosocial behavior. Feeling empathy towards the individual needing aid increases the likelihood that the aid will be given. This empathy is called "empathetic concern" for the other individual, and is characterized by feelings of tenderness, compassion, and sympathy." (Batson (1987). "Prosocial motivation: Is it ever truly altruistic?". *Advanced Experimental Social Psychology*. *Advances in Experimental Social Psychology*. 20: 65-122. doi:10.1016/S0065-2601(08)60412-8. ISBN 978-0-12-015220-9. WIKIPEDIA ACCESSED ON 30-4-18)

Here, in terms of Davey happened the same while she emotionally connected with Willi and Martin, she finds the similarity with her own pain and out of courtesy and empathetic concern, she helps them. It seems that her prosocial behaviour is begin to develop reasoning that is more concerned with abstract principles such as guilt and positive affect which is helpful for her individual as well as social development.

As far as Jane is concerned, her choice of working as Candy Striper is based on prosocial behaviour where education plays major role. She even thinks that Davey also wants to join for the same reason that she looks good in college application. As she shares, "it'll look really good on our college applications." (106) Jane's purpose to serve as a candy striper is for egoistic or practical concerns and adherence to her perceived system of fairness in college. Thus, reward from the college motivates her to behave in a certain way.

#### Peer relations

The developing person is affected by multiple socializing factors, including biological, parental, peer, and cultural factors. Earlier the focuses were prominently on the parents-child relationship and cultural impact have been shown. While emphasising on the other socializing agent peer relationships that is more important in childhood and adolescence. Friendship of YAs centre around concrete reciprocities and most probably emphasize on self-disclosure and loyalty. "Friendships at all ages are based on mutual liking, reciprocity of positive behaviour, and seeking the other's presence. Both having friends and qualities of friendships are predictors of later development." (392, encyclopaedia)

Davey resembles the social development in terms of her relationships with peers indicate that having friends and having romantic relationships in her adolescence describe that she may develop self-worth in adulthood. As far as Davey (Tiger) and Martin (Wolf)'s friendship is concerned, they share some similar demographic characteristics. Whereas Davey and Jane are of same age, gender and academic abilities. So as with Lenaya, who is her best friend at Atlantic City. That's how their friendships are formed with those who shares similar demographic characteristics. Moreover, friends also tend to influence each other such that they become more similar over time.

Begins with Davey's best friend Lenaya, who shares similar mind-set and of same age. She is a tall, slim black girl with a passion for science. Davey day dreams about the first time she met her, when she had given Davey a picture of a dissected frog, immaculately drawn and labelled. She is good at basketball too. She seems intelligent, lively, and concerned. She breaks Davey's thoughts by encouraging her to get dressed. She tells her how sorry she is and tries to get her to talk about the tragedy, get out of bed, and start eating.



It is also apparent that Davey wasn't ready to connect with Lenaya about losing her father and it didn't seem that Lenaya knew how to deal with the situation either. The two friends, who were friends since the eighth grade, stayed in contact while Davey was in Los Alamos through letters. Davey didn't seem to be able to confide in her even then, but at the end when Davey returns to Atlantic City, Lenaya is one of the first in her thoughts.

Davey's another friend of same gender is from Los Alamos. She meets Jane on her first day of school, and they become friends. Here, proximity plays major role in the selection of friends. In addition to it, similarity in age and particularly with reference to culture and society, where schools are segregated by age. Another powerful factor in their friend selection is gender: girls tend to be friends with girls, so here also Davey's needs to be adjust at new place and she became friend of Jane at school. A teacher suggests that Davey get help from Jane, who's "smart" and seems quite well-to-do. On the other hand, later on their friendship is based mainly on Jane's need to lean on other people and things to find strength. So, beyond all basic factors, a key determinant of friendship is similarity of interests and behaviours. Nonetheless, Davey didn't have any friends in Los Alamos and was happy meet Jane.

Early in Jane and Davey's friendship, Davey learns that Jane may have a drinking problem. Jane is shy and turns to alcohol to find the courage to be a part of certain things, like talking to boys or trying out for the school play. The habit bothers Davey, especially when Jane's habit crosses over to school, but she tries to reach out to her and help her get through the things she is dealing with. Here, one can notice that they share sometimes-similar temperament in terms of prosocial behaviour like Jane motivates her to join as a Candy Stripper. Even Jane invites Davey to spend the day at her house and sleep over. However, gradually Davey learns about Jane's antisocial behaviour of having alcohol, and too much involvement with boys made her annoyed. Positive influence of Davey on Jane is found when she apologizes for her behaviour and respect the opinion of Davey. As a friend they can criticize each other's ideas and to elaborate and clarify their own thoughts with each other rather than nonfriends or adults. They both provide honest feedback to each other. Apart from that due to Jane, Davey can develop positive attitude towards the new surroundings. Her initial attitudes towards school became positive because of Jane.

When Davey and her family decides to go back at their native place, Jane comes over while Davey is packing and cries the whole time. Jane has become very dependent on Davey's friendship and isn't sure how she will make out with Davey gone. She did take Davey's advice and read through some of the alcoholism pamphlets and admitted that she might have a serious problem. Nonetheless, she backed out of the two appointments Davey made for her at the alcohol abuse clinic. Jane is scared that she won't be able to expand her thinking outside of Los Alamos and take chances without Davey's support. Davey knows that Jane has to start to count on herself and she assures Jane that she will be fine, and they will always be friends. It seems that Jane has grown but still feels like she needs Davey in order to be the person that she wants to be. Davey's lesson has been to keep fear out of her life and this is the advice that Jane needs. Jane's character was never developed enough to know what stresses caused her to drink, but Davey has been through enough pain to know that she is giving good advice.

Thus, it gives the impression that Jane is a smart girl, but she is lacking in self-confidence and turns to alcohol for courage. Later when Davey becomes acquainted with Jane's family, and she also gets to know two boys with whom she and Jane double-date, Ted and Reuben that indicates the interaction between opposite-sex are infrequent during adolescence. Much of this increase is due to the emergence of romantic attraction, which is a product of both biological and societal standard.

"The rule that opposite attract many sometimes apply, adolescent romantic relationships (like childhood friendships) are typically characterized by similarity in race, academic achievement, activities, attitudes, and physical attractiveness." (380 encyclopaedia)

The relationship between Hugh and Davey is also based on physical attraction. Liking for opposite sex during adolescence clearly affects both personal and When she met her boyfriend, Hugh, at her father's store where he worked. Davey shares her feelings regarding Hugh, "is pure physical attraction. Physical Attraction. You know what that mean? It means it feels good to be near Hugh. Really good. When he holds my hand my insides flip over." (59) Davey and Hugh were clearly attracted to each other, and Davey misses that chemistry when she is alone in Los Alamos. Hugh feels the loss of Davey's father and as the story opens he tries to comfort her and himself but it doesn't work. Davey's guilt about not being there for her father is all she can think of when she kisses him.

Davey's anger is reflected when she finds herself being away from Hugh and her father. Davey has no one to turn to in order to feel a sense of closeness. She only has intimacy with Wolf in her dreams and she doesn't want to get too close to other boys in Los Alamos like Reuben. These feelings bring back Davey's desire to be at home. These feelings have surfaced in the manner of longing for companionship. It seemed that Davey didn't want to get close to anyone at all, but the truth is she wants to feel comforted by someone she has a connection with. The only reference she has for that is back home with Hugh. When she tries to find a substitute in Wolf, he isn't at their meeting place and she is has not choice but to go without filling that missing void. It takes Davey the entire time in Los Alamos to think about Hugh and not remember the horrific murder of her father.

Adolescent romantic relationships are based upon many of the same principles such as mutual likings, positive behaviour, and proximity seeking. In case with Davey and Martin happens the same. They evolve in similar kind of circumstances and they share similar love and love towards their father. Martin, known to Davey as Wolf, is the mysterious character who, without trying, taught Davey the most out of everyone in Los Alamos. Wolf meets Davey one day when he is at the top of the canyon and hears her calling out to her father. He thinks she is in trouble so he calls out to her. On that day the two of them make a silent pact to be friends. The first meeting of Davey and Martin makes Davey forget her pain. Davey feels good enough inside to actually sing while she is showering. Such reform is due to meeting Wolf. For the first time, Davey fondly day dreams about her family, friends and of course, Wolf. Notably, her daydream doesn't include her father, showing that she is coming to an acceptance. Wolf has managed to at least temporarily take her mind off of her loss.

They start to meet each other regularly at the canyon, knowing nothing about each other beside the nicknames they each made up for emotional safety. Martin is Wolf, and Davey is Tiger. They interact with each other purely through their senses, as if they were truly these animals.

"I try to imagine us hundreds of years ago. Tiger and Wolf, living in a cave together. We would make love on rocks that have been warmed by the sun shine. We would raise babies, fat and happy." (86)

Their rapport prepare Davey socially to face going back to school. The two become closer, and Davey has an obvious crush on him.

"I have only three free days before school. I spend each of them in the canyon, with wolf. He always has to leave before two o'clock. I figure he has a job. I don't ask him any questions, he doesn't ask me any. I like it that way." (86)

She would prefer to spend her days around the canyon where no questions are asked than to re-join her peers in the real world. Nonetheless, Davey comes face to face with that world. She makes a friend quickly and comes close to opening up about her father but then draws back by embellishing the story about how he died. It's one that surpassed time and location. Wolf also reveals to her that they have a common bond because his father is dying.

Reality makes its way into Davey and Wolf's connection. They both choose to confide in one another and the reality of this confidence takes away from the joy that went along with their 'no questions asked' relationship. Thus, The meeting between Davey and Wolf made her decide to give the town a chance. Wolf becomes Davey's hope for moving on from her father's death and finding a place for herself in this new town.

Along the way, Davey manages to settle into life in Los Alamos, but she is nonetheless overjoyed when she has the chance to go back home. Davey was happy to say that her trip taught her a lot about herself as well as other people and most of all it allowed Davey to let go the pain of losing her father.

The connection between Davey and Martin is tested when their real lives collide. Martin finds out that Davey works at the hospital where his father is being cared for. Unknowingly, Davey befriended his father and on one of Martin's visits to the hospital he finds out. Martin's father dies, and the commonality of losing someone you love makes Davey and Martin's friendship stronger. Davey's reaction to Mr. Ortiz' death simulates how much pain she has been going through with her father's death. She had the chance to prepare for losing Mr. Ortiz and still couldn't handle the loss. "I can't stop crying. I am crying harder now than when my father died. Then, I was just numb. Now I feel everything." (170) Davey also didn't release her pain when her father died so she became overwhelmed with emotion when she heard the news about Mr. Ortiz. She admits that she was numb when her father died so now she cries for both losses and apparently for the pain of death overall. She admits to Wolf that since losing her father life and death are things that she has come to fear. Davey hasn't dealt with those fears in same way as the fears of the townspeople of Los Alamos so it's easy for her to feel anger and frustration toward them and their lifestyles. Davey's letter reveals that Davey doesn't want her fear to turn her into those in Los Alamos so she fights those changes at every chance she gets.

Wolf's friendship gave her the support she needed and she is finally ready to move on with her life. When Wolf first met Davey, she was in the canyon calling out for her father. She has physically and mentally left the pain from that day in the canyon and taken away the beauty and happy memories of her father and Wolf. Davey no longer feels disappointment and hurt when she did not find Wolf in the Canyon at her last day at Los Alamos. The envelopes of letters and the fact that she keeps his stone with her, suggests that the relationship they built would always be there.

#### Developing emotional autonomy

"It is valuable and involves transforming key relationships, especially with parents, rather than ending or minimizing ties. Overall, it requires the person's ability to use his or her own inner resiliency when facing setbacks, hurdles, or defeat. Individuals who handle feedback, frustrations, or difficult challenges constructively have developed emotional autonomy." (Stringer 24)

Davey's relationship with her mother changes as she becomes healthier and attains emotional independence. Davey has difficulty to accept the fact of his father's death.

"I don't want to go through life afraid. But I don't want to wind up like my father, either. Sometimes I think about dying and it scares me, because it's so permanent. I mean, once it's over, it's over. Unless there is

something that comes after. Something we don't know about. I like the idea of an afterlife but I can't bring myself to really believe in it." (172)

Initially, Davey uses her imagination to paint pictures of a happy life when she can't find that happiness in her reality. Losing her father makes Davey's happy times come in the form of fantasy. Davey fantasizes about life if her father never died, about a happy life with just her, Jason and her mother and about a life of personal happiness. "Suppose it's all been a mistake, I think. Suppose he's not dead at all. That when we get back to Atlantic City he'll be there, working in the store." (47) But she accept loss of her life and tries to develop autonomy,

"Oh Daddy, please don't be dead. Please! And then it hits me. The realization that I'll never be with him again. Never. That he isn't coming back. You have to face reality, Davey, you have to accept the facts." (47)

Davey knows she can't live through her imagination and tries to bring up conversations with everyone on the subject of death in order to find some understanding. She even lies to people about how her father dies in order to try to get some closure on losing him. None of these tactics seem to work, and then Davey is faced with losing Wolf's father, Mr. Ortiz. It is the presence of death resurfacing in Davey's life that ultimately makes her face the reality of death itself. Mr. Ortiz' death becomes a catalyst for Davey reclaiming her life in the wake of death. While Davey goes through her transition, the rest of her family are struggling with life after her father's death as well. In the end, they all have to face the reality of death in order to move on.

The novel describes her gradual recovery from her psychological flux and fear as she develops relationship that is more meaningful with family and peers at home and school through the help of psychiatrist, wolf and his father's massage for living life, her family and friends. As she writes in one of the letters to Wolf,

"Each of us must confront our own fears, must come face to face with them. How we handle our fears will determine where we go with the rest of our lives. To experience adventure or to be limited by the fear of it." (172)

The novel is based around Davey finding and facing her fears because this journey takes her through so many stages. At first Davey feels like she is completely alone when she loses her father. The loss makes Davey distrustful of everyone around her. She can't function in school when her fear brings on anxiety attacks from being around other students, any of which could have been the one who killed her father. Davey has to let go of that form of fear in Los Alamos, but she knows that she can't completely move forward by hiding out there. Davey's ride to canyon symbolizes her growth in dealing with her father's death. She has to go through a process on her own to come to terms with everything. She is beginning to feel life again, physically and mentally. In the end she realizes that facing her fears did not mean she had to be at home, she had to let go of the fear within. Her triumph is marked by burying all of the reminders of that night along with bread knife she kept in her room as her safety item.

Over a period of time Davey's relationship with her mother changes positively. She no longer withdraws or runs away from conflicts, fear of her father's death and emotional turmoil. She actualise that her mother makes her see that everyone around her, including Walter, Bitsy, Ned and others, were not the obstacles that Davey had to overcome. In actuality, both Davey and her mother had to find a way to come to terms with losing Davey's father before they could reach out to each other. All along, Davey's mother wasn't actually blind to what Davey was going through. She just didn't have the capacity and courage to take charge of her role as a mother.

## CONCLUSION

The novel ends with she reaches at her own place after finishing her journey within and outside she knows that how she has changed and became more mature, "...some changes happen deep down inside of you. And the truth is, only you know about them. Maybe that's why it's supposed to be." (218) This is how Davey's struggles with the family especially the problem of her mother's slow recovery, her own acceptance at a new school, her unwillingness to accept her uncle and aunt, and her refusal to face up her father's death. Finally, with the help of psychiatrist, both Davey and her mother are helped. They returned to their native place with strong determination to ready to go on with the business of living after facing all such upheaval. Thus, she accepts the reality and takes responsibility as she is now fine with change, and home for her now has a new meaning. It also resembles that how detachment limits her inner and outer world. It is apparent at the end that she learns to negotiate the complex process of separation and autonomy. Such lifelong themes that often originated in the society not only it set apart from family and friends but also can provide important connections to others. Thus, Blume tries to bring forth the social development in terms of teen self and society. Blume's tale emphasis on issues of adult authority and child empowerment try to seek both separation and relation in a society in which teens develop their own sense of self, yet maintain the affiliative network that defines social being. Blume carefully orchestrates the pressure that Davey represented as teen who is traumatized by his father's death. Davey's fear prevails in her accepting the reality and people around. Not only has that she separated herself from the peers as an orphan girl. Abrahamson rightly suggests that "Tiger Eyes is about two people at a cross roads. They can be secure and live kind of breathing death or they can grab the golden ring of life and live it to the fullest. Blume has created family that believably faces a tragedy,

regroups, and makes a grab for life's golden ring one more time." (95 Young Adult literature: The Rich Diversity of the New YA Novel)

Davey is a girl who always seeks emotional support from her mother who is the only elderly person at home. Nevertheless, unfortunately she is also devastated of her husband's death. Moreover, Davey is not able to open up in front of her peers. As a result of it, she required the help from a psychiatrist, with whom she tries to get open up and gradually indulge herself with the peers and parent. Thus, teens recognize their own strengths and weaknesses and values self-improvement. At the end, they paved the way towards developing self-esteem and self-identity in the society. They make friends, enter in dating culture, and develop sexual intimacy which provides a context for the development of social skills and knowledge which help them to form positive relationship with other people in society. Although novel tells the romantic and suspense thriller stories, its purpose is to educate. Apparently, the tone is never preachy, but lessons are presented about teen development such as developing social competency, interpersonal and intrapersonal relationship, sexual interactions, birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, and the emotional impact of being sexual active. Blume treats her characters sympathetically and without judgement. Despite the illusion of freedom given by parents, Blume's teenagers are in fact still subservient to their parents. She tries to provide parental fantasy in which YAs are allowed to learn their own lessons but always come to the conclusion which their parents would wish. That's how Blume's fictions underlines the teen developmental aspects in general and both presented novels focus more on social development in particular with the realistic manner.

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