

Universidad Internacional de las Américas

School of Education and Foreign Languages

Graduation Seminar

Thesis Submitted to obtain the Bachelor in English with Concentration in Translation

Literary analysis of the novel The Green Mile by Stephen King using the historical approach

Thesis Mentor: Dinier Amador Serrano.

Thesis Tutor: M.L. Lawrence Vega Miranda

Student: Allison Michelle Guido Guerrero

Céd. 117420248

San José, Costa Rica

December 2022

Table of contents

Chapter I. Introductory Framework	6
Problem Statement	7
Research Question	9
Objectives of the Investigation	9
General Objective	9
Specific Objectives	9
Justification of the Study	9
Antecedents	11
Scope.....	14
Chapter II. Theoretical Framework	15
Literary Theories and Approaches.....	16
Themes, Symbols, Motifs.....	22
Biography of the author	26
Plot	32
Chapter III. Methodological Framework	39

HISTORICAL APPROACH IN DARK FANTASY	3
Research Approach.....	39
Research Design.....	40
Information Sources.....	41
Analysis Categories	42
Data Collection Instruments.....	42
Collection Data Process and Data Analysis	44
Chapter IV. Data Analysis	45
Approaches to the Investigation.....	45
Theories vs. literary work.....	46
Part 3, Chapter 2	46
Part 3, Chapter 3	49
Part 5, Chapter 5	50
Part 5, Chapter 8	51
Themes	64
Motifs.....	66
Symbols	67
Chapter V. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	70

HISTORICAL APPROACH IN DARK FANTASY	4
Purpose of the Conclusion.....	70
Conclusions	70
Restatement of the Research Question	70
Unexpected Results (If any).....	71
Recommendations.....	71
Bibliography.....	73

List of figures

Figure 1 Was the death penalty legal in America around the 20th century?	54
Figure 2 What method was used to apply the death penalty?	55
Figure 3 Was the death penalty carried out without an audience?	56
Figure 4 Was the execution of black people more “common” than that of white people?	57
Figure 5 During the 20th century...Were Innocent people executed?	58
Figure 6 Concerning the main character Paul Edgecombe... Did he use John Coffey with a selfish purpose?.....	59
Figure 7 What were the reasons for John Coffey’s actions?.....	60
Figure 8 Did Percy Wetmore deserve to be punished?	61
Figure 9 Eduard “Del” Delacroix was a real murderer, but... Did he deserve a cruel death?	62
Figure 10 Did Brutus “Brutal” Howell feel guilty about executing John Coffey?	63

Chapter I. Introductory Framework

The primary purpose of literature is to enlighten, encourage, and entertain the reader. This implies the pleasure of reading and the capacity to learn new things, criticize them, and get a stand about specific issues. The reader not only learns, but he also starts to react and becomes an element of change. Considering all these elements, the investigator of this project decided to analyze a modern novel, *The Green Mile*, to explore the development of the characters' feelings and social values to see how they evolve through the text. The purpose of this information is to lead the readers to analyze some real situations that affect our current society. For example, the racism that occurs against black people. Even though some people are in the same prison, tolerance is not present at any moment. Some police officers in the prison trade with the prisoners differently regarding their crimes. Also, some innocent prisoners are condemned to death with the cruel idea of "getting justice."

Another topic that can be appreciated is friendship. The two main characters demonstrated how saving the life of a friend is even more important than their job. In this story, the reader can notice how strong feelings influence the choice of decisions, whether good or bad emotions, and it all depends on your beliefs.

Fearlessness is also present, especially the most common: the loss of the love of your life. A woman and a man of two different beliefs. So, as a classic story, she does not trust a criminal, but the man trusts his co-workers to save his life.

A last topic during the evolution of the story that can be noticed with the main characters is religion. One is seen as an angel of God, but he is suffering inside and wants to finally rest

through death. The other character does not agree with sacrificing someone pure and innocent but, in the end, respects his decision but, at the same time, receives a punishment.

Problem Statement

Stephen Edwing King, known as Stephen King, is an American writer whose great works in horror, science fiction, and dark fantasy novels mark a different way of entertainment and a new way of expressing feelings, thoughts, and issues about society. During this modern era, literature had the opportunity to grow and be noticed by many people in many countries. These works have many types of classification according to their genre. One example of this literary work is *The Green Mile*. There are more novels written by this author that is still making an impact in the literary world. The influence is so huge that people try to keep this genre alive in modern society. This can be seen in movies, theater plays, and sitcoms, especially for young people like teens and children, for a better understanding; that's why Stephen King is considered one of the most iconic writers in literature.

Some theorists, such as Jane B. Baron, note that humanism involves the perpetuation of the following statement:

Literature trains people in the reflection, consciousness, choice, and responsibility that make up the ability to engage in moral decision-making. It does so by presenting artificial, but concrete, universes in which premises may be worked out in conditions conducive to empathy but ambiguous enough to allow for the formation of moral judgment.

Many readers miss the real message the author wants to transmit and believe the story is all invented and comes out just through imagination. Some stories are based on a historical event. This means that they narrate real events. The difference is that the writer decides to tell the

story using some fantasy to avoid strong criticism when telling the story in detail. In the book *The Green Mile*, the case of John Coffey was an actual event that occurred in the United States around the 20th century, the young black man was sentenced to death in the electric chair, but in the film adaptation, as in the book, it was decided that the role of John was played by a big black man around his thirties.

In the story of *The Green Mile*, the main character and his development can be seen as a hero or villain but with an inevitable ending conducting to death. It is noticed that the main character can exercise good and evil. At some point, he can redeem himself for his past actions. But these mistakes or sins lead to their inevitable doom, a tragic and lonely death. Also, human decisions are the ones that lead us to our final destiny. Depending on the changes in our environment, they would negatively or positively impact our decisions. Also, the people around us have a strong influence. It does not matter if it is family or friends; considering their opinions changes your perspective and guides you to a happy or sad ending.

In conclusion, aspects like symbolic elements and themes can be found in this genre. This work has completely different features for transmitting a message. Through this literary work, Stephen King gives his opinion on the changes of the human role in the community. Many historical events happened during this period, but how they are explained in the work is not too noticeable. Hence, the audience has to pay close attention to little details and sometimes read again for a better understanding. Stephen King develops peculiar factors in his literary works that make them iconic in history, and he is considered “The King” of horror, science fiction, and dark fantasy novels.

Research Question

How are some historical events that changed society and people's behavior during the Twentieth Century manifested in the novel *The Green Mile* by Stephen King?

Objectives of the Investigation*General Objective*

To analyze the historical events in the book **The Green Mile** using a historical approach.

Specific Objectives

1. To compare the events that happen with real life.
2. To explain the roles of the characters according to the timeline.
3. To analyze the cinematographic changes of the film adaptation.

Justification of the Study

This investigation analyzes the multiple historical changes regarding the death penalty in the '30s. During this time, many people, regardless of skin color, were judged and sent to prison for a short time before their execution. Prisons used to be in the center of the town and one for men and another one for women.

Moreover, in this period, finding evidence was limited due to the lack of resources. Many innocent people were sentenced to death without supporting evidence because people in town said they were guilty. In other cases, some were guilty of a crime but were able to escape from justice by running away to the closest town or even accusing an innocent person of not ending up in jail and being seen as the hero for finding the responsibility for the crime.

Sending people to death was a widespread custom with the idea of “making justice” for those who were victims of the actions of cruel ones. Another common factor of history is that when the criminal was about to be executed, the victim’s family could be present to see the execution and a priest for praying about their soul. This type of custom can almost be seen as if the people went to a “show”; seeing someone dying was acceptable in this era. Even though religion was present, it was not strong enough, like in modern society. In those years, executing someone was not considered a sin because some priests believed evil people deserved punishment, and people in town also accepted it.

Now in the 21st century, society needs to be informed about the changes in the death penalty. In many countries, it is still used but less aggressively; the modern method is the lethal injection. Some examples are USA, China, and Iran. On the hand, some countries decided to eliminate this due to the increasing religious rules since the Church agreed to work apart from the Government. This happens especially in Latin American countries and some of Europe. During this period, the Church is not involved with the Government, and some beliefs have been eliminated; consequently, their faith has become stronger.

These death penalty methods have changed from suffering to a peaceful death without pain in recent years. In this investigation, the methods applied in the ‘30s will be explained, starting with who invented it, how long it was used, and how to work out.

It is essential to know about the evolution of the prisons, the roles of the security guards, and if they were cruel to the prisoners or just go do their job properly without hesitation and questioning the decisions of their superiors, the lifestyle of the prisoners, and the infrastructure. Besides, it is essential to compare what security instruments were used in that period and see how many are still in the present or if it does not exist anymore. The real problem is that the

youngest population is not interested in the historical events that change the lifestyle of many people in different countries. This type of summary would help to understand the topic in the simplest and clearest way possible, plus the material of previous investigation that gives trustfulness.

All this information would help future generations remember how society has changed in treating people who stay in prison for the rest of their lives because of their crimes. Criminals are not treated like “animals” now with the creation of many laws supporting human rights, and many people agree with this for personal or religious reasons. Prisoners are now treated better, without punishments or painful deaths.

In addition, all these historical facts would be supported by factual statements and references from investigators studying history’s evolution. Relevant quotes will be added to give credibility to the purpose of this investigation. As well as the explanation of the literary approach, which offers a better understanding of the literature to find out the real message the author wants to transmit to his readers. Some essential facts can be narrowed down indirectly and have to be analyzed through context and by changing the history using different genres. For example, some that can be mentioned are science fiction, dark fantasy, or southern gothic.

Antecedents

Nowadays, the dark fantasy genre has become increasingly common not only to entertain the reader and expand his imagination but also for the author to transmit a message that must be discovered through reading.

The investigation by Jaime Oliveros Garcia (2020), called *A silent of three parts: Connecting identity, narratology, and high dark fantasy in The King killer Chronicles’s story world*,

explains how popular this genre in literature is. The main objective is to describe the key terms of the story related to the setting, historical aspects, and the role of the main character. Moreover, this investigation clarifies that the principal characters can be identified by the use of supernatural powers, not precisely magic but some power that can be used to do good actions and be seen as the hero of the story. Also, when it comes to terms of the word “dark”, it is not precisely some monster, creature, or ghost that plays the role of the villain; it is referring to the environment in which the character is involved, in most cases, the romance did not include it. In conclusion, this research can support this investigation due to a clear explanation of how the readers can find out the story’s main topic by the hints the author writes and finally understand the ending.

Another investigation by Emily R. Center (2001), in one of the most famous and successful series of history literature called *Discovering by analysis Harry Potter and youth fantasy*, explains that this genre can vary its context depending on the age population is going to be addressed. The main objective is to analyze those literary elements that make the fantasy genre iconic and unique. Moreover, this investigation emphasizes that power comes with responsibility, and for a fair ending, some obstacles must be overcome. The relationship between Good versus Evil is present through the characters and their “growing” for seeing if they are capable of winning or losing the final battle. In conclusion, this research can support this investigation due to the topic of power and justice.

Another book that belongs to the list of the most popular dark fantasy is the one found in this report by Khakimova Khalimakhon (2021), called *The genre of fantasy and its characteristic features (the novel The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien)*. The main objective is to make clear that every author has his style for creating a new world and adjusting his characters to every different environment in the story. In addition, this investigation classifies this genre as one of the

most popular for writers through the past years. Many professionals have given several definitions to the word “fantasy” and divided it into categories. Still, one specific aspect is the creation of their own culture, language, symbols, and countries with their army and royalty family. In most cases, stories regarding this genre, the setting and time are made in a Medieval environment due to the most common development: a hero, a villain, a war, and the success of Good over Evil with a “happy ever after.” In conclusion, this research can support this investigation because personal toughness influences our choices for creating an original story.

An additional source of information is Michal Šubrt (2021), mentioned in the report called *Grimdark Fantasy, the Black Company as Revisionist Heroic Fantasy*, another category of the genre of fantasy called “grim dark”, very similar to the dark fantasy term. The main objective is to describe in detail the role of the main character as the hero of the story. Also, this investigation describes the character’s feelings, at the beginning negation, does not want responsibilities or feels, is not good enough for deciding the world’s future. Later acceptance takes control of the situation, decides to save all the people who believe in them and becomes a leader. In most of the stories, it is seen that the hero is a man; just a few writers choose a woman as the hero and not as the one who needs to be rescued. One example is *The Hunger Games*, where the main character is Katniss Everdeen. In conclusion, this research can support this investigation due to the topic of power and making decisions to give a sense of justice.

Finally, this last investigation by Carolina Demichelis (2019), called *Environment and Fantasy: an Eco critical approach to His Dark Materials and The Chronicles of Narnia*, points out how the fantasy genre is chosen to give hidden messages to actual and real problems in society. The main objective is to focus on real-world ecological issues that are present in fantasy

books. This investigation explains how many authors indirectly transmit a message to their readers and want them to be aware and find a solution to specific problems, not only reading the book for letting your imagination be “free” but to pay attention to the details. The environment in which the story takes place is the principal objective of the writer for giving more potential and establish a stronger connection with reality. This genre focusses on letting the readers be part of the world and not try to escape away through reading, giving a different perception to interpret the issues of the community, analyzing the pros and cons, and more than imagining how the world could be as it is in the book. In conclusion, this research is based on social and historical issues that need to be confronted and analyzed through the historical approach that will explore the historical issues of the story to find out the main message transmitted by the text.

Scope

The text explores as one of its central themes that those who are looking for revenge and want to hurt someone else because of reasons like superiority or because they blame someone else for their misfortunes and treason, in the end, receive what they deserve, which is social punishment for their crimes, like being sent to jail or suffering other consequences, which may be seen as God’s justice or Karma.

The researcher will extensively investigate the presented topic to obtain accurate results about Death Penalty and its results in modern society. Doing this leads the research project on the right path.

Following this statement, the information presented through reliable sources is dynamic and changes every step of the way for specific periods in history.

Chapter II. Theoretical Framework

In this part of the investigation, many aspects will be explained and analyzed; during the chapter, many quotes and references from other books will be mentioned as a source of information. Initially, the researcher will refer to the definition of theories and approaches in general. Regarding the book, explaining the approach used for analyzing the story and the author's intention would be necessary. Moreover, for a better understanding of the literary piece, some literary devices would have their meaning and purpose in literature. For example, the story's theme, symbols, and motifs are mentioned and analyzed. Certainly, more than one can be found; in some cases, just one or even none of it. Also, the researcher will establish if there are different types or categories when analyzing the story to find the message the author wanted to transmit to his readers.

In addition, it is a must to refer to the author's biography regarding the more relevant aspects of his career, like his literary works in literature and cinematographic works as the sources he used to create the story. Finally, the plot of the story is a summary of the most relevant scenarios and events in the story that create an essential impact on the role of the main characters.

All this information would be analyzed by looking for keywords, for example, inspiration, rules, normal, society, etc. Also, focusing on the genre is done explicitly to make a relationship between the author's ideas about what message and judgment are trying to be explained through the fictional genre.

Literary Theories and Approaches

The concept of literature has been changing through the past years, including how it used to be expressed. Before writing was invented, humans transmitted knowledge and stories generation by generation orally through songs. The instruments used in that period time used to be the lyre and harp, most of them played by scops in England and troubadours in France as well the stories gave an atmosphere of peace and harmony. The idea was to imagine the story, creating the whole scenario and character characteristics in your mind. In this way, the image was able to be developed. Later, people decided to tell the stories by making shapes with their hands and sounds from their mouths. This was done close to a wood fire at night and using a wall, a piece of wood, a piece of ceramic or even the ground.

The evolution of society brings another way of telling stories: using drawings. One example was the Egyptians. They narrated stories in the walls of their palaces and graves, all their historical events and beliefs in the Gods. Many of these drawings were made using spices or even the juice of some fruits. On the official web page of the History Channel, Evan Andrews (2018) said: “The Epic of Gilgamesh started as a series of Sumerian poems and tales dating back to 2100 B.C., but the most complete version was written around the 12th century B.C. by the Babylonians” (p. 36). Then, humans invented written communication on clay tablets using symbols to represent the alphabet and numbers.

So, what is literature in general? It is any work written in any region, country, or language, and it could be fictional or factual to inform, educate, or entertain the readers. Experts have established that besides telling a story, the text has to follow strict aesthetic elements to create a fictional story that is beautifully written. That is why finding aphorisms, metaphors, similes

and other literary devices in a text is common. Besides, all texts are fictional, so the stories they tell may not be true, but possible and coherent to life. One example is the story *Beyond the Black Door* by A. M. Strickland (2019), published in Manhattan, New York. The principal focus is how our thoughts make us feel out of control and miserable, and sometimes wonder if there is something wrong with ourselves. The principal character might be tempted to make some decisions that would also change their lifestyle and family. Analyzing the women's role as the main character and her behavior during the plot. The reader may discover that everything that happens in the story is not real but coherent with reality.

Nowadays, there are different genres. The most popular ones are romance, drama, humor, poetry, and tragedy. Other genres that have become popular in the modern era are horror, fantasy, fairy tales, and science fiction. The book *The Girl and the Stars (The book of Ice)* by Mark Lawrence (2020) show how different genres can be combined depending on the scenario and the mission of the principal character; also, the protagonist and the antagonist can be women.

Literature can be seen as a way to express feelings, emotions, thoughts, and opinions, but not every written work can be considered literary. Regarding the educational field made in schools or universities, the comment of Kenneth Rexroth (2022) on the web page of Britannica explains that: "Those writings that are primarily informative—technical, scholarly, journalistic—would be excluded from the rank of literature by most, though not all, critics" (p. 56). Literature is considered art; even some philosophers are considered great masters in this field due to their writing skills and vocabulary variety.

Moreover, what is the meaning of theory? These are ideas or questions or a close prediction of what is expected to happen regarding a relationship between concepts. The theories are

tested through experiments following a scientific process; not all theories can be put into an experiment. The main purpose is to explain or prove something based on general ideas from a previous investigation. Theories are important because they guide the investigator after collecting the information through an accurate and detailed observation. Theories would help classify the information from the most important to the unnecessary. They are the base of a new source of knowledge that can be transmitted to new generations.

On the other hand, these two concepts lead to wonder about the meaning of “literary theory”. In literature, this is a more complex explanation that requires a deep analysis of the purpose itself when a literary piece is interpreted. An academic definition found on the web page the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy by Vince Brewton (2012) comments:

Literary theory refers to any principles derived from internal analysis of literary texts or from knowledge external to the text that can be applied in multiple interpretive situations. All critical practice regarding literature depends on an underlying structure of ideas in at least two ways: theory provides a rationale for what constitutes the subject matter of criticism—the literary—and the specific aims of critical practice—the act of interpretation itself (p. 89).

As a summary of the definition mentioned previously, “literary theory” refers to the analysis or tools used to understand the book better. It is a requirement to describe all the details that the author used for creating the story, the connection between the writer and the work, the genre, styles of writing, etc. Also, what was the author’s inspiration, personal experience, a historical event, or just imagination, as well as the writer’s background, would be interpreted.

The approach is the most important aspect when a literary work is analyzed. This means what is going to be the focus of the critique. One specific approach is used to read, analyze, interpret, and judge writing pieces for creating an essay or book report. The setting or the scenarios can give clues about what approach is the most convenient to use. For example, in the book *The Heart of the Stone* by Ben Galley (2017), the text gives a world inspired by the 18th century in Europe in terms of the army and the different types of weapons that can be used in a war, in this case, aspects of the history of the twentieth century have been taken into account, and any researcher can use the historical or new historicism can be applied.

In literature, there are several different types of approaches. Among them, we can mention the Formalist criticism, Deconstructionist criticism, Historical criticism, Inter-textual criticism, Reader-response criticism, Mimetic criticism, Symbolic or Archetypal criticism, Psychological criticism, Marxist criticism, and Feminist criticism. The basis of all the approaches is the formalistic approach, which analyzes the text in all its components, considering the meaning of the title, the incipit, the plot, themes, conflicts, character analysis, point of view, setting, and ending. Others consider the subversion of events, and a new perspective of the text, as it happens in deconstruction, or focus on women and their fights in the patriarchal society or take into account archetypes and myths as it happens in the mythological approach, or they may analyze the psychological development of the characters or the situation as it happens in the psychological approach. In the case of the Historical approach, the events that have determined the historical development in society are taken as the standing point in the development of a text, so they are explored and analyzed as they affect the behavior and expectations of the characters and their reality.

In this investigation, the approach chosen for analyzing the book *The Green Mile* by Stephen King is historical criticism. This approach focuses on the social, cultural, and historical events that were the basis for creating the story, investigating the key events for discovering the hidden message that it is transmitted not as a documentary but as a fictional story. In this approach, the author's biography is also taken into account to find out how the historical events that occurred during his lifetime affected his life views and the main character used them to confront his problems. This kind of approach also considers as part of the research all the author's experiences, the interviews in which the author expressed his opinion and the events that could serve as moments of inspiration, if he read other writers' books or if the story comes from his imagination and not based on real situations.

For a better comprehension of this approach, there is a list of four-step posted by Wijaya (n. d.) that are:

Discovering the time when the poem was made, what happened to the author in that time, or if is there any special moment in that time which is recorded by a historian. Analyzing at glance whether it is connected or not between the content of the literary work and the certain historical moments after finding out the basic information of it concerning the when. Finding the clues left by the author, usually in the forms of special terms, symbols, or figurative language which are strongly related to the moment of the past which become the inspiration of the literary work was being made. Interpreting the literary work based on the moment underlying the creation of it by comprehending and analyzing the content related to its historical moment (p. 290).

The historical approach studies how cultural events shape literary works. This criticism has two important elements: the text (the literary work) and the context (the historical events or

situations). Both elements are connected to create one literary analysis. During the mid of XX century, this criticism was abandoned and many years later reappeared with a different name, “New Historicism”, with a deeper focus in the investigation made by Lauren Millikan (2011), quote that according to Lois Tyson: “Cultural artifacts that can tell us something about the interplay of discourses, the web of social meanings, operating in the time and place in which the text was written” (Curiouser and Curioušer, n. d., p. 291). This new theory focuses on historical judgments, referring to the past of history, in other words, antecedents that change society’s culture. Moreover, it emphasizes groups that break with the rules in dress code, peasant revolts, and marginal as proof of the abuse of power by the other and their survival.

For example, the story of *The Poppy Way* by Strickland (2019) was published in New York. The principal focus is the development of the main couple, how two strangers begin to face their differences in trying to live together. The principal character would affront challenges for becoming an important person in society, even though many consider them useless. Some literary approaches that can be used to understand the story’s message are mythological and historical. Analyzing the role of the main character and their behavior during the plot and the events that change people’s lifestyles for good or bad can give important clues of meaning. This research can support this investigation due to the topic of historical events that change the evolution of society. Moreover, when the historical approach is used, another important aspect to analyze is the point of view, the prejudiced beliefs, and personal thoughts of the writer about a specific topic that changes social behavior or the development of good or bad circumstances.

Themes, Symbols, Motifs

In this part of the investigation, before analyzing some literary devices of the book, some concepts would be explained to understand the story better. These concepts are the base for catching the author's message and the characters' role.

The first one is the theme. It is the central message, and the "moral" of the story in a fictional one is an underlying meaning. In most cases, the theme is emphasized in the story's title, or it can be highlighted by figures of speech, for example, allusion, simile, hyperbole, metaphor, etc. Another way of identifying the theme is by making an association with the most common movies seen on TV series, novels, or movies like "Love is blind", "Believe in yourself", "Do not judge a book by its cover", "Things are not always as they appear" and so on... In the book *Spells of Blood and Kin* by Claire Humphrey (2016), is not always going to be a conflict for love or a world that needs to be fixed by a hero, not happy moments, and when the reader least expects it, dark moments arrive involving sacrifice and pain. This story is not the classical and common clichés. The theme could be the author's thoughts on the topic or a point of view of human nature. The book *The Dark Fantastic: Race and Immigration from Harry Potter to the Hunger Games* by Ebony Elizabeth Thomas (2018) reflects real topics of society, life, feminism, and racism in a fictional way using dark fantasy to tell the story of the characters and the environment they live every day.

Moreover, there are six popular themes in most of the stories in literature; the first one is God vs. Evil, in which the main character may be the hero and the antagonist is the villain. Internal and external issues would be present throughout the story as a development of the protagonist to doing the right thing. The story *These Violet Delights* by Cloe Gong (2020) was published in

the UK, London. The principal focus is how having power can create conflict between different groups. The principal character is exposed to making some choices to find a solution to the problem and not risk the lives of their closest people. Analyzing the role of the main character and their behavior during the plot, in this case, the women's role as the one who is in charge and seen as a leader. Another example is the book *Crazy Time* by Vicente Dublado (2022), in which the protagonist is seeking the truth, the reason why she is in that game of murders while there is a relationship between God and Evil.

The second theme is love, the cliché of falling in love at first sight or from enemies to lovers. There are different types of love. For example, forbidden love involves disapproval and a tragic fate with a sad ending. Family love faces all the challenges and shows the implications of loyalty, even though some stories show that family members can be enemies and the first to give back in trouble. A non-corresponding love, also called unrequited love, involves pain and sadness. Sometimes a love triangle can be present, and the main character must choose who wants to stay with for the rest of their life. Friendship is another type of love in which that person stays in his shiniest and darkest moments, gives advice, and never leaves anyone alone, no matter how many mistakes he has committed. Also, it makes sure to point out the weaknesses and strong abilities to accomplish your goal, increase self-esteem, and guide when a person is wrong about a situation or decision.

The third theme is redemption, in which the main characters accept their mistakes and try to find a solution, which sometimes can involve sacrificing their own life. In most stories in which redemption is the main topic, the antagonist faces their errors and offers a solution to the problem. This changes the character's role from being a villain to a hero who will always be re-

membered for his actions. The fourth theme is courage and perseverance, in which the characters, not precisely the main characters, can also be the secondary characters, proving to society or people who never believe in them how the impossible can be possible. Determination is the principal virtue for the characters to deal with the challenges and missions, even though internal issues will be present to face their destiny. Once the character has made a choice of confidence in himself, it will be definite, and stepping back won't be an option. The book *A little Hatred (The Age of Madness 1)* by Joe Abercrombie (2020) regards a group of four young people, two boys and two girls, in which everyone has their history, their missions, and their challenges individually for proving they are strong and deserve being recognized.

The fifth theme is coming of age, also known as *bildungsroman*, which involves memories of the past. The story is told as a diary of the characters from childhood until adulthood. Growing up can bring negative and positive experiences until becoming a mature person. In the book *Holy Sister (Book of Ancestor)* by Mark Lawrence (2019), the protagonist is a powerful girl with supernatural powers who becomes stronger with only one goal in mind; her growth is seen throughout her history, how her personality changes while she became stronger and in some point evil. Besides, her childhood is told to the readers.

Finally, revenge may be one of the main characters' plans to eliminate their enemies. During the story, the protagonist understands that to accomplish their mission; he must suppress his feelings and emotions to not interfere with the plan and sacrifice lives and objects with emotional value.

A second concept to explain is the symbols. Objects, colors, numbers, flowers, animals, etc., represent something or an abstract idea beyond the literal meaning. However, feelings and emotions are not symbols. Also, writers use universal, regional, or personal symbols to make the

audience get deep into the story and establish a connection between reality and fiction. Writers use symbols to create a unique and intense experience in which our emotions are exposed and a better understanding of complicated themes that require deep analysis.

There are three categories of symbolism. First, universal symbols are known or perceived by society, even worldwide. Some of them are related to religious, historical, or cultural facts. For example, snakes represent evil because Adam and Eve were tricked by this animal, causing their expulsion from the Garden of Eden, which is a symbol related to the Bible. Second, regional symbols belong to a specific country and have an important meaning. Only the people who live in that country would understand what they represent. To illustrate, in the United States, the White House represents a resident where the president lives, but it also represents democracy and freedom. In Costa Rica, the purple orchid or Guaria Morada” represents the natural beauty that the country possesses.

Finally, the third one is personal symbols. They are important for the writer and more difficult to identify. So first, the author has to be known or analyzed to find the symbols in the story. These symbols have a special and emotional meaning for the protagonist because they represent a strong relationship between friends, family members or lovers. They can also represent a promise, a tool for achieving a mission or ending a conflict. As a matter of fact, in the Harry Potter series, the scar on his head represents the survival of evilness through sacrifice as an act of true love. In this case, it was a mother’s love for her only child, the world’s most powerful and pure magic. In the book *Fantastic Beast–The crimes of Grindelwald* by J.K. Rowling (2018), the neckless is the most important symbol in the story, representing a strong love from a friendship but at the same time a curse. When that love is broken and replaced by anger and hate, it is also

followed by a strong desire to kill that person you used to love. So, you can be the first to die and be tortured.

The last concept to explain is the motif. The motif is used to emphasize the most important aspects of the story through the repetition of words, phrases, or even actions, sounds, or smells. This aspect is more difficult to identify since motifs can also be symbols. To prevent any confusion, take notes of those scenarios with complex language.

Another meaning in literature for the motifs is the relationship with the characters. In this case, a question is formulated *What was the main motif in the story?* This refers to the reason or the cause on which the protagonist or the antagonist is based on making a decision. Some decisions are taken with the heart and not with the brain, with the emotions ruling, depending on the environment. These actions can be positive or negative and give a sad or happy ending. In the book *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman (2002), the little girl cannot understand why her parents do not allow her to do many activities like trying different and new things, saying that it is for her good. At the same time, in the other world of fantasy with her other parents and neighbors with buttons in their eyes, the girl does not understand why her “other mother” wants to keep her under control and is locked up when she disobeys, saying she does it for love.

Biography of the author

Stephen King is known as the King of Horror. His full name is Stephen Edwin King. He was born in The United States in September of 1947 in Portland. He is a writer of different genres like science fiction, dark fantasy, horror, supernatural, mystery, and suspense. Many of his works are sold in English, a total of 64 novels, and these works have a Spanish version.

Some of his books have more than one cinematographic adaptation; in chronological order, let us start with *Carrie* in 1976, *The Shining* in 1980, *Pet Cemetery* in 1989, *It* in 1990, *Misery* in 1990, *The Green Mile* in 1999, and a second story of *Carrie* in 1999 came out but with different actors. This is the first original movie version in the career of Stephen King. In the modern era, a “remake” means a new version of some stories that had been done, creating a sense of horror and excitement due to technological advances and sound effects. For example, *Carrie* in 2013 would be the third version of this story, *The Dark Tower* in 2017, *Gerald’s Game* in 2017, and part one in 2017, told only by parting from the characters’ childhood. Then the second part of the movie, *It* part two, was launched in 2019, in which all the characters are adults, and they meet again in their old neighborhood, *Pet Cemetery*, in 2019, and *Doctor Sleep* in 2019.

Other literary works were made on TV series like *Under the Dome* beginning in 2013 and finished in 2015 with three sessions and *The Outsider* in 2018 as a miniseries. In most of this, Stephen King plays the role of director and producer; he is also an actor, and his moments on the big screen are just a few seconds or minutes. In other TV series, he helps to write the story of some episodes, for example, *The Stand*, *The X Files*, and *Kingdom Hospital*. Many of these movies are on streaming platforms like Netflix, HBO MAX, HBO GO, Prime Video, and Star Plus.

During his career, the list of nominations and Awards is extensive. Some of them are Alex Awards for ten books written by adults, American Library Association for Best Book for Young Adults, Balrog Award for speculative fiction, Black Quill Award for the dark genre, Bram Stoker Award for dark fantasy and horror, British Fantasy Award, Deutscher Phantastik Preis is a Germany Award to the genre of fantasy, Edgar Award in honor to Edgar Allan Poe to mystery fiction, Horror Guild, Hugo Award to science fiction, International Horror Guild Award,

Kono Mystery ga Sugoi, in other words. Also, he has been granted The Best Translated Mystery Fiction of the year in Japan, Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Locus Award for science fiction and fantasy, Mystery Writer of America: Grand Master Award. Also, National Book Award: Medal of distinguished Contribution to American Letters, National Magazine Awards, New York Public Library Books for the Teen Age, O. Henry Award for short stories, Quill Award, Shirley Jackson Award in honor of Shirley Jackson in genres like dark fantasy, horror and psychological suspense, Spokane Public Library Golden Pen Award, Us Magazine, World Fantasy Award, and World Horror Convention.

One of the stories that allowed Stephen King to grow up in the literature field was *Carrie* in 1973. It was the first book to be recognized and published, even though this was his fourth work. The story is about a teenage girl called Carrie White, a high school student with supernatural powers who suffers from bullying due to her clothes being out of fashion. Her mother is a religious fanatic who does not treat her well. One day when Carrie was showering with her classmates after the gym, she had the first period. Her mother had never mentioned to her before this natural process, so she was so scared, thinking she would die by bleeding out. Instead of helping her, her classmates started teasing her and throwing tampons. The professor of gymnastics is the only one who helps her. This is the critical moment when her power develops into telekinetic abilities. After that, the professor punishes the girls in the group, making them do some exercise. One girl confronts the professor, so she gets suspended and cannot attend the prom. This encourages the girl with her boyfriend and a couple of friends to take revenge on Carrie by filling up bowls of blood and hanging them on the roof of the scenario.

Carrie goes to the prom with the popular guy in the high school. Her mother tries to persuade her not to go saying that something bad will happen, but she ends up going to the prom.

Both are chosen as King and Queen, then the blood falls, covering them, and one of the bowls hits the boy's head, and he falls. This makes Carrie relieve her anger with her powers, killing some boys by electrocuting them and setting the gym on fire. On her way home, she fired up a gas station and killed the mean girl that humiliated her and the boyfriend. Once at home, she killed her mother because she tried to kill her first by stabbing her in the back.

In the end, Carrie dies. The last person to see her was the most popular girl in the high school who could be pregnant with the baby of the popular boy who took Carrie to the prom and died after the beat on his head. The town never recovers from that situation, becoming a ghost neighborhood. That night Carrie killed around 440 people.

Stephen King shared that regarding this story, he never thought it was going to be so successful. Initially, he gave up and threw the papers away, but his wife picked them up and told him to finish the story. Many scenes are brutal and with a lot of blood, and the movie reflects those key events for becoming a successful horror film. The inspiration came when he was in high school, and two girls were victims of bullying. One of the girls used to have family issues, especially with the mom. This was the beginning of Stephen becoming the King of Horror. Before this, he wrote many short stories, but none were considered for publishing. At that time, the book *Carrie* was declined in many education centers due to the genre. In one interview by Nathaniel Rich & Christopher Lehmann-Haupt in *The Paris Review* in 2006, one of the questions was *Would you say then that this fear is the main subject of your fiction?* And the answer of Stephen King was:

I'd say that what I do is like a crack in the mirror. If you go back over the books from *Carrie* on up, what you see is an observation of ordinary middle-class American life as it's lived at the time that particular book was written. In every life you get to a point

where you have to deal with something that's inexplicable to you, whether it's the doctor saying you have cancer or a prank phone call. So whether you talk about ghosts or vampires or Nazi war criminals living down the block, we're still talking about the same thing, which is an intrusion of the extraordinary into ordinary life and how we deal with it. What that shows about our character and our interactions with others and the society we live in interests me a lot more than monsters and vampires and ghouls and ghosts modern era, Stephen King has decided to get adapted to the advantages of the technology. From 2000 forward, he started to publish some new stories online. He knows that the new generations get bored easily of reading and it's not popular as it used to be many years ago. A platform used by him is Amazon Kindle (Lehmann Haupt, 2006, p. 89).

On the other hand, Stephen King clarifies that in every story, there is a background in which the story was inspired, a hidden message related to a social, cultural, or political issue in society. The dark fantasy and science fiction genre allows a writer to give their opinion, point of view, and beliefs about a topic or tell the truth about some historical event that people do not like to discuss. In the previous interview mentioned by Nathaniel Rich & Christopher Lehmann-Haupt in *The Paris Review* in 2006, another question was *What do you think it is that we're afraid of?* Stephen clarifies the reason for using this type of genre:

I don't think there's anything that I'm not afraid of, on some level. But if you mean, what are *we* afraid of, as humans? Chaos. The outsider. We're afraid of change. We're afraid of disruption, and that is what I'm interested in. I mean, there are a lot of people whose writing I really love—one of them is the American poet Philip Rooth—who writes about ordinary life straight up, but I just can't do that.

I once wrote a short novel called *The Mist*. It's about this mist that rolls in and covers a

town, and the story follows a number of people who are trapped in a supermarket.

There's a woman in the checkout line who's got this box of mushrooms. When she walks to the window to see the mist coming in, the manager takes them from her. And she tells him, Give me back my mushies.

We're terrified of disruption. We're afraid that somebody's going to steal our mushrooms in the checkout line (p. 92).

Stephen King clarifies that human fear of something can be ourselves, a change in our lifestyle, society, workplace, etc. People do not deal with problems, do not take new risks for fear of the consequences, and live a monotonous life. He suggests that people prefer a peaceful lifestyle before making a decision that can cause a tornado of events and change the course of our lives. *The story Certain Dark Things* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia (2016) was published in the United States. The principal focus is seeing how different races try to live together in the same place and how the people who work in the Government treat the rest of the society as worthless. The principal character chooses to be exposed and makes some decisions to give a conclusion to their life, analyzing the role of the main character and their behavior during the plot.

In conclusion, the story of *The Green Mile* is based on an actual historical event in America around the 15th century; at that time, discrimination and racism were more powerful than the Government itself to judge people, especially the black community. Stephen King decides to "twist" the story by adding the genre of dark fantasy and science fiction to tell the reality of those times. The real victim was George Stinney Jr, who used to live in South California. His case was the most horrifying and cruel in history. He was the youngest person to be executed in the electric chair, only fourteen years old. The victims, as well as two sisters that used to live close to

George's house, were found, and the police took him. He did not have the opportunity to defend himself because nobody was present in his trial, and his family could not see him.

The innocence of George is represented in the character of John Coffey through his personality, expressing that his behavior acting as a child does not fit with his big body. Besides, giving the character supernatural power help to understand who the real murderers are and who the innocent ones are, also showing that justice always comes to those who are evil in one way or another. Sometimes it needs to be done by oneself. In the book, the principal purpose of the author is to demonstrate the injustice in society and how people judge others by their skin color or social class without considering opinions or evidence. Plus, the execution of innocent people when the real criminals do not face justice and receive the punishment they deserve.

In the modern era in 2014, thanks to technological improvements, real evidence was found to demonstrate Georges' innocence. Now people who work in the area of crimes have more opportunities to demonstrate who the real guiltiest are and bring a sense of justice and peace to the family of the victims. Every story is based on an event that happened in real life that marked the evolution of society, personal experiences that changed our lifestyle, or the environment.

Plot

The story of the Green Mile is told by one of the main characters Paul Edgecombe, the principal narrator of the story, in which all his actions, thoughts, and feeling are detailed in the reading. The whole story is seen through his eyes, allowing the readers to connect with the character and get deep into the story.

Paul Edgecombe is the officer in charge of taking care of the E block, one hall of the prison called Could Mountain Penitentiary. This hall is the principal scene of the story, in which all the walls are green in color but very deteriorated in the cells; just a few prisoners are there waiting for the moment of their execution.

First, the story begins with Paul Edgecombe as an old man passing his golden years in an almshouse. A movie called *Top Hat* is present, and he gets emotional. His friend Elaine asks him why he gets so sensitive with a movie. He explains to her that the movie reminds him of when he worked as a guard in prison and oversaw a hall with his friends and how he executed an innocent man, an angel of God, so he starts to remember his life and tells the story to Elaine.

This principal officer works with four more men; the first is his best friend, who has worked with him for many years. His name is Brutus “Mole” Howell, a trustworthy co-worker who never hesitates to express his feelings and opinions about a situation. The second man is Dean Stanton, the youngest officer in the prison that shows compassion when a person is executed. The third man is Harry Terwilliger, the oldest officer. Finally, the last man comes from a family with political power, so they are important in society, and he enjoys taking advantage of it. His personality is selfish and cruel to the prisoners. He does not like doing his job and wants others to do it for him. He walks around with vibes as the prison boss and hates to receive orders. He is known as Percy Wetmore.

The protagonist is John Coffey, a black man that is found guilty of the murder of twin girls. He is the most peaceful and quiet prisoner. He dislikes getting in trouble, so he usually does not speak and hates darkness. But his personality does not fit with his body. He is tall and big to the point that he is compared to Samson. He looks strong as if he can rip apart the chains

of his wrists and ankles and push away all the guards with one hand. His clothes are short compared to the size of his body, and his eyes are pure, like his soul, as if he were a child. John Coffey has a gift that he used for good, but it is too painful and sad for him. He has the power to take away the illness if it is not severe; also, he can cure wounds, but only if the person is still alive. He does not have the power to bring back people from death.

One of the prisoners, Eduard “Del” Delacroix, has a pet which a rat is called Mr. Jingles, that he considers his best friend. He ends up making a friendship with John, but one day Del is attacked by Percy Wetmore, breaking his fingers, and killing the rat. John requests Officer Paul Edgecombe to give him the rat, which he saves. This is the first time John shows his powers to someone else. This healing is seen as bright light, almost yellow, with a little bit of white.

In the end, prisoner Del was brutally executed in the electric chair because Officer Percy Wetmore did not put the sponge in the water, making the electricity burn the body until he dies calcinated, causing a horrible smell of toasted skin and making everybody get out of the room. At the same time, John Coffey is holding the mouse Mr., Jingles and is also electrocuted. This causes him to jump out of John’s hands and run away. At the beginning of the execution, he does not want to look because of the loudest screams of pain of the prisoner. Still, Officer Paul Edgecombe forces him to look because he was responsible for that situation and has to face it.

The second time John Coffey shows his power to the prison guards, Paul Edgecombe and Brutus “Mole” Howell, was when both decide to be taken out of jail and visit the director Harold “Hal” Moores, whose wife is dying due to a brain tumor. The other two officers did not agree to take John out of prison, but in the end, they decided to accept it but did not get involved too much in the plan. Initially, Hal was unsure if he could trust a criminal, but he trusted his co-workers. Once John takes away the illness of the lady called Melinda Moores, the director’s

wife, he offered his gratitude and apologized for judging him. The woman thanks John by giving him a medal and wishing him good luck, knowing he is a good person living in a cruel society.

Regarding this illness, instead of spilling it out, John decides to keep it inside him, which provokes make him feel sick. The officers taught him it was a way to escape to the electric chair, which is a painful death, and have a natural, more peaceful one. Then, when they return to the prison, John grabs Officer Percy Wetmore and transmitted to him, turning his eyes black. The illness looks like dark black smoke transmitted through the mouth.

This causes the officer to go insane, and he ends up killing one of the prisoners, William “Wild Bill” Wharton, by shooting him, who was responsible for the murder and rape of the girls because he used to work on the farm where girls lived. Nevertheless, at the crime scene, John was found, and even though he was trying to save them, it was too late, and people in town thought he was responsible and were sent to death. In prison, Wild Bill is there for other crimes because there was no evidence making him guilty of the murder of the girls. His attitude is racist and vulgar towards the other prisoners and the guards.

After this incident, Officer Percy Wetmore was locked up in a special room at the end of the hall called “the isolated room”, but due to the memories in his head, which are all the crimes Wild Bill committed and he shot him because it was the first time, he kills someone, he was not able to handle it and was taken to a mental hospital.

John Coffey has his way of making justice, to make sure those who are evil receive what they deserve a punishment. He does it indirectly, but since he lives in a society where people judge by skin color and social class, he does not have another option. He shows no regret for his action, but at the same time, he is tired of dealing with so much evil and injustice. He is dealing

with so many negative emotions and cruel events in his mind that he desires mental and spiritual peace.

Officer Paul Edgecombe knows the truth about John's actions. He was trying to save the girls; the real murderer was Wild Bill. Then Officer Paul tells his co-worker Brutus "Mole" Howell, and he believes him because he knows about the power of John and his personality, so together decide to create a plan to take him out the prison for him to be free. Both officers do not want to execute an innocent man. They decide to face the consequences, even if this means losing their jobs forever or something worse, before sacrificing John.

On the other hand, John is not sad because of his fate or destiny. He is waiting for it to happen. Besides, he shares his desire to finally rest in peace with Officer Paul Edgecombe because he carries a big weight on his shoulder and does not want it anymore. Even though Officer Paul Edgecombe still tries to persuade him to escape from prison and the death penalty, he makes clear that as a man of faith, he cannot see how they can condemn one of the angels of God and that if they do it, they must receive a punishment. John keeps firm in his decision to accept his judgment because this is the only way he would be free, and he mentions to the officer that he would receive a punishment since he wishes it.

A few days before the execution of John comes, Officer Paul Edgecombe, Brutus "Mole" Howell, and Dean Stanton decide to make one of his wishes real, to watch a movie called *Top Hat* which at that time was in a black and white film. Everybody enjoys those few moments since John is the last criminal to be executed in the hall of Green Mile, and the silence would be present again. The day of the execution comes, and John requests that his head not be covered with black tissue because he fears darkness. His wish is accomplished, and all the officers are sad about this event.

Paul Edgecombe cannot stand what he will face since he is in charge of giving the order to turn on the electric chair. Dean Stanton cries for John. Harry Terwilliger tries not to look at the tragic event, and Brutus “Mole” Howell cannot speak due to the situation. The parents of the victims are present, as well as some townspeople and a priest that prays for John’s soul, which is a common custom every time an execution occurs. The idea is that their soul can find their way to where they belong, in this case, Hell, or that God has mercy for them and allows them to go to Heaven if they regret their sins on Earth.

At the end of the story, the main character, Officer Paul Edgecombe, who is an old man, tells his friend Elaine how this supposed criminal, John Coffey changed his perspective of not judging someone by their appearance before you get to know them, also how this man cured him for the urinary infection that was the moment he realizes John can do miracles and he started doubting if he killed and raped those girls.

He mentioned that the execution of John Coffey was the last one he participated in, and he decided to retire; that was the end of his career as an officer in prison. This event had so much impact on his life in a sentimental, spiritual, and religious way that he could not continue working in the Green Mile.

After he was cured, he was blessed with a longer life. He expresses that he is 108 years old and will probably live more. He expresses his sadness to his friend Elaine saying that she would die first, leaving him alone just like all his co-workers in that time who died before him and taking his story to the grave. Indeed, she died first. Paul goes to her funeral and realizes there is no one else to remember or tell his life story.

Moreover, the pet of the prisoner Mr. Jingles who was a rat, is also alive after all these years. Paul Edgecombe was taking care of it because it was also blessed with a longer life after John saved it. He expresses that this is his punishment after killing one of the angels of God, seeing how everybody leaves you behind and you stay living alone without knowing when it will be your last day of life. He suffers every day, seeing how all his friends are resting in peace, having the opportunity to finally put an end to their life while he is still waiting for that moment in which his punishment be already complete.

Chapter III. Methodological Framework

In this chapter of the investigation, the steps of how the information is recollected and analyze would be explained. The main purpose is to answer the research question regarding the book *The Green Mile* of Stephen King, focusing on the main objectives.

Moreover, several definitions will be given for some concepts regarding the methods used to obtain the information. These methods require interaction with other people with previous knowledge about the topic, and their opinions and ideas are the keys to find an answer to the problem.

Online platforms have a crucial role in collecting and interpreting information; many sources are found on the Internet for a better comprehension of the topic in a brief way without the complex vocabulary to the people who will participate.

Research Approach

A general outline of the elements helps to develop the ideas into a valid research project. Focusing on a particular period, a particular part of the world, or a particular group of people helps develop the topic further.

The research approach applied to this project is qualitative research, as the same is demonstrated through texts and paragraphs sorted out by investigation. It is used to understand ideas, thoughts, and the author's experiences. This type of research allows the readers to gather different points of view on a current topic that is not well understood within society because it is not happening anymore; it is better not to pay attention to past events.

This project's qualitative methods include anonymous answers with open-ended questions in a survey, observations described in texts, and research reviews that go from concepts and theories made through trustful sources. Qualitative research is a type of approach that includes an inquiry that aims to learn more about this literary report in its natural setting, which is literature. It focuses more on "what" or "why" instead of "where" or "how", and it is based on students who have heard or read about this topic that still is in our society but in other parts of the world.

This work's qualitative nature is focused on understanding human beliefs from an informative perspective. Qualitative research can be used to learn how students perceive and interpret human behavior in society based on social and cultural circumstances. The natural setting here is fed right out of the dark fantasy genre.

Qualitative researches urge those being investigated to speak for themselves and to share their opinions through words and other means. As a result, qualitative research is a collaborative effort in which the students being researched give a lesson to the researcher about historical events and genres. The collected data theory evolves as part of the research process, coming from the data as it is gathered, with more results along the process.

Research Design

Generally speaking, the plan or strategy of the study aims at a certain group of society: university students. At the same time, this plan has a solution: the exposure of an old topic that is sometimes silent. By doing this, the information presented will show how society has changed people's beliefs over the past years. In the past, executions used to be seen as a normal and fair punishment for criminals and are almost present as a show because people used to go to see this event. It is no longer a part of society in the modern era.

At this point, when the issues themselves are addressed, a moment for the readers that are affected will be put on the table. The researcher will give the readers truthful information to understand the main topic of the investigation. Some limitations or obstacles can be present during the investigation, but explaining in detail the main objective the answers will follow to complete the investigation.

This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of exposing society's dark side. Many years ago, the young population did not know at all or had little knowledge of the evolution in society. The principal objective is to reveal the consequences of being different in a society that was racist and discriminatory, especially with black people.

The actions taken within this project were based on a survey and extensive research on websites that document situations related to death penalty topics and the psychological part. The results show how much knowledge people know about history. At the same time, the researcher wants to explore how readers can catch the real message of society, and, at the same time, the author wants to transmit to society, indirectly, the negative results of biased injustice using different types of genres in literature instead of an academic written work.

Information Sources

The information provided in this investigation comes from different sources. The antecedents are from five projects of investigation of different writers, supporting the historical approach when a literary analysis of a book is made. Many concepts are given with their categories and examples from trustable sources. Moreover, fifteen books are mentioned from different authors, especially in the dark fantasy genre of literature. These books provide information on how

the author can transmit a message throughout a fictional world and tell a historical fact. A brief biography gives quotes from an interview for in-depth information about the books.

All this information comes with their respective references of the different websites in which the information was taken as a principal source to complete and support this investigation.

Analysis Categories

The analysis of information can be done through two types of research. The first one is quantitative, which means to prove a theory or hypothesis; it requires numbers shown in graphics to be analyzed, such as statistics. Mathematics is the principal tool for analyzing information. Some methods used are online surveys or in person with questions of multiple choice for several answers, which can include some steps of the scientific process like observations and experimentation.

The other is the qualitative research which regards understanding concepts or ideas in a specific topic that are understandable or complex. This requires written answers, not numbers; everything would be expressed in words. All the information would be summarized and categorized for a better understanding. Some methods used are interviews with open-ended questions because this type of research does not need many answers, group discussion, and literature review, which means investigating other people's works.

Data Collection Instruments

This survey would be sent in English, especially to university students that have a good command of English as a second language. Around ten people will participate in this survey. At

the top of the survey, a brief description of the purpose and who would analyze this information must be explained so the interviewers and interviewees can trust this procedure.

Another way to collect information will be through a Group Discussion, a virtual meeting Zoom platform in which around 10 to 5 people will share their opinions about the movie and the book *The Green Mile*. Many aspects will be discussed, for example, the role of the characters and their decisions, the cinematographic changes, the ending, and the social and cultural facts of the society. The idea is that around ten people would be interviewed, but if some limitations were present, they would at least be able to count 5 people for the discussion without counting the session's host.

Another element that will be used to gather the information is to establish a comparison between what happens in the novel with certain historical facts in the history of America. In this case, the researcher will establish crossed relations between what happens in the novel (in the plot and the character's opinions) and situations that have taken place in modern society. Among them are how black people are considered guilty of all crimes just because their skin color differs or how they have fought to change their rights and position in society through the years. Besides, the researcher has emphasized how stereotypes like being tall, husky, and strong can be associated with being able to kill and destroy and not with tenderness and love, creating an antithesis of these opinions in the novel. The text shows how white people have discovered that these stereotypes are false and how they have treated black people is also wrong. This can be seen historically speaking in historical movements like Black Lives Matter and in the text itself when many characters recognize the tenderness and humane feelings of the main characters. Then they feel that having condemned him to the electric chair has been unfair and that they will kill an angel, an innocent person who is even worthier of life than others.

Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

The information will be analyzed through an online survey in the platform Google Drive with the option of “Forms”, and it will be designed according to our topic with the creation of 10 questions. It will be a selection of multiple choice, some Yes/No questions and short answers to make it quick and easy, with a configuration in which every answer is already submitted to a diagram regarding their response. The interviewees will not be able to see this diagram, only the person who made it, and at the end of the week, the results will be easily interpreted by giving numbers and percentages.

The data collection will take three days. We are doing this research in Costa Rica’s capital, San Jose. The measurable time predicted to last is three days since the survey was sent to different places in San Jose. First, it was sent to the east zone of San Jose, and the remaining days were sent to the west part of San Jose.

Chapter IV. Data Analysis

In this chapter of the investigation regarding the literary analysis of the book *The Green Mile* by Stephen King, the literary device or approach used for analyzing the book will be explained to understand the author's criticism better. This method is chosen based on the genre and message of the book.

In addition, a comparison between some theories in which the literary work was done, some parts of the book's story are not always made by imagination and the author creates the story based on historical facts.

Other important elements that would be explained are the themes, motifs, and symbols but not in terms of the concepts in this part of the investigation. These elements refer to the ones that appear in the book and their meaning in the story to understand the main character's role, behavior, relationship with other characters, and the hidden message transmitted by the author.

Moreover, the results from the survey will be analyzed question per question to find different or similar results expected to form the problem statement and conclude the investigation. Each question will be represented by a graphic and an explanation of the results according to the book's main concept.

Approaches to the Investigation

An approach is an academic method conformed by a series of steps and theories to analyze a literary work. This means what is going to be the focus of the critique. One specific approach is used to interpret and judge a piece of writing for creating an essay or book report. The

setting or the scenarios can give clues about the most convenient approach to understanding the message the author wants to transmit to the readers.

In literature, as mentioned above, there are different types of approaches: Formalist criticism, Deconstructionist criticism, Historical criticism, Inter-textual criticism, Reader-response criticism, Mimetic criticism, Symbolic or Symbolic or Archetypal criticism, psychological criticism, Marxist criticism, and Feminist criticism.

In this investigation, the approach chosen for analyzing the book *The Green Mile* by Stephen King is historical criticism. This regards to focus on the social, cultural, and historical events that were the basis for creating the story, investigating the key events for discovering the hidden message that it is transmitted not as a documentary but as a fictional story; this type of approach is also used to criticize about society rules, stereotypes, or abuse of power by the Government or religion. The chapters will be seen from a historical point of view following the theories versus the literary work to reinforce the analysis through a historical vision.

Theories vs. literary work

Part 3, Chapter 2

The researcher has used information about the development of racism and its justices from the book *Death by racism* by S. Barber Lancet, pages 2 to 80, to establish the connections between what happens in the novel and how the characters perceive the situations confronted by Coffey because he is black, and the situations that have taken place in the United States regarding racism and the fight of black people to obtain the same Human Rights that are given to white people. Since 1619, thousands, even millions of black people, were forced to leave Africa to serve as slaves in America. They were enslaved under the theory that they were not even human.

White people considered themselves privileged by God with more authority and power to take advantage of those who were considered weak and inferior. After the Civil War, racism augmented in the United States. The racist legacy persisted since slaves were liberated and obtained certain rights, but not all rights.

Despite resistance movements like The Montgomery Bus Boycott, The Selma to Montgomery March and the Black Lives Matter movement, black people are still treated as *negroes*, even *niggers* who do not deserve rights in many states. Even up to 1916, black Americans continued suffering discrimination. Being black was considered uneducated, a criminal, and a person that menaced white integrity. There were movements like the Harlem Renaissance and people like Marcus Garvey who tried to grant black people the rights they deserved. Many authors have used the idea of seeing the black character as the person who is hurt, as in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, or as the black man who is sure to be the outlaw or the criminal without any doubt, as it is developed in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Garvey claimed that black people could not wait for justice coming from white people since democratic principles belong only to those who are white. In this chapter, the character of Percy Wetmore is practically imbued with all these historical racist stereotypes. He is guilty, without any doubt, but he will not be punished because he is white. He is described as an evil man that enjoys hurting others. He feels superior to the rest of his co-workers and prisoners of the Green Mile. His attitude and personality make him a representation of the evilness in the world of those who cannot defend themselves. He shows a confident attitude since his family works in the political arena. He feels untouchable and with the right to threaten others. This character makes an illusion that humans take pleasure in making others suffer, including animals, and the satisfaction of seeing the pain on other people's faces shows that some people do not have feelings of compassion or regrets.

Percy Wetmore also shows the reader how powerful he feels since he is a prison guard; from his point of view, the prisoners have to be treated as they are, criminals and nothing more. Stephen King shows to the reader that characters like Percy Wetmore represent the cruelty of humans in a world in which humans right were not present in jails even though the death penalty was verdict to the prisoners, plus the racist comments to black people, which was a “common” behavior during the Great Depression. How some people do not like to follow the rules and do whatever they want without receiving a punishment just because they have some connections with people in the Government.

This represents an abuse of power. This interconnection of events can be established with historical facts like the murder of Martin Luther King in the ‘60s or how people treated Marcus Garvey and disagreed on his fight to obtain more rights for black people. The novel shows how black people are judged, mistreated, and condemned to death even when there is not enough evidence to prove they are guilty. This situation reminds the reader of cases like Carlos DeLuna, convicted in 1983 and executed in 1989, or Leo Jones, convicted in Florida in 1981 and executed in 1998, or Troy Davis, convicted in Georgia in 1991 and executed in 2011. The novel also establishes connections between the historical opinions generated about the human rights of prisoners and the ways they must be punished, putting into doubt if the electric chair is an adequate method to apply “justice” to those who have broken the law.

The novel shows this method as inhumane, as a way of torturing a human being and as a grotesque torture that may belong more to the Medieval Times than to the proclaimed establishment of Human Rights in the Twentieth Century. All these connections are established in the

novel and analyzed as part of the historical development of the American society but fictionalized through mythological archetypes and psychological symbols, themes, and motifs to create a metaphor of how American society has functioned in the last two centuries.

Part 3, Chapter 3

In this chapter, John Coffey is considered evil because he is black. He is considered guilty of having committed a crime without any evidence. The only evidence is the color of his skin, as it happened with Martin Luther King, who was considered guilty of conspiracy against the Law, or as it happened to Malcolm X for defending his religious beliefs. John Coffey heals Paul Edgecombe's urinary infection by putting his hand on Paul's body. This action makes Paul feel an electric shock all over his body with a little pain, and then he feels released, with no more pain, and his body feels light. John Coffey represents God's angels and miracles, showing how God chooses those people with a pure soul to help others who deserve it. Religion is present during the story. It is believed that God is fair and punishes criminals and rewards the good ones; at the same time, evilness is present not a strange force but in people who enjoy making others suffer. Stephen King shows how the power of healing others is in the hands of people with a pure heart and honest intentions of helping others and how God makes justice by punishing sinners. The hands of John Coffey make an illusion of Jesus of Nazareth's hands to heal the sick people during his visit to Jerusalem while giving a second opportunity to live to those who die in unfair situations. These actions are called miracles.

The difference between Jesus and John Coffey is after the healing, he starts coughing and spitting out little black bees that disappear in the air in seconds, these "black cloud" is a representation of the evilness inside another person's body every time John Coffey spit it out, and he

feels exhausted and sleeps to recover his strength. Moreover, he can see what this person suffers every time he heals someone. This is why he accepts his fate of being sentenced to the death penalty for ending his internal suffering, a sacrifice he is prepared to accept, similar to the sacrifice Jesus made to forgive all our sins.

The presentation of John Coffey as a Christ figure may be seen as a metaphor for the Black Power Movement that in 1966 emphasized self-definition through nonviolence. African Americans can only defend themselves and look for ways to escape from white injustice since the institutions of white America are inherently racist, in the same way as Coffey confronts it during his stay in prison. He is black, and the prison's rules, visions, and punishments are white. This image of Coffey as a noble giant can also be a historical connection with the historical archetype of the Noble Savage who has always been mistreated, even though he shows that he is capable of loving, of being a good human being like any other human being who is white, black or of any other race. This mythological and social archetype is also perceived in this novel when Coffey is seen as a good human being willing to help those around him. He cures people physically, psychologically and even spiritually, and after his death, the guards feel that they have committed a crime and have to pay for it with their own life. Society has proven unfair because it has not treated everyone the same way.

Part 5, Chapter 5

In this chapter of the story, John Coffey is taken out of the prison to help Melinda Moores, the wife of the boss of the Cold Mountains Penitentiary, and John Coffey knows he is going to be out for a moment a "ride" as he called, he also knows he is going to help a lady when

the guards ask them how he knows. He said he did not know, he could feel it, but it is hard to explain in words. This moment reflects how God, like Jesus, gives John Coffey his gift of healing others, a feeling for knowing when someone needs his help, someone suffering and dying due to a disease or other people's fault. This is not a "Sixth sense". It is God showing the way to their angels for helping others, just in the same way he guided Moses to the Promised Land and Joshua to continue the journey across the Jordan River. Another is Peter, the fisherman, to transmit Jesus's rules and told his story about his miracles and sacrifice in different lands and towns.

Again, these events can be seen as historical connections between the theories and desires of Marcus Garvey in 1966 or to the claims of Martin Luther King for a more just and equal society for everybody. From 1950 to 1980, the black population increased, but not their rights, even though there were other "angels" in modern society that gave hope to black Americans, like Jesse Jackson, who started a crusade for black civil rights. John Coffey is practically doing in prison what Jackson did in thousands of meetings in which white people participated and learned about the value of Black Americas in a White society and how color is just a characteristic that should not determine the value of a human being. All these elements could have served as the historical background of the novel. They could have inspired the writer to create this novel. Still, it is a fact that the reader perceives these stereotypes and historical events as a social and historical intertext that leads us to apply the historical approach to this novel.

Part 5, Chapter 8

In this chapter of the story John Coffey already heals Melinda Morres of her disease; when she feels better, she asks for his name and says she saw him in a dream, but she could not see his face. She describes a dark place where she felt lost and alone, but they found each other.

This dream can be an allusion to a sign of God, showing her that an angel is there for her and willing to help her get rid of her suffering and finally have a peaceful life. Seeing someone in your dreams that you have not seen before indicates that God is aware of us in our darkest moments and even takes the time. He is there to send an angel to our rescue. Also, she expresses that she does not remember anything from the last weeks. There are no memories of her moments of illness. God's power is far from human understanding, and miracles are real, but not everybody can be blessed with such a gift or receive help in desperate moments.

All these elements also remind us of a character like Uncle Tom, who was a very good person, but who was mistreated unfairly by most of his owners till he died unfairly. Both cases show a mythological sacrificial goat that cleans with his blood the white race's sins and injustices that have not given black people the right position in society. Coffey is seen in this novel as a victim of racism. The reader can establish immediate connections with historical cases like the one that occurred in Arkansas on May 1st, 2020, in which Brent D'Andrew was killed by the police who arrived at the house of a woman who reported not feeling safe with Martin's presence because he was black. The police officers forced their way into D'Andrew's apartment after supposedly hearing gunshots and returning fire. There was never evidence that D'Andrew started a shooting in this place. The boy died at the hospital, mostly because he was black (Barber, 2020). This and other cases are immediately interrelated by the reader when he reads this text as part of the historical references of the novel of cases that have been quite similar to the one confronted by Coffey.

To carry out this investigation, the researcher has also prepared the following chart in which she shows other mechanisms to obtain information not only from the historical events that have been recorded in the last centuries but also through a questionnaire applied to university

students to investigate how they perceive the problem of racism and its consequences in modern societies, and to compare these situations with the ones that take place in the novel:

Purpose or objective	Instrument 1	Instrument 2	Instrument 3
To compare the events that happen with real life. How can it be done?	Survey 5 closed questions		
To explain the roles of the characters according to the timeline. What kind of results am I expecting?	Survey 5 closed questions		
To analyze the cinematographic changes of the film adaptation. How can I explain it?	Group discussion		
To analyze the historical events in the book <i>The Green Mile</i> using a historical approach. Investigation question			

Figure 1

Was the death penalty legal in America around the 20th century?

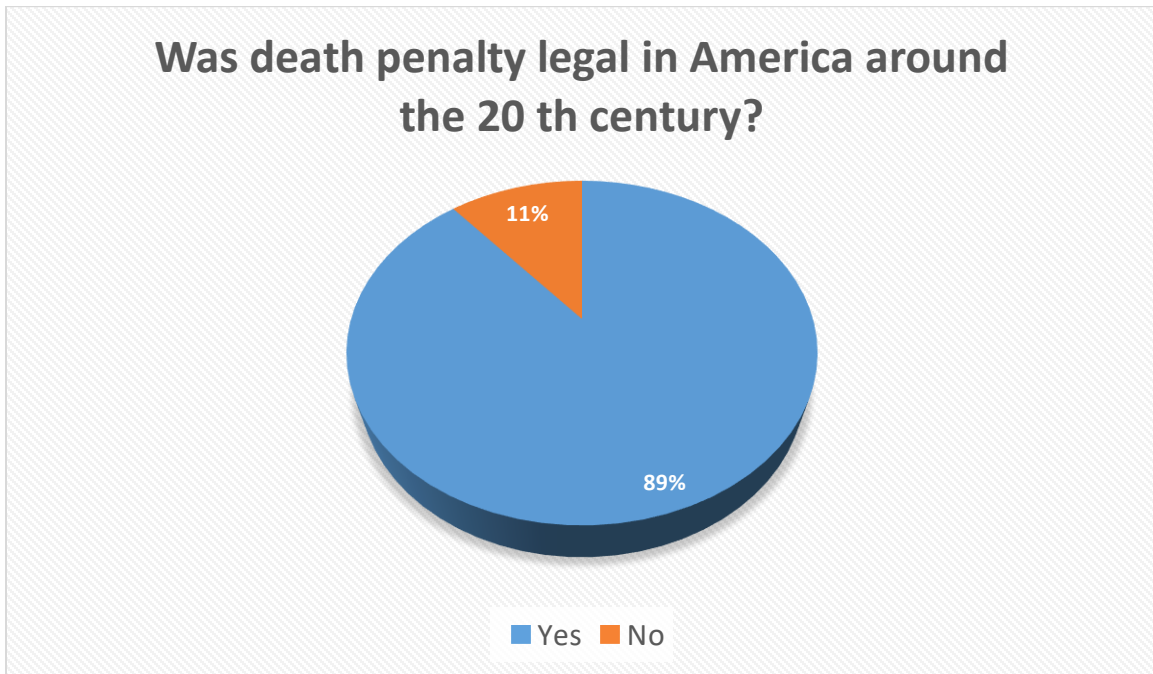


Figure 1 represents a sentence applied to prisoners during the 20th century in America called the death penalty; the color light blue represents the YES option chosen by eight people, equivalent to 89%. The orange color represents the NO option one person chose, equivalent to 11%. This explains that people were aware of the history of the United States in which many states jails applied the death penalty to those criminals who committed murder. Also, people were aware that during this time, the laws were more focused on making justice to the family and society and not on human rights. It is clear that now in modern society, people still remember what happened during the Great Depression and how many innocent and guilty lives were taken away.

Figure 2

What method was used to apply the death penalty?

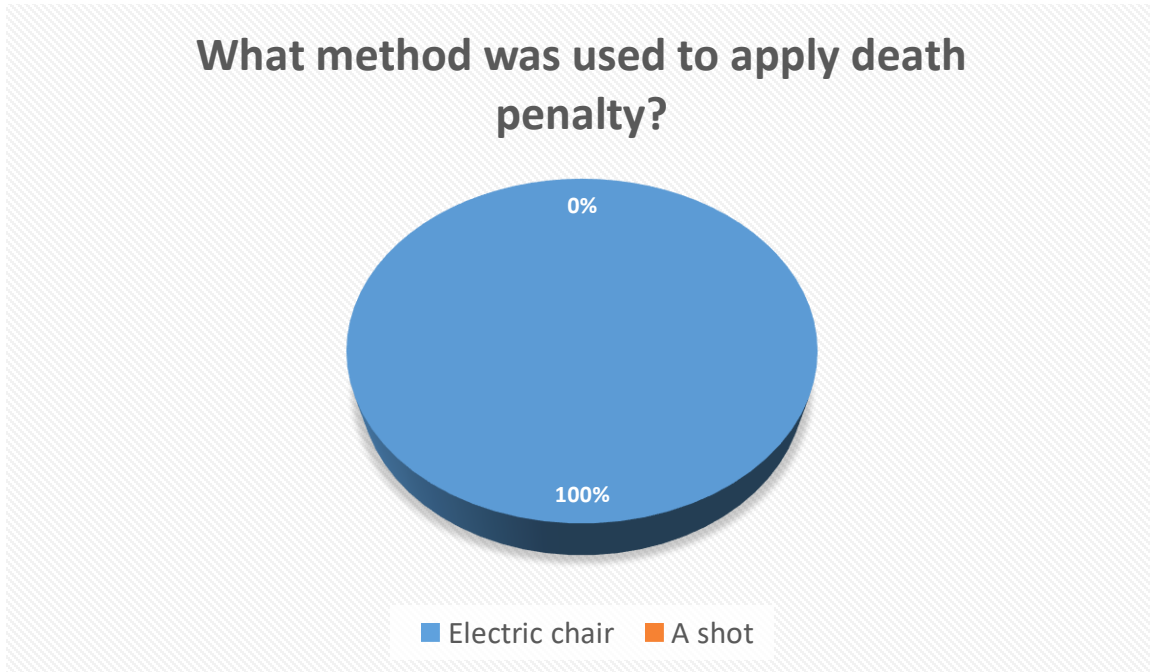


Figure 2 represents the specific method applied to prisoners when they were sentenced to the death penalty; the color light blue represents the YES option chosen by nine people, equivalent to 100%. The orange color represents the NO option chosen by 0 people, equivalent to 0%. This explains that people know the electric was the most “modern” method of the death penalty. As years passed, these methods were changing, and most modern methods of punishment were introduced, one of them being the lethal injection. The electric chair was the most effective method during this period. A painful death that involves electricity but is approved by society with the concept of making justice.

Figure 3

Was the death penalty carried out without an audience?

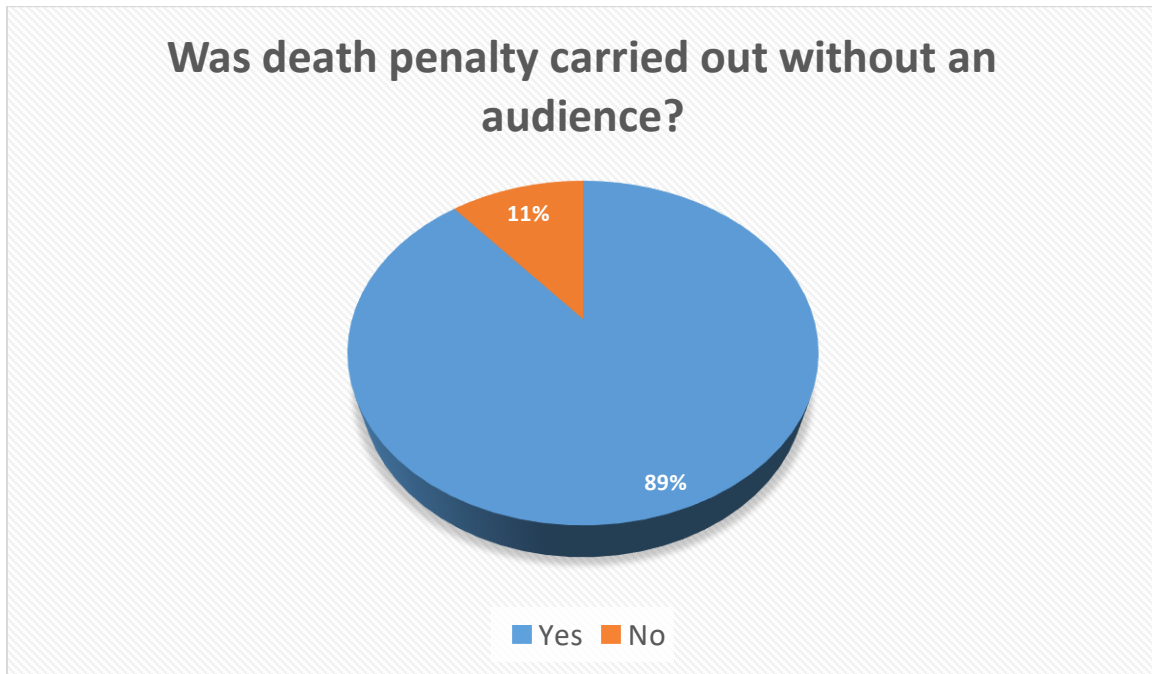


Figure 3 represents if the society was present during the execution. Light blue represents the YES option eight people chose, equivalent to 89%. The orange color represents the NO option one person chose, equivalent to 11%. This explains that family, relatives, friends, neighbors, and unknown people were present when the day of the death penalty came for the prisoner. This action was considered normal during this period; people were used to seeing a prisoner die while he was electrified since it was an act of justice, so, in other words, it was considered fair.

Figure 4

Was the execution of black people more “common” than that of white people?

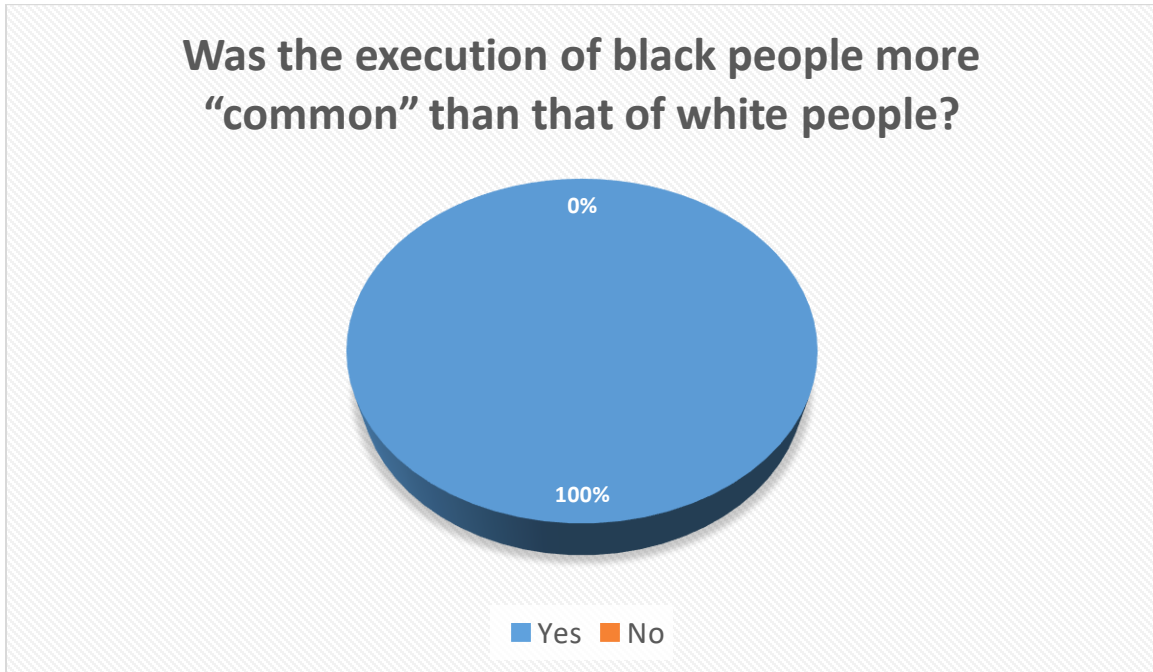


Figure 4 represents if the society was racial when it comes to sentencing a person to the death penalty; the color light blue represents the YES option chosen by nine people, equivalent to 100%. The color orange represents the NO option chosen by 0 people, equivalent to 0%. This explains that society blamed black people for more crimes than white people. During this period, the 20th century, racism was very common since black people lived in poverty more than the rest. Also, this type of behavior is seen in jails too; guards mistreat black people more than white people by making racist comments plus physical abuse.

Figure 5

During the 20th century... Were Innocent people executed?

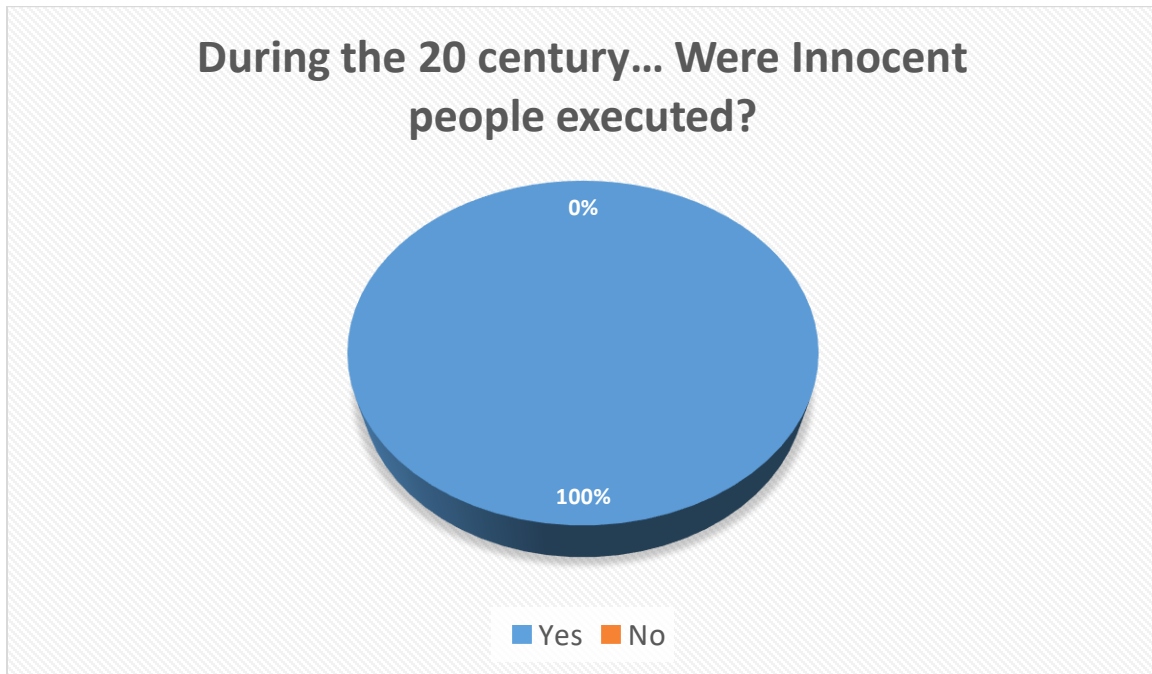


Figure 5 represents if society was fair enough to the people sent to jail. Light blue represents the YES option, chosen by nine people, equivalent to 100%. The orange color represents the NO option zero people chose, equivalent to 0%. This explains that “innocent until proven guilty” was not applied by society, during this period, if someone was caught at a crime scene was considered guilty even though that person did not get involved or was just trying to help. Many innocent people were sentenced to spend the rest of their life in prison doing labor work or sentence to the death penalty for the crimes of others; this was for white and black people.

Figure 6

Concerning the main character Paul Edgecombe... Did he use John Coffey with a selfish purpose?

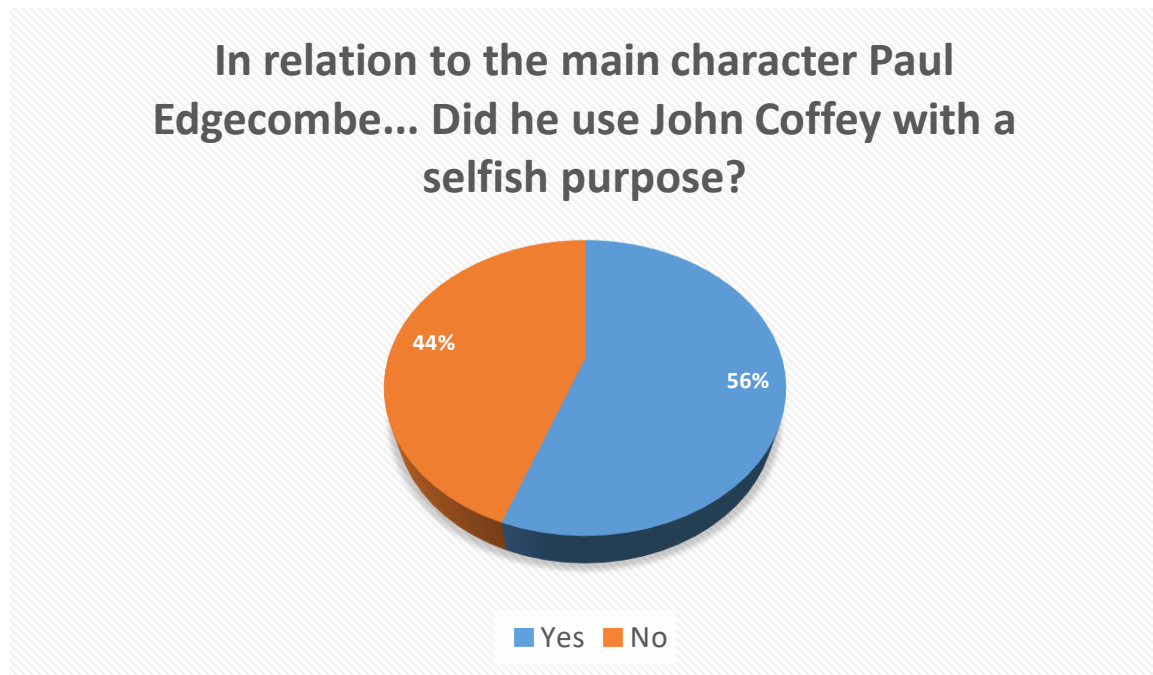


Figure 6 represents the real intentions of a person in desperate moments; the color light blue represents the YES option chosen by five people, equivalent to 56%. The orange color represents the NO option chosen by four people, equivalent to 44%. This explains that the main character used John Coffey's powers to help someone else with personal intentions instead of helping an innocent man to avoid his death penalty and show society who was the real murderer.

Figure 7

What were the reasons for John Coffey's actions?

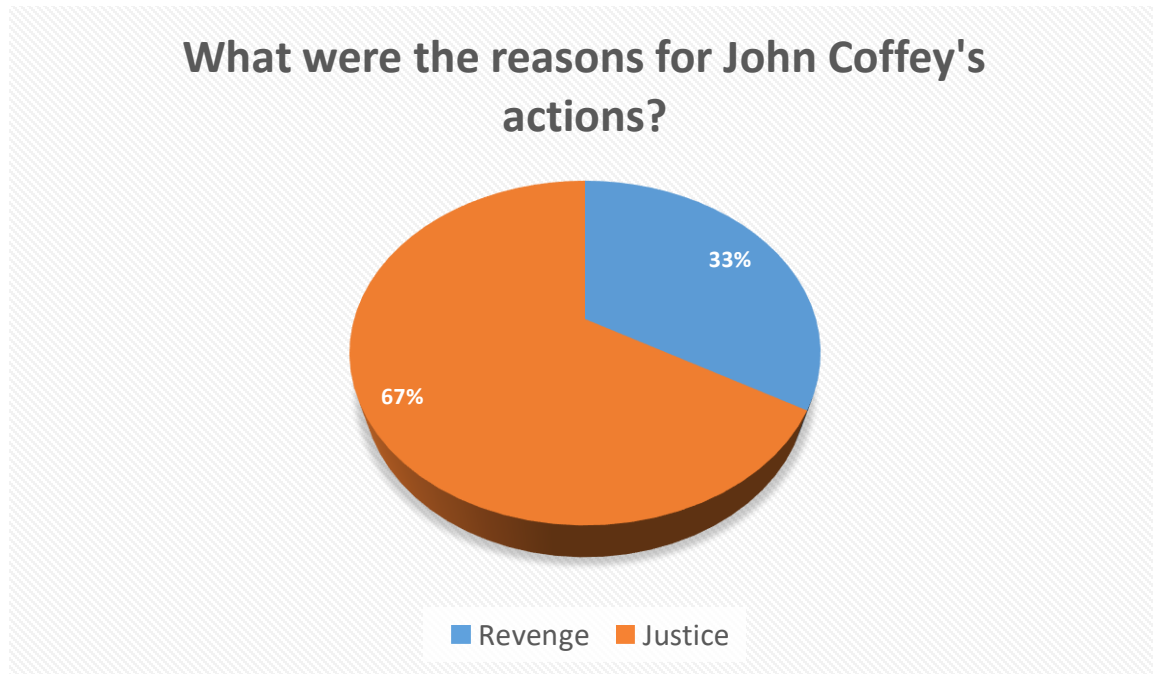


Figure 7 represents the real intentions of John Coffey's actions; light blue represents the Revenge option chosen by three people, equivalent to 33%. The orange color represents the Justice option six people chose, equivalent to 67%. This explains that John Coffey's actions are justified, and it was not with a selfish purpose; he decided to punish those who deserved it for their crime against innocent people. On the other hand, this character knew they were bad people and would continue doing so and hurting people if they continued living, so his actions can be considered an impulse of revenge.

Figure 8

Did Percy Wetmore deserve to be punished?

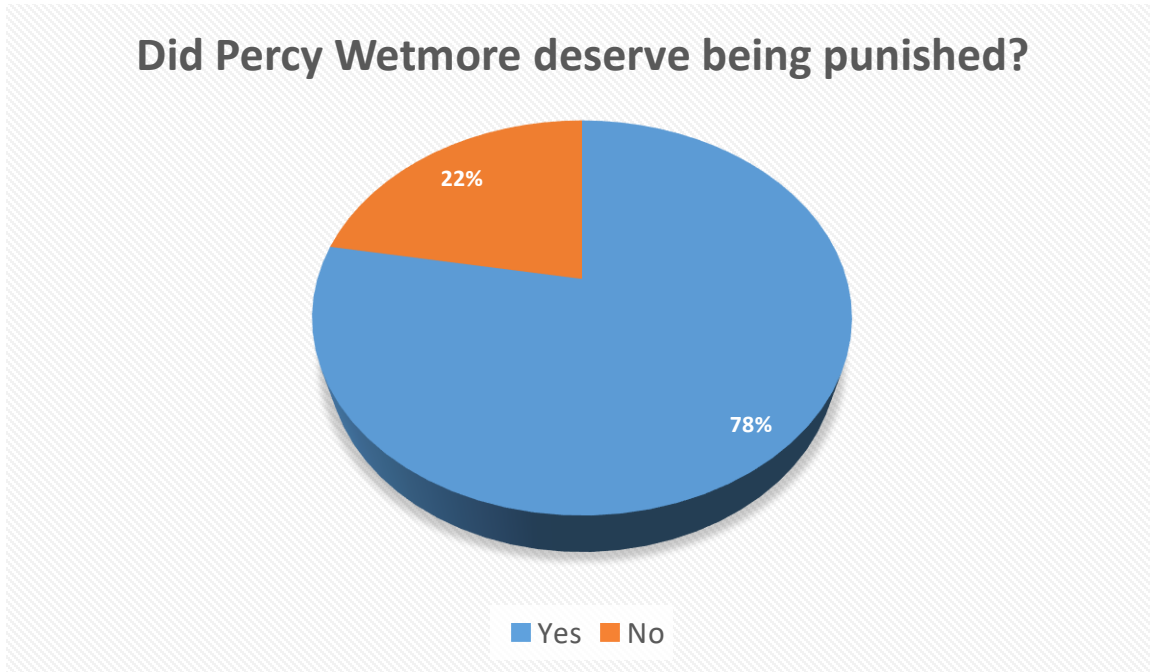


Figure 8 represents a fair punishment; light blue represents the YES option chosen by seven people, equivalent to 78%. The orange color represents the Justice option two people chose, equivalent to 22%. This explains that when a bad person hurts others who cannot defend themselves, they will always be punished; it can be seen as a “divine punishment” or even “karma”, but sooner or later, a bad person will pay for his actions. Percy Wetmore can be considered a bully due to his arrogant and selfish attitude; he enjoys hurting other prisoners and was responsible for Delacroix’s cruel death. Because of this evil action, John Coffey punished him. On the other hand, just his quitting his job in prison could be a fair enough ending for the people in the Green Mile.

Figure 9

Eduard “Del” Delacroix was a real murderer, but... Did he deserve a cruel death?

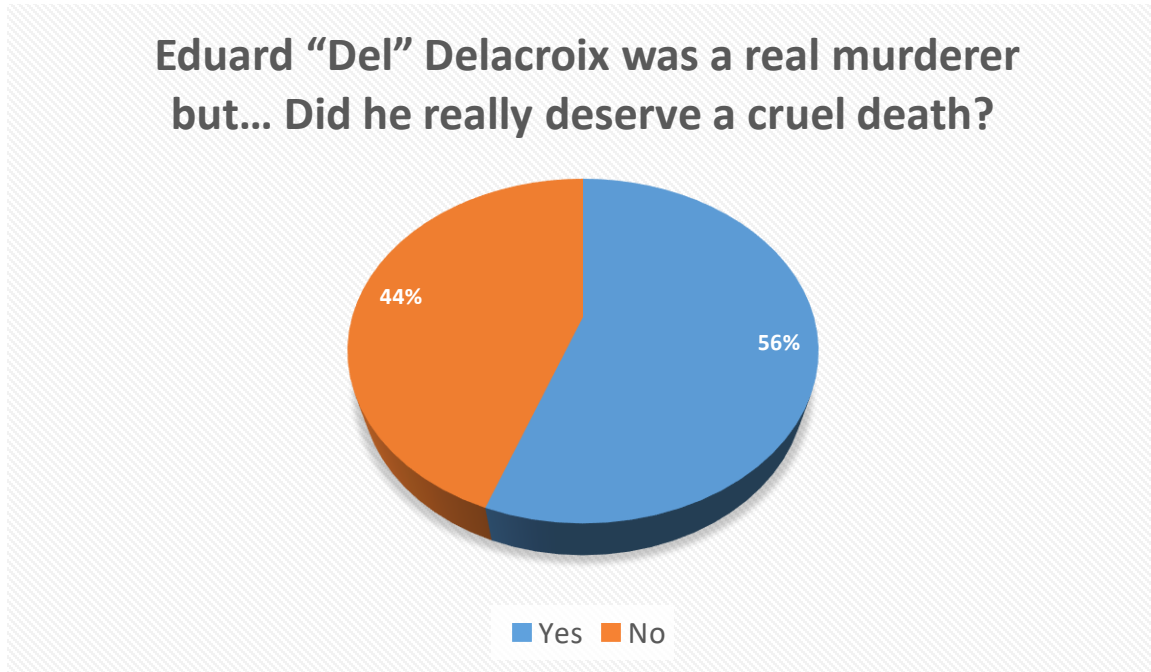


Figure 9 represents punishments; light blue represents the YES option five people chose, equivalent to 56%. The orange color represents the Justice option four people chose, equivalent to 44%. This explains that people who regret their crimes can have a second opportunity to be better, also taking into account the human rights in which nobody is in a position to tell another person when and how they will die. On the other hand, during this period, a murder can be forgiven. The death penalty was a fair punishment to eliminate the criminals living a peaceful life in society without paying for their actions.

Figure 10

Did Brutus "Brutal" Howell feel guilty about executing John Coffey?

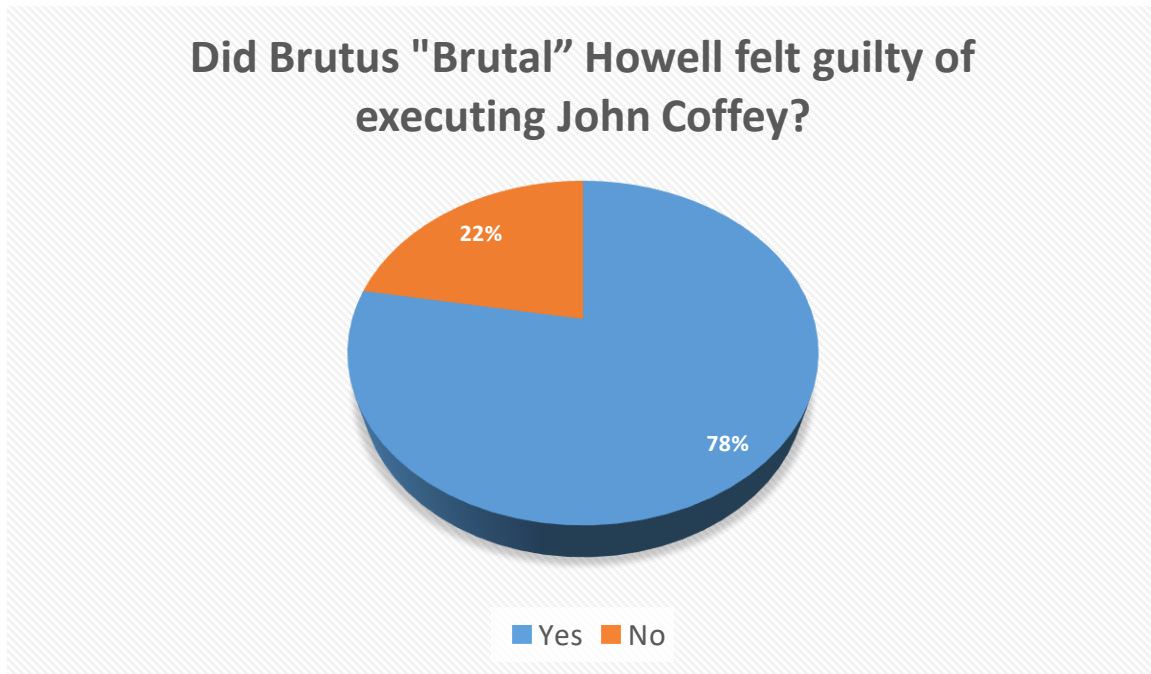


Figure 10 represents the feeling of a guard in prison; light blue represents the YES option chosen by seven people, equivalent to 78%. The orange color represents the Justice option two people chose, equivalent to 22%. This explains that after knowing the truth of the case of John Coffey, it is clear how the Government, the systems, and the law sentence innocent men to the death penalty without recollecting enough evidence and information about the crime. John Coffey was considered an angel of God, and being in charge of his death can be considered a sin. No matter how guilty you feel, you cannot change your fate.

Themes

A theme is the main idea in which the protagonist and the secondary characters are interconnected in connection with elements such as identity, philosophy, or morality in their way to achieve their goals. The theme is seen throughout the story, but it is not the plot; it is a theme connected to an idea of our world with a fictional one. In the book *The Green Mile* by Stephen King, several themes are mentioned related to real historical events.

First, death seems like a punishment for your crimes. Every prisoner stays in the E block, also called the “Green Mile”, because the walls have this color and wait for the moment of their execution. During these periods, the death penalty method was the electric chair, so the prisoner died by electrocution, which was legal in many states. This method works by tiding arms and legs up to the chair, and a black bag covers their head, and then a wet sponge is placed on the top of the head for the electricity to go all over the body, causing a less painful death. Nonetheless, if the sponge is not wet, the electricity will kill the prisoner slowly and painfully by burning them alive and dying in agony. Seeing the execution of a prisoner was a normal event at this time, and the family and relatives of the victims were able to be spectators of these events.

The death penalty is brutal, barbaric and inhumane, but only those who committed a crime deserve it. It does not matter if you are guilty or innocent; once a prisoner is in the E block their death will eventually come without escape.

Second, justice sometimes is not fair, the main goal of the justice system is to condemn dangerous criminals, but at the same time, innocent people can be punished for crimes that they did not commit. Citizens imply that only God can judge, but the authorities take the role of

God's judgment proving the injustice of this era regarding the prisoners of the E block. Some actions of cruelty are punished not by the government's law but with a divine law made by special people. John Coffey made justice by using his power and transmitting the illness of Melinda Moores to Percy Wetmore, who kills Mr. Jingles and then makes Delacroix suffer an agonizing death in the electric chair, making Percy Wetmore go insane and taken to a mental hospital. Also, when the main character Paul Edgecombe takes John Coffey to his death, he is punished to live a longer life for killing an innocent person, an angel of God.

Third, friendship is unconditional in life's saddest and hardest moments. When the wife from Hal Moores, the main character Paul Edgecombe, and his partner take John Coffey to his house, taking him out of prison in the middle of the night for saving Hal's wife from a terminal disease, it is proven that in difficult moments for a friend breaking the rules is worth it without thinking about the consequences. At the same time, loyalty is reflected when all the characters decide to keep this a secret.

A fourth theme is compassion. When a prisoner receives the death penalty a day before the execution, a wish can be fulfilled, in other words, a last request since their last hours of life are limited and even accounted for. John Coffey decides to watch a movie called *Top Hat*. Another way of seeing compassion is with the main character taking a role of a "psychiatrist" more than a guard. His thoughts are about how having a conversation with the prisoners reveals their true human side and stop seeing them as criminals, at the same time stopping them from going inside while they are in jail waiting for their execution.

Finally, racism was a daily theme at the beginning of the 20th century, especially among black people. Most of the people sentenced to the death penalty and executed by the electric chair were black people. When John Coffey was found with the dead bodies of the twin girls, the

police immediately found him guilty of murder. He does not have a trial and is sentenced to the death penalty more quickly than other criminals due to the color of his skin; his crime is considered dangerous because it is seen as an attack on white people's society. Another way of racism is using racial words, for example, *negro* or *nigga* that give an inferior social position to black people.

Motifs

In literature, a motif is a repeated element with a particular story; it can be an image, sound, or word that comes with significance. The motifs are seen throughout the story's development and point out the plot's themes. In the book *The Green Mile*, the motifs are prejudice, revenge, and peace.

The first motif is prejudice against black people because society believes they are inferior and white people are superior in education, economy, and religion. The character of John Coffey, since the moment he enters the E block, was considered a criminal and a complete murderer due to his physical appearance. So tall and strong that even his clothes seem tiny and tight, he is compared with *Sanson*, but it is mentioned that "in a black version", even though his personality is the opposite. The evidence points out that John Coffey was guilty, but due to his skin color, his case was not taken to trial, and he was already sent to the death penalty. In this case, the phrase "never judge a book by its cover" clarifies how prejudiced society was.

The second one is revenge, also seen as a punishment for bad actions against others. This action is made when a person decides to make a person suffer who in the past hurt another person without thinking about the consequences. Revenge is not made by a divine entity, God, or

fate is made by people. In the story, John Coffey decides to take revenge on Percy Wetmore because he was responsible for Delacroix's brutal death, ensuring that those people who hurt others just for fun receive the punishment they deserve. Still, at the same time, this action comes back to you in the end. In other words, you will also be punished if you choose revenge.

Finally, peace comes after multiple sad events. The character of John Coffey waits patiently for his moment of execution since he explains to Paul Edgecombe that he is tired of the people's cruelty and wants to rest. In other words, he is not afraid of dying. In this case, death is an escape from living surrounded by evilness. Every time he cures a disease, he gets weaker. He expresses his sadness because he could not save the twin girls, and, at the same time, his strong desire to go to Heaven and rest in peace. Another way of finding peace is when the main character Paul Edgecombe decides to retire from his job as a guard in the Green Mile. The death of John Coffey was his last execution since an innocent man was sent to the electric chair. After that, he spent his last years with his wife. When she passes away, he ends up in a nursing home waiting for the moment of his death, taking care of Mr. Jingles.

Symbols

In literature, symbols represent complex ideas; most are objects, buildings, locations, or marks to symbolize specific events or concepts. The symbols create a specific mood or emotion during the story and convey a deeper meaning. Anything can be considered a symbol. In the book *The Green Mile*, the most important symbols are "The Green Mile", the electric chair, and the medal.

The first is The Green Mile, located in the Cold Mountain Penitentiary; the original name is the E block. This nickname was given due to the color of the walls. These walls symbolize intimidation to the criminals who must walk the long hall and face their death in the end. Moreover, they feel feelings of hopelessness that their lives are over and there is no second chance to have a better lifestyle and regret their crimes and get forgiveness from the people that get hurt.

The second is the electric chair which symbolizes death, an inevitable end of life. Besides, they have to confront the fear and anxiety of suffering a painful death while people are watching and a Priest is praying for their "soul" to receive God's forgiveness and go to Heaven. This object also represents the tortures that criminals deserve, but at the same time, innocent people are also tortured, proving that all humans have to face death.

Finally, the medal of Saint Christopher symbolizes gratefulness shown by Melinda Moores after John Coffey saved her life from her illness which was a brain tumor. Moreover, it represents the Christian faith. It symbolizes protection but, simultaneously, the strong weight on Coffey's shoulder since he is a servant of God who saves people's life by healing wounds and diseases. The medal also represents the role of John Coffey as a divine entity and his suffering of social cruelty.



Chapter V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Purpose of the Conclusion

The principal purpose of the conclusion is to help understand the author's main purpose at the moment of writing this book and reinforce the hidden message to transmit to society in general. The conclusion answers the research question and the problem statement regarding the survey results.

A second purpose of the conclusion is to compare expected results with real results and see if the differences change the principal objective of the investigation.

Conclusions

To conclude, the researcher of this thesis has gotten to the fact that the purpose of this story is to give us two different endings. The first one is a peaceful death. The life of a best friend could be saved from revenge, prejudice, and the statements of society and give him a chance to live, but at the same time, it is important to respect other desires. As a second ending, the person who lives a long life, like a punishment for killing a servant of God, will, in the end, lose his friends and family and will stay all alone with the passing of the years, showing us that people receive consequences for their actions.

Restatement of the Research Question

The original research question was: how did some historical events change the history of society and people's behavior during the 20th century? The obtained results and the information recollected for this investigation led to the conclusion that society has changed its lifestyle, but,

at the same time, some aspects from the past are still present in the modern era but less cruelly and painfully since now the human rights are more valuable than before thanks to the technological advances. Throughout the analysis of the events in the novel, the researcher has concluded that they are related or very similar to many of the historically unfair situations that black people have confronted due to racism. Black people are sentenced to death with very little evidence just because they are black or considered criminals without a verdict because of the color of their skin. Black people are being mistreated, judged, and considered bad or useless for society because they have a different skin color. These are social and historical intertexts that are present in the novel and that give an answer to the main problem statement of the research. Even though Human rights have been given to people of all races, the real application of these rights is not a fact in most cities in the United States. Black people continue being mistreated and judged as criminals due to their race.

Unexpected Results (If any)

A significant factor in this survey is the lack of participation, it was sent to around fifteen people, and only nine responded. Still, no one had any doubts about the questions or the topic itself, giving the idea that they all were very clear to understand.

Recommendations

Regarding the survey, to avoid the number of selected people who decided not to participate, ensure that the interviewer sends a message notifying them that the survey is completed. Also, to avoid a lack of confidence from the people, a brief explanation of what the survey consists of a message. In addition, when making the survey, it is very important to be more specific

with the questions, make close questions with YES/NO answers, or even write two or three possible answers that the person making the investigation is looking for. It is very important to send the survey to people who know the problem statement. That way, the person can conclude the investigation with certain answers and not answers without any sense.

Moreover, this investigation has useful information regarding some themes that can be used in other investigations for example, death, friendship, racism, and so on. Another topic that can be included in this investigation is religion more specifically faith, how beliefs can affect your decisions and your lifestyle. This themes can be seen in other Stephen King books for example, Carrie, It, Pet Cemetery and so on, all with the same genre dark fantasy and terror with a hidden message to the society.



Bibliography

- Abercrombie, J. (2020). *A little hatred: The first in the epic*. Orion Publishing Group.
https://books.google.co.cr/books?id=Dcu8cQAACAAJ&dq=Joe+Abercrombie&hl=es-419&sa=X&redir_esc=y
- Andrews, E. (2015). *What is the oldest known piece of literature?* History. <https://www.history.com/news/what-is-the-oldest-known-piece-of-literature>
- Barber, S. (2020). *Death by racism*. The Lancet. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30567-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30567-3/fulltext)
- Baxter, A. (2016). *Crow Shine*. Ticonderoga Publications. <https://www.risingshadow.net/library/book/51230-crow-shine>
- Black, H. (2018). *The Cruel Prince*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.
<https://books.google.at/books?id=WFAsDwAAQBAJ>
- Brewton, V. (2012). *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Literary Theory.
<https://iep.utm.edu/literary>
- Center, E. R. (2001). *Discovering by analysis Harry Potter and youth fantasy*.
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED459865.pdf>
- Cooper, L. A. (2022). *Crazy time: A bizarre battle with darkness and the divine*. Outskirts Press.
https://books.google.co.cr/books?id=PXhYEAAAQBAJ&dq=dark+fantasy+literature&source=gbs_navlinks_s

- Curiouser and Curiouser. (n. d.). *Historical Criticism*. Carleton.edu. <https://www.carleton.edu/departments/ENGL/Alice/CritHist.html>
- Custom-Writing. (2022). *Symbols in Literature: Definition and Examples*. <https://custom-writing.org/blog/symbols-in-literature>
- Demichelis, C. (2019). *Environment and Fantasy: an ecocritical approach to His Dark Materials and The Chronicles of Narnia*. Università Ca'Foscari Venezia.
<http://dspace.unive.it/bitstream/handle/10579/19378/974407-1260492.pdf?sequence=2>
- Gaiman, N. (2020). *Coraline*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
https://books.google.co.cr/books?id=5S8LEAAQBAJ&dq=neil+gaiman+coraline&source=gbs_navlinks_s
- Gallen, A. (n. d.). *Remembering George Stinney Jr.* NA Eye. <https://naeye.net/4717/features/remembering-george-stinney-jr/>
- Galley, B. (2017). *The heart of stone*. BenGalley.com. https://books.google.co.cr/books?id=ITcDQAAQBAJ&dq=ben+galley&source=gbs_navlinks_s
- Gong, C. (2020). *These Violet Delights*. Hodder & Stoughton. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50892212-these-violent-delights>
- Humphrey, C. (2016). *Spells of Blood and Kin: A Dark Fantasy*. St. Martin's Press.
https://books.google.co.cr/books?id=0KKMjwEACAAJ&dq=dark+fantasy&hl=es-419&sa=X.&redir_esc=y
- Khakimova Khalimakhon. (2021). *The genre of fantasy and its characteristic features (the novel*

- The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien*). https://buxdu.uz/media/jurnallar/ilmiy_axborot/ilmiy_axborot_2_son_2021.pdf#page=219
- Kuang, R. F. (2018). *The Poppy War*. HarperCollins Publishers. https://www.bookdepository.com/es/The-Poppy-War/9780008239848?utm_source=Affiliate_US&utm_medium=Affiliate_Marketing&utm_campaign=900963%20&utm_term=httpbookishbrews-com&awc=5487_1663999908_fb2edd6f13e839b90aa0ccae0033d6f5
- Lawrence, M. (2019). *Holy Sister*. HarperCollins.
<https://books.google.at/books?id=d1NxDwAAQBAJ>
- Lawrence, M. (2020). *The girl and the stars the girl and the stars*. HarperCollins.
<https://books.google.at/books?id=vAWYDwAAQBAJ>
- Lehmann-Haupt, C. (2006). *The Art of Fiction no. 189*. The Paris Review. <https://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/5653/the-art-of-fiction-no-189-stephen-king>
- Literary Theory. (n. d.). Utm.edu. <https://iep.utm.edu/literary/>
- MasterClass. (2021a). *Complete Guide to Literary Themes: Definition, Examples, and How to Create Literary Themes in Your Writing*. <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/the-complete-guide-to-narrative-theme-in-literature-definition-examples-and-writing-how-to>
- MasterClass. (2021b). *Writing 101: What Is a Motif?* <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/writing-101-what-is-a-motif>
- Moreno, S. (2016). *Certain Dark Thing: A novel*. Thomas Dunne Books. <https://libro.fm/audio->

books/9781250808271?utm_source=awin&utm_campaign=affili-
 ates&utm_term=900963_Book-
 ish+Brews&awc=25361_1663999842_85411531beeee1517e987f7bc3ad162c

Oliveros Garcia, J. (2020). *A silent of three parts: Connecting identity, narratology, and high dark fantasy in The Kingkiller Chronicles's story world*. http://rabida.uhu.es/dspace/bitstream/handle/10272/20999/A_silence_of_three_parts.pdf?sequence=2

Rexroth, K. (2022). *Literature*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/art/literature>

Rowling, J. K. (2019). *Fantastic beasts: The crimes of grindelwald-the original screenplay*. Sphere. https://books.google.co.cr/books?id=C3WUwwEA-CAAJ&dq=the+crimes+of+grindelwald&hl=es-419&sa=X&redir_esc=y

Strickland, A. M. (2019). *Beyond the Black Door*. St Martin's Press. <https://www.risingshadow.net/library/book/59087-beyond-the-black-door>

Šubrt, M. (2021). *Grimdark Fantasy The Black Company as Revisionist Heroic Fantasy*. Palacký University Olomouc. https://theses.cz/id/ctep2/Grimdark_Fantasy_Black_Company_as_Revisionist_Heroic_Fant.pdf

Thomas, E. E. (2019). *The Dark Fantastic: Race and the Imagination from Harry Potter to the Hunger Games*. NYU Press. https://books.google.co.cr/booksid=eiqOD-wAAQBAJ&dq=dark+fantasy+literature&source=gbs_navlinks_s

Wijaya, A. (n. d.). *Historical approach to analyze literature*. Blogspot.com. <http://awinlanguage.blogspot.com/2012/03/historical-approach-to-analyze.html>