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**LITERARY ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK *RED, WHITE, & ROYAL BLUE* THROUGH
THE NEW HISTORICISM APPROACH**

Thesis Submitted to Obtain the Bachelor Degree in English

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Dedication

It has not been easy to reach this point, but I am grateful for the people who have supported me with their words and encouragement. I dedicate this work to them. I dedicate this research to my mother, since she has been by my side from the beginning, allowing me to continue studying, for which I will be eternally grateful. I want to dedicate this work to my friends who have seen me fall and have been there to help me get up. Especially Tony, Paula, Stilmer, and Maria, who have been my unconditional support. Thanks to them, I continue to move forward. I also want to dedicate this work to myself, because it was not easy to get here, but I made it, and I proud of myself for never give up. Finally, I want to dedicate this work to all those who feel alone in the world, who feel different, who hate their own life, and to all those who did not make it. You have to know that you are not alone and that it is okay to be different. This research is for you.

Abstract

Throughout history, homosexuality has been classified as a sin, an aberration, and even as a mental illness, which causes queer people to experience many difficulties due to homophobia. For this reason, this research focuses on presenting the challenges faced by the LGBTQ+ community through the analysis of the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*, using the New Historicism approach. That is why, to collect precise information, the qualitative method was applied. To analyze the impact of homophobia, diverse instruments such as comparison tables and a prose analysis were employed. This research used a triangulation approach, which involved the study of the literary novel, expert knowledge, and the researcher's analysis based on solid literary theories. The purpose was to identify issues that appeared due to homophobia. After conducting the research, it was concluded that homophobia creates barriers that hinder the personal and professional growth of the LGBTQ+ community.

Resumen

A lo largo de la historia, la homosexualidad ha sido clasificado como un pecado, una aberración, e inclusive como una enfermedad mental; lo cual provoca que, debido a la homofobia, las personas queer vivan muchas dificultades. Por esta razón, esta investigación se enfoca en demostrar los desafíos que afrontan la comunidad LGBTQ+ mediante el análisis del libro *Rojo, Blanco, & Sangre Azul*, con el uso del enfoque del Nuevo Historicismo. Es por ello que, para recolectar la información precisa, se aplicó el método cualitativo. Asimismo, para analizar la información se utilizaron como instrumentos distintas tablas de comparación y un análisis en forma de prosa, los cuales ayudaron a resaltar los problemas que surgen a causa de la homofobia. En esta investigación se aplicó una triangulación entre la novela literaria, el conocimiento de expertos, y el análisis del investigador, el cual se basó en teorías literarias sólidas. Como resultado de la investigación, se determinó que la homofobia es la causante de diferentes barreras que impiden el desarrollo profesional y personal de las personas pertenecientes a la comunidad LGBTQ+.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	2
Dedication.....	3
Abstract.....	9
Resumen.....	10
Table of Contents.....	11
Chapter I.....	14
Introductory Framework.....	14
1.1 Problem Statement.....	14
1.2 Objectives of the Investigation.....	16
1.2.1 General Objective.....	16
1.2.2 Specific Objectives.....	17
1.3 Justification of the Study.....	17
1.4 Antecedents.....	20
1.5 Scope.....	26
Chapter II.....	27
Theoretical Framework.....	27
2.1 Literary Theory and Approaches.....	27
2.1.1 Definition of Literature.....	27
2.1.2 Definition of Theory.....	28
2.1.3 Definition of Literary Theory.....	29
2.1.4 Approaches.....	34
2.1.5 New historicism.....	38
2.2 Literary Devices.....	43
2.2.1 Symbols.....	45
2.2.2 Themes.....	46
2.2.3 Motif.....	47
2.3 Author's Bibliography.....	48
2.4 Book Synopsis.....	49
Chapter III.....	51
Methodological Framework.....	51
3.1 Research Approach.....	51

3.2 Research Design	52
3.3 Information Sources	53
3.3.1 Primary Sources.....	53
3.3.2 Secondary Sources.....	54
3.3.3 Tertiary Sources.....	54
3.4 Analysis Categories.....	54
3.4.1 Homophobia	55
3.4.2 LGBTQ+ Community	56
3.4.3 New Historicism.....	57
3.5 Data Collection Instruments.....	58
3.6 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis	59
Chapter IV.....	61
Data Analysis	61
4.1 Approaches to the Investigation.....	61
4.2 Theories vs Literary Work	63
Prose Analysis.....	63
Chapter V.....	93
Conclusions and Recommendation.....	93
5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion.....	93
5.2 Conclusions	93
5.2.1 To compare, based on the book <i>Red, White, & Royal Blue</i> , how the invasion of privacy is a current problem in our society.....	93
5.2.2 To explore the historical impact of homophobia in society and how it has influenced the barriers, challenges, and opportunities that LGBTQ+ people face when holding political office in national and international contexts.....	96
5.2.3 To explain the evolution of homosexuality perspective inside the book <i>Red, White, & Royal Blue</i>	98
5.2.4 To demonstrate with the help of the book <i>Red, White, & Royal Blue</i> how homophobia continues to be a problem in our society and how this negatively affects the lives of queer people.	100
5.3 Restatement of the Research Question.....	102
5.4 Recommendations	102
References.....	105

Table of Tables

Table 1	66
Table 2	72
Table 3	77
Table 4	84

Chapter I

Introductory Framework

This work analyzes the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston in 2019, using the new historicism approach. The research aims to highlight the persistence of homophobia in modern society and the historical struggles faced by queer individuals. This work explains what the history of homosexuality has been like in society and how people have changed their perspectives over the centuries. During this investigation, existing research will be utilized to analyze the detrimental effects of homophobia on queer individuals. This paper will analyze the negative view and rejection of homosexuality, including inappropriate judgments, aberration, and a mental illness. Based on the book will explain how these concepts have changed over the years while others continue to exist, causing discrimination and rejection in different areas of life.

At the same time, it demonstrates how the history of homosexuality has evolved in literature. Seeing different Costa Rican authors and what the books about homosexuality were like at the beginning of the 20th century. Different international works about homosexuality in Spanish literature from the 19th century onwards and about some relevant queer authors in history will also be taken as references. All this is to contemplate the obstacles and discrimination towards the LGBTQ+ community. Another aspect on which this research focuses is analyzing the new historicism approach and as an aid to the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* analysis. Since the book deals with political, social, and historical issues, the use of new historicism will help to propose a more precise analysis that will provide a more realistic perspective of how homophobia is a societal problem.

1.1 Problem Statement

Discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community has been a long-standing issue that needs analysis to be stopped. Discrimination and hatred towards the queer community is something that many people ignore, either because they are not interested or because they simply do not agree with homosexuality. The objective of this study is to tackle the prevalent issue of prejudice, hostility, homicides, and disparities in terms of civil liberties and opportunities encountered by members of the LGBTQ+ community. Understanding the position of the LGBTQ+ community in society is crucial for achieving this.

For years, being homosexual has been punished with different punishments, such as the death penalty, imprisonment, conversion therapies, and “medicines” that caused the death of the person who consumed them, among others. For many years, they lived hidden in fear of the world, being forced to maintain heterosexual relationships and being repressed by society (Human Dignity Trust, 2023). Be prohibiting different rights that heterosexual people have under the idea that it is a “sin” to be homosexual, as stated in the Bible. As a result, for centuries, the queer community has suffered from different punishments due to society and religion.

In recent years, people in the LGBTQ+ community have fought for their rights and acceptance in society. However, although in many countries it is now legal to be homosexual, some continue to punish them with the death penalty or imprisonment. According to the webpage Erasing 76Crimes (2023), "More than half of the world's 67 countries that have anti-LGBT laws are nations where a majority of the citizens are Muslims. By comparison, Christian-majority countries account for 42 percent of the countries that still have anti-LGBT laws on their books." It is crucial to mention that, although in many countries, it is already considered legal to be homosexual, discrimination, hatred, and lack of rights are still present.

There is a significant disparity in the rights afforded to individuals based on their sexual orientation. Shockingly, only 30 countries have legalized equal marriage, according to Rozzelle et al. (2023). Additionally, it is concerning that many countries still prohibit queer couples from adopting children. It can also be noted that there has never been a homosexual president. In countries like England, it is unacceptable for someone from the royal family to be part of the queer community. The literary work *Red, White, & Royal Blue* portrays the emotional and societal challenges a same-gender couple from the upper class faces. The story explores the discrimination and barriers they must confront and conquer to discover love and acceptance in a world that frequently neglects their value and respect.

In summary, although there is much progress in equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community, there is still a long way to go to ensure that queer people can live freely and without being discriminated against. Making the problem visible and helping to achieve better equality will help lead to a world of equality. Based on all of the above, the question of this research was raised. How to analyze homophobia in society through the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston from the new historicism approach?

1.2 Objectives of the Investigation

The main objective of this investigation is to apply the main points of New Historicism methodology and its application together with critical literary theories. This objective is focused on the New Historicism approach to analyze the book – *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston.

1.2.1 General Objective

- To analyze how homosexuality is reflected in the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston using the New Historicism approach

1.2.2 Specific Objectives

- To compare, based on the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*, how the invasion of privacy is a current problem in our society
- To explore the historical impact of homophobia in society and how it has influenced the barriers, challenges, and opportunities that LGBTQ+ people face when holding political office in national and international contexts
- To explain the evolution of homosexuality perspective inside the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*
- To demonstrate with the help of the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* how homophobia continues to be a problem in our society and how this negatively affects the lives of queer people

1.3 Justification of the Study

“While as a society we are moving toward greater inclusion and equality for all people, the tide of history only advances when people make themselves fully visible” (Cooper, 2012). Since the beginning of history, homosexuality has been something that has accompanied human beings; however, it is something that has changed perspective over the centuries. In Ancient Greece, homosexuality was not seen negatively, although, in some cases, it was considered a position of strength or power. This act was more visible in men since there were certain traditions in which an adult man, called *Erastés*, and a young man, called *Erómeno*, were united

in a relationship classified as sweet, loving, and protective. The idea of these unions was that the *erómeno* was the apprentice of the *erastés*, who provided his protection, wisdom, and love.

Homosexual relationships were also seen as a form of social classification that depended on their status and society's role. Those who were submissive in the relationship were younger men or from a lower social class since it was related to passive femininity. On the other hand, men with active roles related to masculinity were considered of upper class or importance. In the field of the army, these types of relationships were also seen; in fact, there was an entire army that was composed of homosexual men. The Sacred Battalion of Thebes was characterized by its formation of homosexual men since it was believed that the loving union that united them made them fight with more passion and camaraderie, winning multiple battles throughout their existence.

Homer's Nestor was no tactician when he urged the Greeks to form companies by clans and tribes. That clan might assist clans and tribes to tribes since he should have stationed lover by beloved. Tribesmen and clansmen make little account of tribesmen and clansmen in times of danger. In contrast, a band held together by the friendship between lovers is indissoluble and not broken since the lovers are ashamed to play the coward before their beloved and the beloved before their lovers. Both stand firm in danger to protect each other. Nor is this a wonder since men have more regard for their lovers even when absent than for others who are present, as was true of him who, when his enemy was about to slay him where he lay, earnestly besought him to run his sword through his breast, 'in order,' as he

said, 'that my beloved may not have to blush at the sight of my body with a wound in the back' (Plutarch, *Pelopidas 18*)

As the years passed and with the arrival of Christianity in society, homosexuality began to be punished for being “inappropriate,” this led to many deaths of those who had homosexual relationships. These practices became prohibited and frowned upon in many parts of the world (if not all). In the Middle Ages, it began to be punished with the death penalty, and in the following years, it was considered a mental illness, which caused the development of conversion centers. Over the past few decades, the LGBTQ+ community has been fighting for their rights, making progress during the last few years. Some of the progress was that they removed homosexuality from the book of mental illnesses, and in many states, homosexuality is no longer a crime. However, discrimination and the fight for equality continue today since homophobia is still present and continues to be a problem.

In many parts of the world, homosexuality continues to be punished with the death penalty; in some states, you cannot talk about the issue since it would be criminalized. Queer people today continue to suffer rejection, abuse and report cases of homicide just for being part of the LGBTQ+ community. The fact that a person is gay, lesbian, or bisexual continues to cause commotion and contempt in some cases, which means that people in the public eye cannot be them on many occasions, as they may lose their jobs. Homosexuality remains a topic of debate in many communities today, in which it is attacked for being "wrong, a sin, an unpleasant act." Many young people are scared of being themselves; they suffer bullying in their homes and schools, and this is the reason why some of them commit suicide. The fear of being yourself and the considerable rejection that exists in society for homosexuality is a problem that affects the lives of thousands of people who suffer daily just for being different.

This research work plans to make this problem visible and help those who feel alone because they are different. At the same time, raising awareness of the problem and showing, based on the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston, how homophobia affects people and their environment and what they suffer to be themselves. Humanity must undergo a significant shift in perspective towards homosexuality, as emphasized by Chris Colfer (2012): "There is nothing wrong with you. There is a lot wrong with the world you live in." The primary objective of this research is to raise awareness regarding the issue at hand. It is crucial to establish that homophobia is the problem, not homosexuality. As a society, we must take action towards rectifying this issue if we wish to advance.

Several crucial subtopics pertaining to the primary topic will be explored in depth throughout this investigation. This last shows the negative consequences that homophobia causes in society and how it affects people in their personal and professional lives. Some of these issues will be the lack of privacy and how revealing a person's identity can be harmful in most cases. It is important to highlight the fact that people who identify as homosexual and hold positions of power, such as in politics or leadership roles, frequently face a dearth of visibility. Despite the progress that has been made, having a homosexual president or even a prince in England is still not widely accepted. Literature has a long history of excluding LGBTQ+ characters and stories. Fortunately, this is slowly beginning to change. However, it is worth mentioning that the representation of queer characters or stories in literature and other mediums can be a contentious issue. Regrettably, this can result in their exclusion due to potential failure or rejection concerns. Having said all this, it is hoped that readers will become aware of the need to work together as a community to stop homophobia in our society.

1.4 Antecedents

It is relevant to analyze additional research works or educational articles to demonstrate different points of view on the problem. At the same time, using other research works as a reference will help reinforce the ideas raised in this work. Also, it is planned to highlight the New Historicism approach to analyzing the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*. For that reason, national, international, and historical works will be cited to provide context from various areas, times, and geographic spaces.

It is necessary to start with historical context to achieve a broad understanding of the history behind the problem. For many centuries in literature, having characters or stories with queer themes was nonexistent due to the discrimination and rejection that existed on these themes. However, currently, there is a greater variety of homosexual characters and stories in literature, marking a slow but steady change over time. In Albino Chacón's article "Representations and Elaborations of Homosexuality in Costa Rican Literature," a comprehensive analysis is provided of the development and evolution of queer narratives in Costa Rica. In this work, Albino explains how these topics were treated and how some authors were inspired by some ancient works to speak more openly about homosexuality in literature.

During the 20th century, homosexuality was viewed as a societal corruption, as Albino highlights in their analysis of the era. This unfavorable outlook on the matter was pervasive and had negative implications for those who identified as LGBTQ+. Homosexual themes in Costa Rican literature began to be addressed in the early 20th century. Genaro Córdoba was the first to touch on this topic with his book *'La Esfinge del Sendero'* (1914). In the book, the topic of homosexuality is introduced through Father Hans, an originally Polish character and a teacher at a seminal school. In the book, Father Hans attempts to seduce Rafael, a young seminarian who

resists his advances. The story aims to depict the corruption and hypocrisy of human beings and the church, which is reflected in the character of Father Hans.

Later, in 1963, the writer José León Sánchez would write a book that would return to homosexuality, this time with a more open approach. The book *The Island of Lonely Men* (1963) talks about the life of prisoners on the island of San Lucas in the Pacific of Costa Rica. This story portrays the cruelty of prisoners' lives; however, it also tells how, at night, both guards and inmates lived an unbridled sexual life. Albino explains how the book attaches significant importance to homosexual relationships among inmates. However, the author focuses on these relationships to emphasize the prevalence of aberration, crime, and corruption in the prison system. Albino highlights in his work the relationship between the book *The Island of Lonely Men* and '*La Esfinge del Sendero*,' as both books seek to reflect negative feelings about homosexuality and as both authors describe homosexuality as an aberration of society.

However, by the middle of the 20th century, writers also began to emerge who gave small signs of gay characters in literature. Albino mentions some of the writers in Costa Rica who promoted queer stories. He notes that the pioneer was Alfonso Chase, who included subtle references in literature. Another example of those who speak Albino is José Ricardo Chaves, who is considered to be an influential figure in this area. Daniel Gallegos, a writer, has also made significant contributions to the discussion of homosexuality. Their works focus on the characters' personal growth and self-discovery, highlighting this topic's human aspect and providing a sensitive perspective.

Sergio Coto speaks in his thesis, "Spaces of Marginality and New Gender Proposals and the Construction of Homo-erotic Discourse in the Novel '*A Passage with Tombs Painted in Pink*' by José Ricardo Chaves" about an analysis of one of the books by the important Costa Rican

writer José Ricardo Chaves. In this work, Sergio analyzes the egalitarian discourse within the story based on its characters and highlights the gender proposals. He also uses verisimilitude around AIDS to highlight the crisis of the eighties. Coto begins by talking about how feminism has been an important support in promoting the egalitarian movement and how it has helped to increase visibility not only of women but also of a more egalitarian vision with minorities, including the LGBTQ+ community. In his thesis, he explains how discourses for equality towards women promoted struggles for other minorities and how this began to be reflected in artists, creating more literary characters focused on women and, consequently, helping to give clues to the queer community in literature.

Coto explains and analyzes during his work how the origin of queer definitions progressed, the development of women, and the ideas of gender and sexuality that emerged over time. Also, Coto talks about the true origin and definition of the term "queer," underscoring the critical distinction between gay identity and queer identity. It is imperative to note that queer identity encompasses all individuals who may feel marginalized, and there are no exceptions to this (p. 76). Furthermore, in his research, based on Chaves's book, he demonstrates how egalitarian discourse is a clue to the evolution of identity ideologies. At the same time, the matter at hand concerns the AIDS crisis, which had a disproportionately greater effect on the LGBTQ+ community than any other group. Throughout his work, Coto explains all the difficulties that the queer community presents, and based on the book, he tells what the perspective of the people of the eighties towards said community was like. The book demonstrates the discrimination and the characters' struggle to cope with the disease of AIDS.

For a few months now, I have dedicated myself to cutting out articles, reports, and journalistic essays that address the issue of AIDS and, therefore,

according to the mechanical way of thinking of most authors, homosexuality. With this material that I am gathering, I plan to make a bestiary of human feeling, where, unfortunately, what predominates is hatred, prejudice, anger, and, as if this were not enough, all of this is crowned by death (Chaves, 2000, p. 99).

In the research “*Los Invisibles*: a History of Male Homosexuality in Spain, 1850 – 1940” by Richard Cleminson and Francisco Vázquez, a perspective of homosexuality, homophobia, and its consequences in the literary history of Spain is given. This work delves into the historical punishment of homosexuality. Drawing from concrete evidence, it illustrates the widespread condemnation of all forms of homosexual behavior and the difficulties many homosexual writers faced in conveying their personal experiences through their narratives. The work refers to the queer community as 'the invisible' due to the invisibility imposed on these issues and the need for homosexual people to live in secrecy. Referring to the LGBTQ+ community as 'the invisible' is a metaphor emphasizing the challenges faced by homosexuals during that time. Queer individuals have had to endure numerous obstacles, including the danger of being homosexual, the constant fear of being exposed, and the societal pressure to be different. These experiences have led them to become invisible members of society.

Throughout this thesis, various topics are discussed, including the use of 'invert,' a so-called "medication" aimed at converting homosexual individuals into heterosexuals. However, this so-called “medicine” was a lethal drug that slowly killed its users. The book also discusses the dangers of being homosexual during the years 1915-1939 and how all the acts related to homosexuality were punishable, including literature. This research, in addition to talking about the topics already mentioned, also analyzes the entire evolution of these topics over the years.

Thanks to the research of Richard and Francisco, it can be reaffirmed that homosexual individuals have faced numerous challenges throughout history. The objective of this research is to demonstrate the historical punishment of homosexuality and the various challenges that queer individuals have encountered in different aspects of life. The work of Richard and Francisco serves to confirm this reality.

The essay carried out by George Haggerty, “Literature and Homosexuality in the Late Eighteenth Century: Walpole, Beckford, and Lewis” mentions different literary works that were inspired by homosexual themes. During the eighteenth century, three important novelists - Walpole, Beckford, and Lewis - were known to be homosexual. In his essay, George explores the lives of these novelists and discusses how they subtly expressed their homosexuality in various works. George recounts and analyzes the different works of these artists and how they related homosexual themes in a way that would go unnoticed. His essay emphasized how difficult it was for writers to incorporate their personal lives into their stories due to the prohibition of LGBTQ+ themes at the time. “Literature and Homosexuality in the Late Eighteenth Century: Walpole, Beckford, and Lewis” are beneficial in two ways. Firstly, it highlights more works with queer themes. Secondly, it provides insight into the lives of three homosexual novelists and the struggles they faced during their time.

To conclude, Isamar Suárez's thesis, “A Literary Analysis Based on the Book *The Kid in the Stripped Pajama* Using the New Historicism Approach,” was considered to gain a better understanding of the New Historicism approach. This work explains how new historicism analyzes a book based on the concept that it belongs to different historical circumstances (p. 32). Suárez describes through other works and research how new Historicism helps to analyze a book based on the time of publication, the place, and the geographical history for a better

understanding of the text. Under the criteria above, Suárez analyzes the book *The Kid in the Stripped Pajama* and how the Holocaust helped inspire its creation. In turn, Suarez mentions in his work other cases in which new Historicism was used and how it helps to take the historical context to analyze a book and its message. Based on all this, using new historians to analyze the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* will help to understand the social context in which the story comes to life. In turn, it will serve as a bridge to unite how homosexuality has been seen in society and how it has evolved over the years.

1.5 Scope

In this thesis, a complete analysis of the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* will be made using the new historicism approach. This work may help future students or researchers on similar topics related to homophobia. For this reason, some of the goals set for the research will be listed.

- Raise awareness about the lack of equality and current discrimination towards the queer community.
- Demonstrate how homophobia is a problem that affects thousands of people around the world.
- Highlight the lack of rights of people in the LGBTQ+ community and raise a fight for the freedom to be oneself.
- Show how the queer community has the right to hold relevant social positions, such as politics.
- Raise awareness of the importance of each person's privacy.
- Demonstrate the importance of literature in society and teach that it is essential to have creative freedom to write more stories about the LGBTQ+ community.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

This chapter consists of providing a detailed analysis of the conceptualization of the most important definitions and terms used during this research. An in-depth analysis of the theories used in this work is planned to understand history better and investigate all important aspects. First, a literary theory will be analyzed, starting with definitions of theory and literature. Afterward, some of the most common approaches when analyzing a book will be explained. As a second point, explain new historicism, its origin, approach, use, and other important definitions. Third, themes, symbols, and motifs with their respective examples will be defined. Finally, equal attention will be given to both the author's bibliography and the book's synopsis, which will be presented and explained in detail.

2.1 Literary Theory and Approaches

2.1.1 Definition of Literature

Since the beginning of humanity, different ways have been created to express ideas, feelings, and emotions that can last over time, and literature is one of those ways. Poetry, prose, and other literary genres have been part of human culture for decades. However, many students need to be made aware of the definition and significance of literature. According to Rexroth (2023), literature is the written works of a specific time, people, or language belonging to humanity. However, these concepts could be clearer, which is unsurprising since literature has many ways of interpretation.

The author's work encompasses the book's story, characters, meaning, and details. For example, Krystal (2016) expresses that literature is not just a way in which people write but what

the story ultimately means. Literature should be acknowledged as something beyond a simple book or assignment, encompassing many intricate and diverse interpretations. For Sartre (1988), literature is a type of art since he considers each literary work to be no different from a painting, sculpture, or song. Sartre explains that literature is an artistic process in which the person dedicates time, effort, and passion to create an adequate work. Poems, novels, and stories, among others, are works that have a whole structure behind them.

Literature is a way to express different ideas and problems from different points of view. In the book by Bennett and Royle (2024), they answer questions about what literature is, why it is studied, and what it is for. They explain the different approaches and themes that can be given to literary works. Literature has the advantage of having a great variety of genres and styles, which can express the ideas and feelings of each author. According to Jenkins (2022), "The importance of literature is immense; what you learn will change your perception of the world and how you interact with people by using a wealth of literary devices such as tone, mood, and figurative language." In other words, literature is not only a form of expression but a form of knowledge. The importance of literature in our society is reflected as a way of uniting cultures and eras or different problems that affect the world. In summary, literature is a concept with many points of view; it can be a form of expression, an art, or a form of knowledge that helps us to learn about the past or different cultures.

2.1.2 Definition of Theory

The term "theory" has varying meanings depending on the situation and context. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a theory is a set of ideas to explain an event or general principles on a specific topic. Due to its multiple connotations, understanding how it functions is crucial to comprehend its connection to literature. A theory is something that cannot be proven,

supposedly. However, Suppose the etymology of the word is analyzed. In that case, it can be understood that the term theory comes from Greek *θεωρία* (theoria) and refers to a speculative thought that, in turn, comes from *theories* (spectator) from the Greek *theōreō* formed with the particle *thea* (view) as a suffix, indicating "behold" and *horō* (see). (Etimonline, n.d). So, according to its etymology, the word "theory" implies that understanding is necessary to obtain a vision of a phenomenon. Do not confuse theory with hypothesis, as the latter is based on an initial assumption, whereas theory is built after praxis. Hammond (2023) discusses the meaning and importance of the word theory in various contexts in his book *Why Theory Matters and What to Do about it*. Some topics discussed in the book are how theory is used in research work, defining the meaning of the word *theoretical*, and how it contributes to research development. It is important to note that one of the main purposes of theory is to provide an answer to the question "why."

2.1.3 Definition of Literary Theory

From the concepts of literature and theory arises a "literary theory," which is necessary to develop a literary analysis. According to MasterClass (2021), literary theory is a field of study that employs different methodologies and strategies to analyze a text. This discipline examines various literary works, including poetry, novels, and plays, to better understand their meaning, structure, and context. By utilizing literary theory, scholars and academics can uncover hidden themes, symbols, and motifs in these works, providing readers with a more comprehensive and nuanced interpretation of the literature.

Literary theory is considered a school of thought or style of literary analysis that is necessary to create a foundation for criticism. Based on literary theory, people can analyze literature using basic foundations and principles. Furthermore, this theory is known as

hermeneutics, involving the analysis and interpretation of literature. This theory is based on identifying literary works and cataloging them based on the time of their publication, their geographical location, and the identity and region of the author. The purpose is to identify similarities and differences based on characteristics to analyze and criticize the work more accurately.

In other words, literary theory is a tool used to carry out a more accurate analysis of different literary works. The theory is responsible for separating literary works by different characteristics that they share, for example, geography, time of publication, or similarities between authors. It categorizes works by genre and common qualities, providing a foundation for analysis and criticism (Stevens, 2021). Studying literary theory involves questioning the work and its components to analyze its details and gain knowledge. In short, it is usually used to analyze the work and its elements in depth. Brewton (n.d) defines literary theory as a system of ideas and methods to uncover literary works' meaning.

Literary theory can be described as the group of tools used to reveal the true meaning of a work, that is, to disfigure the meaning of the literary elements of the text. Brewton emphasizes the significance of literary theory in analyzing the author's bibliography and the elements of the play. The last helps to connect the author's experiences with the work. Literary theory explores the connection between the author and their work. It also highlights the significance of race, class, and gender in literary analysis, considering how these factors influence the author's biography and the presence of related themes within the text.

It is crucial to emphasize some salient points to enhance the comprehension of literary theory. An individual must possess limited knowledge of literary theory to fully appreciate or comprehend a literary work. The primary objective of a literary composition is to communicate

the author's ideas, emotions, and feelings, which the reader can effortlessly appreciate. However, the use of theory is crucial if the person wants to know in depth all the relevant aspects of the book and their respective analysis to make a critique. Therefore, although having extensive knowledge of literary theory to understand the work is optional, it is crucial to carry out an in-depth analysis of it (Brewton, n.d).

It is important to analyze the origin of literary theory in order to understand how it emerged and how its relevance in literary analysis and criticism evolved in different years. Although the Western tradition already had great literary theories from Aristotle's treatises on rhetoric and poetics, literary theory as a discipline emerged in mid-19th century Germany (Godoy, 2023. p. 10). It is worth mentioning that the origin of literary theory is closely related to literary criticism. According to Mambrol (2020), historical theory and criticism encompass the theory and practice of literary historiographic representation and other types of criticism that often need appropriate recognition. During the 19th and 20th centuries, literary criticism placed a great deal of emphasis on historical principles. This approach involved examining literary works within their historical context, considering the social and cultural factors that may have influenced the author's perspective and the themes and motifs in the work. By taking this historical approach to literary analysis, critics aimed to gain a deeper understanding of the work and its significance within its cultural and historical milieu.

Aristotle commented on the origins of tragedy, Quintilian reviewed the history of oratory, and bibliographies and collections of books studied together existed in antiquity and the Middle Ages. However, a true literary or artistic history, which found continuity and change amid documents and data, was not possible until the growth of the historical sense in the Renaissance. Mambrol notes that *Giorgio Vasari's Lives of the Artists* (1550) stands out as the preeminent

Renaissance literary and artistic history, containing over 150 biographies. This was not just a random collection of individual lives. Rather, it was an effort to follow the evolution of Italian art from Giotto to the era of Michelangelo. The goal was to create a framework of three distinct periods between 1300 and 1550 and differentiate each one from the other. This aligns with literary theory, which groups works based on shared general and specific aspects. The art and literary history of the next two centuries were dominated by antiquarianism and chronology despite Vasari's influence. In other words, the concept and idea of literary theory have existed since before the 19th and 20th centuries, with contributions from great writers and theorists.

It is important to distinguish between literary theory and literary criticism, as they are related but distinct concepts. As mentioned previously, in this research, literary theory carries out a deep analysis of the work; it is a more abstract vision of literature. The theory provides a comprehensive explanation of literary works by thoroughly analyzing multiple aspects. Various elements are considered in analyzing a literary work, such as themes, symbols, character analysis, psychological aspects, and the author's background. These literary elements are used as a basis for analysis.

On the other hand, literary criticism is based on selecting, studying, and analyzing texts according to the problems of the book. Literary criticism analyzes multiple works to generate a unified response and classify them based on various issues. According to Lewis (2022), to carry out analytical criticism, it is important to maintain a clear mind and have a commitment to set aside any preconceived notions or personal ideas when critiquing literary works. This is essential to ensure an objective analysis. At the same time, he also mentions that it is relevant to carry out different strategies to help be concise with your analyses and criticisms when rating books. It is

crucial to analyze various types of criticism to develop shared understandings while also emphasizing the importance of analytical thinking and personal perspectives.

It is important to have a theoretical basis to practice criticism since it grasps many precepts given by literary theory. According to Gupto (2021), literary criticism is a more popular and common area of study compared to literary theology. This is because literary criticism involves the selection, analysis, study, and interpretation of literary texts based on the specific problem or theme focused on by the critic. As a result, literary critics are more widely known than literary theologians. Once a critic perceives a specific literary genre, they begin to select a corpus from thousands of works in the publishing market. The corpus consists of a series of works the critic will analyze to give them meaning and identify their most striking features. A critique begins with the importance of the characters, how they are created, how they relate to other literary works, and how some derive from traditions or cultures, among others. Therefore, criticism grounded in factual evidence categorizes and evaluates works, determining their relative importance within a given problem.

The relationship between both theories is important because they complement each other to achieve their objectives. Your critique will lack effectiveness if you do not have a strong theoretical foundation. Good critics possess the necessary theoretical knowledge to provide accurate criticism (Lewis, 2022). So, it is essential to understand the abstract meaning of literature through theory, while criticism aims to organize concrete facts to support it. It is crucial to mention that just because there are literary texts in bookstores does not mean that there is literature, but rather that a series of critics are needed to interpret these materials and give them meaning in cultural history.

In order to create a more precise criticism, literary theory has been responsible for creating different specific approaches that separate the different literary elements of a varied group of literary works. The latter can be adapted to fit specific literary, social, geographical, or historical characteristics. An example of this is comparing a book from a mythological point of view to a feminist approach. In the first scenario, a complete analysis and critique would be developed, starting from the mythological point of the story and its characters. On the other hand, from a feminist perspective, the analysis would focus on examining the role of women in society and the challenges they face in their fight for equality. Therefore, literary theory provides the necessary tools so that criticism and analysis can be carried out depending on the desired approach to the story, the characters, or the problem that one seeks to talk about.

In summary, literary theory involves in-depth analysis and the creation of tools for literary criticism. On the other hand, literary theory involves studying and exploring the problems, situations, and significant events in a group of books to highlight their similarities and differences in the focus of literary criticism. To critique literature accurately, understanding literary theory is necessary. This enables different approaches to distinguish and focus analysis and criticism on specific groups of literary works.

2.1.4 Approaches

As mentioned, literary theory is responsible for creating different approaches and characteristics for developing and analyzing a varied selection of literary works. Various academic disciplines use literary approaches, also known as schools of literary criticism, which can be viewed as distinct methodologies (Lumen, n.d.). A methodology is a set of methods an academic discipline uses to conduct research, combined with a philosophical attitude and

interpretive framework. This last is to develop an exact and more precise analysis of literary works.

Literary theory aims to classify stories by different characteristics and approaches to facilitate better analysis and criticism. Great thinkers and writers have used this method for years, and it has evolved and changed over time as new concepts are introduced. Initially, literary works were grouped into categories like novels and poems, but later, they were further classified into genres such as romance, drama, and short stories (Godoy, 2023, p. 10). This ultimately allowed literary theory to develop various fields of study that group books together under different approaches to aid in literary criticism. A vast number of interpretive methodologies exist that can be used to approach literary works.

During the early 20th century, a new approach called historicism emerged. It aimed to link the analysis of a literary work to the author's background. However, it was eventually deemed inadequate for precisely interpreting literary works. According to Godoy (2017), responses towards historicism were present, and this caused, due to different criticisms, a variety of proposals began to emerge aimed at the analysis and interpretation that is currently known as "contemporary literary theory" (p. 11). From there began the emergence of some approaches, such as formalism, which focused not on the author but on the text itself. Another example is the feminist approach, which focuses on feminist theories aimed at studies on women's inequality and stereotypes imposed by society. According to Bertens (2017), realism is an approach that is characterized by detailing the behavior of the characters and analyzing their actions and motivations; this approach usually has a more humanistic vision (p. 16).

Approaches are crucial in literary analysis and criticism. The existence of a wide variety of approaches only helps the researcher to classify the book more accurately according to the

topic and point of view of his research. Lumen divides the approaches into four aspects to have a more orderly classification depending on the characteristics of each approach. The way in which approaches are organized around the author, text, reader, and context, each with a central focus and question about literary works and effective ways to understand them.

First, we have author-centered approaches, which involve analyzing the author from different perspectives to understand the work better. In this group, bibliographic criticism studies the author's life to understand its impact on literary works. This approach focuses on analyzing the author's experiences and how these affected the creation of the characters, the world, or the history of the literary work. On the other hand, the psychological approach analyzes literary works through methods such as psychoanalysis. This method allows for a more in-depth analysis of how an author's experiences, dreams, or personal problems can shape literature.

In the second case, approaches focus on analyzing the book's historical and cultural context to carry out literary criticism. There are different ways to analyze a text. One approach is formalism, which breaks down the text into its elements and disregards the author's intentions (Godoy, 2017). Another approach is the reader-centered approach, which focuses on understanding the text from the reader's perspective. An example of the latter is "the reader's response," which focuses on analyzing the emotions and thoughts that the text provokes in the reader. Another approach is the romanticism literary movement that began in the late 18th century and ended in the mid-19th century, although its influence continues today. This approach celebrates nature, simplicity, and the common man (Casaliggi et al., 2016).

Finally, we have the approach focused on the context to understand the literary work through history, problems, or other relevant themes in the society in which the book was written. This section aims to analyze the social, political, and geographical aspects surrounding the book,

which is one of the most common approaches. One of the most common approaches is the historical one, which focuses on the historical aspects behind the book creation. Postcolonial theory emphasizes the impact of European conquest on diverse cultures, including economics, politics, and religion. For example, there is also the approach of race criticism, which emphasizes racism, its problems, and its impact on literature.

Some approaches are more recent and have become very important for analyses and criticisms of literary works in recent years. In her work, Klages (2017) delves into two critical approaches to literature - feminist and queer criticism. The former method involves analyzing the portrayal of women in literary works and examining their roles in society. This approach is particularly useful in revealing women's challenges in different periods and contexts (Guerrero et al., 2020. p. 56). On the other hand, according to Klarer (2023), queer criticism explores how gender and sexual identity are represented in literature and how these representations relate to historical and cultural contexts. These critical approaches offer valuable insights into how literature reflects and shapes social norms and values. While in the queer approach, it is responsible for making the LGBTQ+ community visible and analyzing characters from said community in literature. Finally, one of the theories used to analyze the context of the work is new historicism, which focuses on the social and historical context in which the book was written.

In summary, literary approaches are a set of methodologies formed from literary theories that seek to classify and structure books to facilitate literary criticism. These approaches are necessary in order to provide a more detailed and nuanced analysis of literary works. By applying various literary approaches, we can better understand the different themes, motifs, and narrative devices used in a book. This, in turn, allows for a more comprehensive interpretation of

the text and a deeper appreciation of the author's intentions. Literary approaches also enable us to examine the social, historical, and cultural context in which the book was written, which can provide further insight into the work's significance and impact. Therefore, literary approaches are essential tools for anyone seeking to engage with literature at a deeper level. There is a great variety depending on the approach you want to focus on, whether depending on the author, the text, the reader, or the social context. Different approaches have unique characteristics to consider when analyzing a literary work based on the desired analysis.

Therefore, when examining a piece of literature, there are various methods that one can use to gain a deeper understanding of the work. Each approach has distinctive characteristics that can help analyze and interpret the text in different ways. For instance, a reader may focus on the author's use of language and imagery to convey meaning or examine the characters' motivations and actions to gain insights into the narrative. Similarly, a literary critic may consider the historical and cultural context in which the work was written, or they may pay attention to the author's biographical background to better understand the text. Ultimately, the choice of approach will depend on the specific aspects that the reader or critic wishes to analyze and interpret.

2.1.5 New historicism

To develop the analysis of the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* by Casey McQuiston, new historicism will be used. It is important to understand this method and how it is utilized. To emphasize the significance and relevance of new historicism in this research work, it is necessary to define what it is, how it originated, what its purpose is, and how it can be used for book analysis. This will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the approach and its potential benefits.

First, it must define what new historicism is and what its approach is in a literary analysis. New Historicism is a literary theory that emphasizes the importance of studying and interpreting literature within the context of both the author's background and the critic's history. (CliffsNotes, n.d.). In other words, this theory consists of developing an analysis focused on the perception of the historical context of the work and the author to have a broader overview of the origin and development of the literary work. According to Barry (2017), new historicism focuses on highlighting social and cultural characteristics for the analysis of the book. This approach believes that literature is not solely the author's creation but should be analyzed based on the contextual factors surrounding it, such as psychological, political, and social circumstances and other cultural conflicts.

New historicism is a literary theory that analyzes literature by taking into account the historical and cultural context in which it was written and the author's background. This approach brings other cultural products from a particular historical period to illustrate how concepts, attitudes, and ideologies operated across a broader cultural spectrum that is not exclusively literary (PoetryFoundation, n.d.). In addition to analyzing the impact of the cultural, historical, and ideological context, new historicism also recognizes that its criticism contains opinions and thoughts derived from its historical and ideological position. Due to the aforementioned reason, this method has received severe criticism. According to Gallagher and Greenblatt (2000), new historicism has been a controversial and influential force in literary and cultural studies for almost two decades. This is because it comes to question whether new historicism is entirely accurate in its analysis as it is so susceptible to criticism derived from the influence of the critic's historical and ideological position. The meaning of a text can never be fixed because one's historical context influences it. New historicists aim to place artistic texts

within a cultural and intellectual framework to understand their significance within history better.

The theory of new historicism emerged in 1980, with Stephen Greenblatt being its main proponent. According to the website Spiegato (n.d.), the approach began to gain great relevance in the 1990s after this emergence. Many literary critics and theologians began incorporating new historicism into their research during that time. Critics began to use the approach to observe and analyze a literary work and see everything that influenced the work, such as other writings, the author's bibliography and his relationship with the text, and other cultural aspects that surround the literary work. However, many competing critical theories exist, and some critics reject this approach.

It is relevant to emphasize the difference between new historicism and the approach called historicism, which is an old version of the aforementioned. The latter, to see the differences and changes of each of them. According to Smith et al., Historicism is an approach to the study of anthropology and culture that originated in the mid-19th and early 20th centuries. He encompasses two distinct forms of historicism: *diffusionism* and historical *particularism*. This approach is often associated with Franz Boas and his many students but was developed much earlier by *diffusionists* who sought to offer alternative explanations for cultural change to those advocated by social evolutionists. Historicism only analyzed literary works based on their time period, ignoring contextual elements. On the other hand, new historicism evaluates literary works based not only on the era but also on the author and social contexts that surround the origin and inspiration for the book's development. Another difference is that new historicism takes into account the social sphere that surrounds the literary work, such as the author's lived experiences and how this developed and inspired the creation of his work.

When it comes to analyzing literary works, it is crucial to consider the author's psychological background. This is because writers often draw on their own emotions, experiences, and perspectives to create their stories. By examining an author's psychological makeup, one can understand their motivations for writing, the themes they explore, and the characters they create. Additionally, analyzing an author's psychology can also reveal insights into the cultural and historical context in which they wrote, as well as the social and political issues that influenced their work. Therefore, paying attention to an author's psychological background when interpreting their literary works is essential. In contemporary literary criticism, a prevalent approach is to examine the ways in which an author's personal experiences and perspectives are reflected in their creative work. Specifically, many critics focus on how an author's private life is implemented in their story to understand the underlying themes, characters, and plot developments. This approach seeks to illuminate the intricate connections between an author's lived experiences and the fictional worlds they create. An example is the case of Christian Andersen (1805), the author of the original story of *The Little Mermaid* (1837). He wrote this story inspired by his personal life and forbidden love with his best friend, Edward Collin.

There has been much speculation about the meaning behind the story, but one particular take on it has been widely accepted as truth. This interpretation claims that *The Little Mermaid* is actually a queer allegory and was a love letter written by Andersen to his close friend, Edward Collin, whom he was in love with. Andersen had written several letters and poems to Collin throughout their friendship, and much of his writing declared deep romantic feelings for the other man, expressing that his emotions were like

those of a woman's. Andersen was rejected, however, and *The Little Mermaid* was written the same year that Collin announced his engagement to a woman (Winarski, 2023).

Acquiring an in-depth understanding of the author's literary background is an essential facet in the process of critically analyzing a book. By delving into the author's bibliography, the critic can gain valuable insights into the writer's writing style, thematic concerns, and personal experiences that may have influenced their work. This knowledge provides a fresh perspective on the book and enables the critic to carry out a more comprehensive analysis of the work. Therefore, it is crucial for the critic to have a sound understanding of the author's literary background to appreciate and evaluate the book's significance fully.

Finally, new historicism and old historicism are two different approaches to literary criticism. One of the key differences between them is that new historicism incorporates a broader range of theories than old historicism. These theories, such as Marxism, feminism, and psychoanalysis, can shed light on the historical context in which a particular piece of literature was created and help us better understand the author's intentions. In addition, new historicism also takes into account the social, political, and cultural conditions of the time in which the work was produced. New historicism seeks to uncover the power relationships that inform literary production and interpretation by examining the broader historical context. This approach recognizes that literature is not created in a vacuum, but is shaped by its time's social and political forces. Thus, while old historicism tends to focus solely on the historical context of work, new historicism takes a more interdisciplinary approach, drawing on various theories and methodologies to better understand the text and the world in which it was created. Beyond that,

many critics also analyze a work's impact and consider how it influenced other literary works to have a deeper analysis.

Based on the information provided, it is clear that new historicism is an important approach to analyzing literary works. This approach considers the author, the work itself, and the social and cultural context in which it was created. By considering all these factors, a more comprehensive understanding of the literary work can be achieved. For that reason, this approach is used to analyze the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* in this research. Thanks to new historicism, it can gain insight into society's discrimination and rejection of the LGBTQ+ community. It also highlights the cultural, political, and socioeconomic differences that the book deals with. All to carry out literary criticism appropriate to the nature of this work.

In summary, in 1980, new historicism emerged as an approach that critics and theologians have discussed due to its abstract nature. This theory analyzes literary works based on the author's background and psychology. The approach is analyzed in its historical and geographical context, taking into account societal aspects and focusing on various issues. New historicism is a literary approach that stands out from others due to its unique methodology of analyzing a work in the context of the time and circumstances in which it was created. Unlike other approaches, it does not view a work as a unique product solely of the author but rather as a result of various factors that influenced its creation.

2.2 Literary Devices

In order to carry out a literary analysis of a work, different elements are usually used to help construct said analysis. Literary elements are techniques used to highlight different points of importance to the book's story. Categories are often used to separate different types of analysis.

Literary genres are one example of this, as they classify stories based on their themes, such as romance, action, suspense, mystery, novels, and short stories. There are many other classification types as well. They are also usually differentiated by themes, symbols, motifs, characters, and other aspects. Each section of characteristics usually has its subtypes and differences to divide the work depending on its elements. Literary techniques are crucial when analyzing books, so they must be considered during analysis.

Analyzing literary works requires understanding literary elements such as symbolism, construction, and historical context. "Literary devices work alongside plot and characters to elevate a story and prompt reflection on life, society, and what it means to be human" (MasterClass, 2021). In other words, a deeper understanding of a story's themes, symbols, and character analysis enriches the reader's experience and provides a more profound appreciation of the book. By exploring the underlying themes and symbols, the reader can uncover hidden meanings and messages that may not be immediately apparent. Additionally, analyzing the characters' motivations, behaviors, and relationships can provide insight into the story's central conflicts and themes. By delving deeper into these elements, the reader gains a more comprehensive understanding of the story and can better appreciate its nuances and complexities (Jones, 2019).

These literary elements provide background and symbolism, helping to understand literature in more detail. Kusch (2016) explains how literary elements impact the construction and importance of literature. In her explanation, she delves into the intricate relationship between different literary elements and how they impact the way a story's setting is presented. She discusses how the genre of a story can shape its setting and how certain themes and motifs can be used to enhance or subvert the reader's expectations. Additionally, she explores the nuances of

literary analysis and how it can provide a deeper understanding of a story's full meaning. Overall, her explanation highlights the importance of paying attention to the various elements that make up a story and the ways in which they work together to create a rich and meaningful narrative.

For this reason, knowing and identifying the most important literary elements is relevant when analyzing a book. In order to gain a deeper understanding of a story, it is crucial to examine various literary elements such as symbols, themes, motifs, and character analysis. Symbols are objects, actions, or events that represent abstract ideas or concepts. Themes are the underlying messages or main ideas that the story conveys. Motifs are recurring symbols or themes that add depth and complexity to the story. Character analysis involves examining the characters' traits, motivations, and actions to gain insight into their roles and relationships within the story. By examining these elements, we can better comprehend the author's message and the significance of the story.

2.2.1 Symbols

Symbolisms are techniques used by writers to create abstract ideas of a hidden meaning in history. According to Glatch (2022), symbolisms are used to create specific images that are open to the public's free interpretation, which is why this is usually one of the most used elements in literature. Symbolism can be implemented in objects, feelings, colors, aspects, or traits of characters, among others. Thanks to the possibilities of symbolism, it is easy to find and analyze them concerning the story and the characters. However, Glatch mentions that it is relevant to learn to understand symbolism to become proficient in poetry and bow since, although symbolism can be any object, an object will not always be a symbol.

One of the difficulties of symbolism is that it can sometimes take time to understand or even identify. Glatch gives the example that the same object can have multiple meanings; he mentions how fire can symbolize destruction, anger, or negative feelings. On the other hand, fire can also have positive meanings, such as passion, energy, or the cycles of life. Another example is the case of water since this word has two connotations. On one side, it symbolizes freedom, fluidity, wisdom, and purity. On the other hand, its negative connotation symbolizes depression, sadness, confinement if it is a glass of water, or stagnation in decisions. Considering the work's context is crucial to understanding the symbolism's intended meaning.

Sometimes, it is often confused with metaphors; however, a metaphor is a comparison between two objects with some meaning involved. In the case of symbolism, it is a concrete object that projects an abstract meaning, leaving the door open to multiple interpretations. Glatch describes it as a stepping stone to an expanded metaphor and how an image, for example, a heart, can change its meaning depending on the position, place, or time it appears in the story. Although the symbolisms are separate ideas, their meanings allow for varying interpretations in relation to the story and its characters. Unlike metaphors and similes, symbols are repeated consecutively in the story to emphasize the object or to show a change based on the story. Throughout a story, symbols can play an important role in both the literary work and the critic's interpretation and analysis. For instance, changes in color or the state of an object mentioned throughout the chapters can serve as symbols that carry significant meaning. All of the above demonstrates the importance of symbols for both the literary work and the critic's interpretation and analysis.

2.2.2 Themes

Themes are classified as the main ideas that are talked about in a literary work. According to MasterClass (2021), a literary theme is an idea that is conveyed through one or more literary elements, such as characters, settings, and dialogue. Themes can be implemented in short stories or poems through implied morals. On the other hand, in most complex or detailed stories, there tend to be different themes, with one central theme and other secondary ones. The primary theme is usually a comprehensive exploration of the most significant aspects of history that deal with issues relevant to society or humanity.

One of the most important aspects of a literary work is the central theme. This refers to the overarching idea or message that the author wants the reader to take away from the story. By emphasizing the central theme throughout the work, the author is able to create a more cohesive and impactful narrative. Literary themes are an essential aspect of any story. They are used to develop a story and convey its central message. Some themes are more commonly used than others, either because of their significance or because many similar stories are based on them. Each theme reflects distinct characteristics in its story construction, such as the struggle between good and evil, which divides what is considered right and wrong. Justice is another much-talked-about theme in literary works. This theme focuses on what is considered fair and creates a debate of conscience about the character's actions and their perspectives of their judgment on justice (Glatch, 2023). The book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* also delves into important topics such as love, inequality, and self-identity. The author addresses these themes throughout the book, providing valuable insights and perspectives on each of them.

2.2.3 Motif

To conclude, with literary elements, motifs use repetition to emphasize and give importance to certain images in the story. Motifs in literature are typically objects, words,

phrases, or colors that are repeated at various points in a story to emphasize their importance. They can also be recurring actions or events that serve to create emphasis, making them more noticeable to the reader. (Source: MasterClass, 2021). A relevant point to notice a motif is that it is repeated consecutively throughout the entire literary work.

It is crucial to highlight the differences between themes and symbols despite their similarities. MasterClass (2021) defines motifs as recurring images that emphasize the central theme of a story, which distinguishes them from themes. "If a story features repeated images of handwashing, mopping floors, and refreshing rain, then these images of cleansing water are a recurring literary motif. A theme of the story might be "the desire for purification".” On the other hand, symbols, and motifs have a unique relationship where a motif can also be a symbol, but the reverse is not always true. Literary symbols are abstract images that carry some meaning, while motifs are recurring themes or ideas that help to develop the plot or characters. Both of them play a crucial role in creating a deeper meaning in literature. However, motifs are images constantly repeated throughout the story. Symbols appear one time in the book. "In William Shakespeare's Hamlet, Yorick's skull is an obvious symbol of death — or more specifically, as Hamlet discusses aloud, the inevitability of death. However, since Yorick's skull is the only skull to appear in the play, the skull is not a motif" (MasterClass, 2021). By noticing these differences, it is usually easier to recognize each one and its importance within a literary work.

2.3 Author's Bibliography

Casey McQuiston was born on January 21, 1991, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She studied journalism at *Louisiana State University*. Before becoming a writer, she worked as a waitress, in magazine publishing, and as a freelancer. She has spoken about her condition with ADHD and how it is sometimes an obstacle to writing her stories. She has also talked about how this got

worse in 2014 after her father's death. McQuiston drew inspiration from various sources and published her first book, *Red, White, & Royal Blue*, in 2019. It received critical acclaim and was well-received by the audience. This book won several awards, including the *Alex 2020* and the *Goodreads Choice Awards 2019* for Best Romance and Best Debut. Due to its great popularity, work quickly began on a film that was released on August 11, 2023. Other of her works are *One Last Stop* (2021), *I Kissed Shara Wheeler* (2022), and *The Pairing* (2024).

Casey McQuiston's personal experiences served as inspiration for writing the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*. As an openly bisexual author, McQuiston has shared that a driving force behind writing the book was based on aspects of her own life. Additionally, McQuiston felt compelled to create a queer narrative that would resonate with readers who may feel isolated or alone. Casey disclosed that she grew up in a deeply religious household, which left her feeling disconnected from the world around her. However, she is now determined to bridge that gap by crafting narratives that speak directly to the LGBTQ+ community, offering them a sense of understanding and connection. Above all, Casey strives to create a welcoming space where queer individuals can immerse themselves in stories that mirror their own experiences and help them feel heard. These were his motivations for creating a queer story in the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*.

2.4 Book Synopsis

Red, White, & Royal Blue follows the story of Alex and Henry, children of powerful political families, since Alex, on the one hand, is the son of the first female president of the United States. Henry, on the other hand, is the prince of England and the future heir to the royal crown. When their relationship becomes public, it creates political and social issues as it gains diplomatic attention. As the novel begins, Alex Claremont-Díaz, the son of the first female

president of the United States, has a clear picture of his bright political future, a future he has pursued since he was a teenager. Across the sea, Prince Henry, grandson of the Queen of England, feels condemned to live his life, hiding his sexuality and preventing him from falling in love with another man because of his right to the throne. Alex and Henry pretend to date women for publicity reasons, pressured by their families and their positions to maintain a certain image in the public eye. Both have clear career goals influenced by family and societal expectations.

When they become romantically involved, their future plans are questioned. In the novel, Alex and Henry have a hostile relationship, which causes an incident at Henry's brother's royal wedding party, which causes a worldwide scandal. Both characters are forced to interact to solve the problem, so they begin to get to know each other and create a relationship between them. As they fall in love, the stories they have told themselves about who they are begin to fall apart. The novel's central conflict centers around rejecting inherited narratives and expectations to live authentically.

Chapter III

Methodological Framework

This chapter aims to analyze and explain the elements related to the current research, such as its method, sources of information, and categories of analysis. First, an explanation of the qualitative method and how it affects the research development will be developed. Afterward, what descriptive research is and how it is applied when carrying out the work will be analyzed. The third point will discuss the importance of primary, secondary, and tertiary sources in research. Finally, an explanation of the analysis categories of this research will be developed, which are homophobia and new historicism.

In addition, this research includes an explanation of the instruments used for analysis and highlights the importance of research objectives through several analysis tables. This section will explain the methods used to utilize these tables to clarify. Furthermore, it will discuss the strategies implemented to gather information and the steps taken to analyze data from the book. Ultimately, this will provide relevant insights for the work.

3.1 Research Approach

It is crucial to determine the appropriate method and identify the necessary elements when conducting an investigation. There are two types of research methods: quantitative and qualitative. Although these two have similarities, they are methods used in different fields depending on the topic, the objectives, and the instruments planned for data collection. According to the Santander Universities website (2021), these two methods are used depending on the collection of data necessary for the research since these can be based on the collection of numbers and statistics or, on the other hand, on words. The quantitative method involves

analyzing numerical data, identifying patterns, making generalizations, and confirming theories through statistical analysis.

On the other hand, the qualitative method focuses on collecting information with non-numerical, if not conceptual, data. Santander Universities (2021) explains that qualitative research collects data based on concepts, opinions, experiences, emotions, or behaviors. It is necessary to carefully analyze qualitative research to verify the correctness of assumptions and deductions made by researchers, whose work is based largely on their judgment and perspective. Qualitative research involves analyzing complex social and cultural concepts to understand why or how events occur. This method is used to study natural anthropological, sociological, educational, and historical phenomena. Qualitative research analyzes social factors, contextualizes the research topic, and identifies its origin and problem based on definitions, concepts, or studies.

Due to the nature of the qualitative method, it uses surveys, interviews, document analysis, and analysis tables, among other instruments. The method offers freedom of analysis and allows for multiple approaches. It is also not necessary to analyze a large mass of the population, but work can be done with small data. Based on the analysis of a literary book, the qualitative method is the most appropriate for conducting the current research.

3.2 Research Design

The research design that will be used in this work is descriptive. According to Sirisilla (2023), the descriptive research design focuses on observing and analyzing data on a specific topic without implementing cause-and-effect methods. This type of research aims to gather precise and comprehensive data about a particular population, problem, or phenomenon. The

descriptive method is then used to analyze and describe the patterns, trends, and relationships in the research information. Some methods used in this analysis technique are surveys, observational studies, and case studies. The descriptive design can be used for both qualitative and quantitative research.

This design provides different advantages when conducting research. Descriptive research helps create a comprehensive image of the characteristics and behaviors of a specific population or phenomenon. This design helps researchers better understand the difficulties or problems being studied, and such works serve as a solid base of information for future research. Finally, another benefit focuses on how profitable this type of research usually is since it requires less time and effort than other research methods. Therefore, it helps to efficiently collect a wide variety of information and data useful for project construction. Due to the reasons mentioned above, this research employs a descriptive design.

3.3 Information Sources

To conduct an investigation, it is crucial to have information from experts to validate the work and ideas presented. For this reason, it is necessary to have information from different sources to reinforce the points of the work. There are three resource classifications: primary, secondary, and tertiary sources, each with a specific importance. Having a diverse range of information sources is crucial in this field. Therefore, this research utilized various resources to reinforce the work's information.

3.3.1 Primary Sources

First, primary sources are the most important in developing the work. According to the University of Minnesota Crookston (n.d.) website, primary sources are based on a record of

events or evidence without any comments or opinions so that the information is accurate. The original materials are based on research and provide information on discoveries and original findings. Some of the resources considered primary are theses, academic articles emphasizing research, original literary works, books, and interviews, among others. This work used fifteen primary sources, mostly from books and theses.

3.3.2 Secondary Sources

As a second point, there are secondary sources of information. This source type is closely related to primary sources because secondary sources explain and reinforce primary sources. "They tend to be works which summarize, interpret, reorganize, or otherwise provide an added value to a primary source" (University of Minnesota Crookston, n.d.). Secondary resources include bibliographies, reviews, and online articles explaining other works.

3.3.3 Tertiary Sources

Tertiary sources are reference materials that compile information from primary and secondary sources. These quotations are not essential for research but can provide valuable insights and complement other more important citations. Tertiary sources include encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and textbooks. They typically offer a broader overview of a topic and can help readers better understand more complex subjects. However, tertiary sources should be used with caution as they may not always be accurate or reliable. This source type is typically unattributed to a specific author (University of Minnesota Crookston, n.d.). Certain tertiary resources, such as the Oxford Dictionary, were utilized as part of this research.

3.4 Analysis Categories

This research analyzes the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* using the new historicism approach. The focus is on two main themes, namely homophobia and new historicism, which are of great significance to this work. In order to demonstrate how homophobia continues to be a problem today, this research aims to highlight its main point. Emphasize its negative effect on society, all based on the book and the respective approach.

3.4.1 Homophobia

Homosexuality is normal not only for people but also for animals. However, society has developed an internal hatred towards these behaviors due to different aspects. Homophobia is considered to be the irrational fear or hatred against homosexuals. Homophobia presents itself in society as discrimination, legal restrictions, threats, intimidation, violence, and even murders of people just for being part of the LGBTQ+ community. Queer people have come to have to live hidden and in fear due to this irrational hatred that many people possess, whether due to religious or social values.

The word homophobia originated in the late 1960s and was used by the American psychologist George Weinberg. Weinberg used this word for the first time in his book *Society and the Healthy Homosexual* (1972), in which he discussed issues related to homosexuality and the hatred it caused in society, what he called homophobia. The prefix 'phobia' is commonly used to describe an irrational fear of a specific object, animal, or situation. However, when it comes to the word 'homophobia,' it refers to the behavior of people who range from slightly dissatisfied or uncomfortable to those who harbor intense hatred towards individuals who feel attracted to the same sex (Anderson, 2023). Currently, different fights for equality are carried out. However, homophobia remains an important topic to discuss since discrimination rates remain high. Added

to the latter, in multiple countries, it is still illegal to be homosexual. For this reason, this research focuses on highlighting the problem through the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*.

3.4.2 LGBTQ+ Community

A fundamental part of this research is to analyze the problems faced by the LGBTQ+ community, raise awareness among people, and help stop discrimination against this community. However, it is necessary to explain the definition of the acronym "LGBTQ+" for a greater understanding of the situation. Thanks to the efforts of equal rights activists, the term "LGBT community" is now more widely understood. However, many people still need to grasp its meaning and importance fully. The acronym "LGBTQ+" was specifically created to provide help, support, and visibility to individuals who experience same-gender attraction. It serves as a platform to help all those people who feel sexually attracted to the same gender and aims to remove any stigma or discrimination faced by them. "The use of the acronym LGBT is intended to comprehensively recognize different gender identities and sexual orientations. It is important to also add other identities to the acronym in order to acknowledge and connect them with the broader community" (INSPIRA, 2021). It is relevant to note that the concept of LGBT goes beyond just gay men or lesbian women. This umbrella term encompasses a variety of sexual identities, and it is a mistake to limit it to only a few.

Over the years, the acronyms, their usage, and meanings have changed, providing more visibility to certain groups in society who were once invisible. Each letter of the LGBTQ+ acronym denotes a specific community. For instance, L stands for lesbians, G for gay, B for bisexuals, and T for transsexuals. The Q is usually used to represent the Queer community, "Queer is a word that describes sexual and gender identities other than straight and cisgender. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people may all identify with the word queer." (Planned

Parenthood, n.d.). This word was previously used as an insult towards homosexual people, but now, some within the community use it as a symbol of pride. Today, the word is often debated, and some groups within the community do not appreciate its usage. Nevertheless, it is a term that aims to bring together and unite a group of individuals previously marginalized due to their differences. Finally, there is the plus symbol, which is there to raise awareness of the different sexual identities that exist, as is the case of asexual, people who do not feel sexual transaction for any gender, or aromatics, fluid gender, intersexual, pansexual, among many more communities.

Explaining the meaning of an acronym can help spread knowledge about it, and as a result, more people will be able to use the acronym appropriately. The main objective of creating this acronym was to provide visibility to a previously unseen community so that fewer individuals would feel afraid to be themselves. The LGBTQ+ community provides support and guidance to individuals who feel isolated in the world. They show them that they are not alone and that a large community of people share their experiences. Due to these reasons, the letters "LGBTQ+" are significant in this research aimed at shedding light on current issues of homophobia and discrimination, through literary analysis of the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*.

3.4.3 New Historicism

New historicism is a literary theory that examines literary works in the context of the historical and cultural milieu in which they were created. The theory posits that literature is not autonomous but a product of the society and culture in which it was produced. Rather than focusing solely on a text's literary aspects, new historicism considers the historical and cultural forces that shape the text's meaning. In the analysis of *Red, White, and Royal Blue*, the new historicism approach will be implemented to explore the text's underlying historical and cultural implications. The ultimate goal of this approach is to provide a nuanced understanding of the text

that considers the broader social and cultural context in which it was created (StudyMaster, n.d.). In this approach, critics can interpret concepts and their impact on the book and its environment. It was highly debated. After its creation, this approach gained support from many theologians.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

To analyze the research objectives, we will use comparative tables and prose analysis methods. In order to accurately evaluate the importance of the objectives set forth in this work, it will demonstrate the most relevant points of the research. The comparative table will be divided into several columns to highlight different analysis points relevant to the research. Initially, the comparison tables will be introduced, and the factors that will be considered for each table will be explained. This will help you understand the key points discussed in every comparison table. Subsequently, the relevant aspects of the book will be analyzed in detail, and various quotes from the book will be used to support the factors that have been selected for each table. The researcher will explain and comment on each quote to facilitate a debate on the problem and ultimately find a solution. Finally, the researcher will provide an explanation to clarify the quote and demonstrate with evidence how the objective and approach of the research are relevant.

The first table will analyze privacy invasion problems and their negative impact on individuals. Different quotes will be used as references to highlight facts from the book, and then an analysis will be written to explain the situation. The second analysis table will talk about the barriers that people from the LGBTQ+ community face when they have relevant positions in society. The story's viewpoint will be based on the characters' perspective. It will explain how their identities as figures create problems in maintaining their stable relationship and explain the barrier and the issues it causes. The third table will discuss how homophobia has a destructive impact on the lives of queer individuals in society. The issue will be presented, followed by a

quote from the book that illustrates how the characters deal with these circumstances. Finally, the researcher will explain the topic. The forthcoming analysis will include an additional three tables designed to highlight the major themes and symbolisms present within the book through its symbolic representation, motifs, and themes. This analysis intends to offer a comprehensive understanding of the book's narrative and thematic structure, emphasizing vital elements that contribute to the general significance of the story.

The research employs a second instrument, an analysis in prose form. This instrument will be utilized to track a timeline within the book and demonstrate how history evolves concerning homophobia and the struggle to embrace one's true self in a society where homosexuality is not acknowledged as acceptable. With this instrument, the idea is to mention the most crucial parts of the book and demonstrate, based on quotes, comments, and explanations, how homophobia is a problem in our society today. Using these instruments, the researcher will complete an analysis to draw an effective and detailed conclusion.

3.6 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

This work is focused on reading the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* to carry out a literary analysis based on the discrimination and problems faced by people belonging to the LGBTQ+ community in our society. To conduct this research, the researcher read the book multiple times to gain a deeper comprehension of the story and develop a more accurate analysis. The book was first read in a general manner to familiarize oneself with the characters, the world, and the crucial events. The second reading was done in a more detailed manner. During the literary analysis, the researcher paid close attention to the story's small details, conversations, and key points. Finally, the third and fourth readings of the book were done quickly to search for specific details

necessary to add to the analysis. Thanks to all the previous research, it was possible to observe and analyze relevant information from the book for this research's analysis.

In this research, comparison tables and analysis in prose form are utilized as instruments. The analysis tables are used to compare the events in the book with real-life happenings, using various quotes taken from the book. The comparison tables will also help to carry out a debate on the problems of homophobia in society and thus raise awareness of these problems today. Prose analysis is another of the instruments used in this work. Thanks to this instrument, an observation of the evolution of the homophobia problem can be traced and how it develops throughout the book. The purpose of this work is to bring attention to the discrimination and barriers faced by the LGBTQ+ community. Homophobia remains a significant issue, creating obstacles for queer individuals. In many instances, people are prevented from being themselves, finding happiness, or being with their loved ones without fearing rejection or mistreatment by their families, friends, or acquaintances. In extreme cases, they may even face imprisonment or the death penalty. The main objective of this work is to raise awareness of these issues that affect many people's physical and emotional well-being. The ultimate goal is to shed light on this problem and its consequences.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

This chapter briefly overviews the necessary aspects for analyzing the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*. The selected tools will be used to develop this analysis. The approach used to analyze the story is the best, owing to its qualities and significance. An explanation will be provided to establish the relationship between the approach and the book. The researcher will use the selected instruments to analyze the book during this chapter. Comparative tables and prose analysis will gather information and test the objectives. The literary analysis will be developed using information from the book, experts, and the researcher's analysis based on literary theories to ensure accuracy.

4.1 Approaches to the Investigation

New historicism is a school of thought that emerged in 1980 and was initially met with criticism due to its allowance for free interpretation. It is essential to note that the concept of new historicism involves not only analyzing a story for its content but also taking into account the social and personal context of the author, the date of publication, and the historical context. This is because literary analysis is believed to depend not only on the book itself but also on all the historical and personal events surrounding the author. The above is because particular experiences, traumas, events, or cultural problems can be a reference for the creation of a story, in addition to the fact that the authors' thinking changes over the years due to their cultural and social perspectives. For this reason, new historicism was criticized but has become increasingly important thanks to various influences from some critics and literary theorists.

Due to its operation, new historicism was considered the appropriate approach for carrying out the literary analysis of this work. This approach analyzes the social and political

context, the author's bibliography, and the history of the book. It aims to connect social issues like homophobia with the book's central story. *Red, White, & Royal Blue* is a book narrating the story of Alex and Henry, two influential men worldwide. Alex is the son of the first woman President of the United States, and Henry is the Prince of England. The book covers their romantic relationship, which has developed over a year. This romance must be kept a secret due to potential consequences for their personal lives, families, careers, and countries. Throughout the story, Alex and Henry face various obstacles to being together without any barriers in between.

Casey McQuiston is bisexual, just like the story's protagonist, Alex. In interviews, McQuiston has revealed that she drew inspiration from personal experiences while writing the book. The book explores various political and cultural themes that have real-life connections. The protagonist, Henry, narrates the stories of several writers who were part of the LGBT community and had to face severe consequences due to their sexual orientations. These events are based on real incidents. With the help of the new historicism approach, various elements can be analyzed to gain a better perspective of the book. The novel *Red, White, & Royal Blue* touches on several important topics. However, this research specifically focuses on highlighting the issue of homophobia and the problems it leads to in our society. By using this approach, the researcher can study the social context surrounding homophobia, which continues to be a global problem. In many countries where same-sex relationships are still illegal, discrimination and rejection are still a part of daily life for many queer individuals. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the social context in order to grasp the homophobia, fear, and barriers faced by the characters throughout the book. Another reason why new historicism is crucial when analyzing a book is that it helps to understand different elements of the novel, such as, for example, the character of

Alex and how he deals with his confusion and despair over his love for Henry. That is possible by knowing the author's bibliography, which sheds light on the context and influences that shaped the book. For these and more reasons, it is relevant to use new historicism to analyze the novel *Red, White, & Royal Blue*.

4.2 Theories vs Literary Work

A prose analysis will be carried out to analyze the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*, and different comparative tables will be used to explain the problems to be discussed in this research. During this chapter, different references taken from the book will be used to be analyzed, and each reference will be explained through the researcher's analysis. The tables bridge the problem, the book reference, and the researcher's interpretation for analysis. The present study employs the method of prose analysis to determine the crucial events of the novel and their importance for the central problem of the investigation. Various perspectives that hail from new historicism will be used to ensure an accurate and comprehensive analysis. The analysis will be carried out with the highest diligence and rigor to ensure that the findings are reliable and credible.

Prose Analysis

Homophobia analysis in the novel Red, White, & Royal Blue.

The novel *Red, White, & Royal Blue* tells the story of the romance between Alex, the son of the first female president of the United States, and Henry, the prince of England. Throughout the novel, the story is narrated from Alex's perspective, detailing his romance with Henry and the negative consequences it has on their personal and social lives. Throughout the book, McQuiston highlights certain elements that reveal the homophobia prevalent in the real world. The character of Philip, who is Henry's brother, represents their family's lineage. At various points in the book,

he criticizes Henry for his relationship with Alex, which leads to conflicts. ““You clearly don’t know the first fucking thing about what a legacy means if you can let something like this happen.” Philip snaps” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 345). Philip represents that Henry can never be the head of the throne, a man who submits to the queen's orders to continue a lineage of royalty, even when he puts his values first (McQuiston, 2019, p. 278). Currently, many queer people suffer oppression from their families, many cases leading them to constant conflicts due to the “decisions” that the queer person makes. In many cases, homophobia is so massive that they ignore the emotional stability of the victim only to override the values they believe are correct, affecting them physically and psychologically.

In her writing, McQuiston uses the queen as a symbolic representation of a closed-minded mentality, which unfortunately still exists in society today. Homophobia is born out of society's hatred and rejection of the notion that homosexuality is impure or unpleasant, and the queen expresses this viewpoint on various occasions. “The country simple will not accept a prince of his proclivities. I am sorry, dear, but to them, it’s perverse” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 278). Throughout the story, the queen symbolizes society's rejection, even fear, of the LGBT community, which was an obstacle to Henry's happiness (McQuiston, 2019, p. 357). In the novel, the protagonist, Henry, talks about the fear that turns into hatred towards those who are different. This hatred is perpetuated by the queen, who forces him to repress any different feelings he may have. As a result, Henry experiences this hatred throughout his life. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 351).

In the novel, the royal family symbolizes the discrimination and social oppression faced by many young people. On Alex's side of the family, they are distinguished by a more optimistic outlook on life. Alex's family develops as a reflection of the dream and hope that many queer

people long to have. The fact is that both Alex's parents, his sister June, and his best friend Nora do not pay much attention when Alex comes out of the closet, seeing it as something normal and even making jokes and taking it as good news (McQuiston, 2019, p. 255). McQuiston uses contrast to highlight the reality of discrimination, abuse, and family oppression faced by queer individuals, compared to the fantasy of a future where they are accepted by their families without any issues.

In the novel, the revelation of Alex and Henry's relationship sheds light on the issue of discrimination in the public eye. As their relationship becomes public, the society is divided into two groups with different opinions. Some people accept their relationship as normal and healthy, while others reproach it based on their prejudices and biases. The author uses this divide to show how the society's perception of love and relationships can be influenced by their preconceived notions, and how it can lead to discrimination against those who do not conform to their expectations. The novel thus highlights the need for a more tolerant and accepting society, where love and relationships are not judged based on external factors such as gender, race, or sexual orientation. On one hand, McQuiston writes a more realistic version of the reactions. When the information leaks, many people begin to spread the news, many feeling disappointed and disgusted by the protagonists, often leading to offensive comments. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 322, 323, 324). However, the book tries to create a world in which there is a hopeful future, and at the end of the story, people defend the relationship, creating revolts so that Henry is freed and they can be together (McQuiston, 2019, p. 355). At the end of the book, both characters have enough support to be themselves and live their lives freely, achieving that dream that many queer people want to have. McQuiston positively closes the story, saying at the end of the book that he wanted to represent a love story with an ending that inspires and helps all those who feel alone. "To

every person in search of somewhere to belong who happened to pick up this book, I hope you find a place in here, even if just for a few pages. You are loved. I wrote this for you. Keep fighting, keep making history” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 421).

Table 1

Privacy analysis on the book Red, White, & Royal Blue

<i>Category</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Analysis</i>
<p>Privacy Invasion.</p>	<p>“It says here you had some kind of tryst with a ‘mystery brunette.’” June reads.</p> <p>“through the First Daughter was whisked off by limousine to a star-studded party shortly after the gala, twenty-one-year-old heartthrob Alex was snapped sneaking into the W Hotel to meet a mystery brunette in the presidential suite and leaving around four a.m. Sources inside the hotel reported hearing amorous noises from the room all night, and rumors are swirling the brunette was none other than... <i>Nora Holleran</i>, the twenty-two-years-old granddaughter of Vice President Mike Holleran and third member of the White House Trio. Could it be the two are rekindling their romance?”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 5)</p>	<p>Throughout the novel, all the characters are constantly under public scrutiny, which affects their privacy. This issue is mainly evident in the experiences of the two main characters, Alex and Henry, who are both public figures - Alex is the son of the first female president of the United States, and Henry is the prince of England. However, other characters are also affected by public harassment throughout the book. In the beginning, June gives Alex several journeys where different media talk about the private lives of both brothers. At the same time, they begin to investigate Alex's love life, first linking him with his closest friend, Nora. Later, when the media leaks all of Alex's</p>

	<p>And Henry. God Henry. Those emails-those letters-were the one place Henry could say what he was really thinking. There’s nothing that wasn’t laid out in there: Henry being gay, Bea going to rehab, the queen tacitly keeping Henry in the closet. Alex hasn’t been a good catholic in a long time, but he knows confession is a sacrament. They were supposed to be safe. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 336)</p>	<p>conversations with Henry, more people are affected in the same way. In real life, this is a common occurrence among famous and influential people, often leading to personal problems.</p>
<p>Privacy Invasion.</p>	<p>“In here, at night, it’s almost like walking through a real piazza.” Henry says. “But there is nobody else around to touch you or gawk at you or try to steal a photo of you. You can just <i>be</i>.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 287)</p> <p>Alex snorts. It's insane to him that there are legions of people who follow the intensely dull dating lives of the royal siblings. He understands why people care where he puts his own tongue –at least <i>he</i> has personality. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 10)</p> <p>“For Christ’s sake.” Henry says. “I’ve been trying to be happy my entire idiot</p>	<p>With the rise of the internet, it has become easier to intrude upon a person's private life. As a result, many individuals are harassed by legions of people. Invasion of privacy can also lead to various mental health issues such as anxiety, fear, insecurity, and other difficulties for the victim. The book portrays Prince Henry's character as someone who has been in the public eye since birth. This scrutiny forces him and his family to maintain a perfect public image and be cautious about his personal live to avoid any potential issues. This last causes Henry to be unhappy and wish to</p>

	<p>life. My birthright is a country, not happiness.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 272)</p>	<p>live anonymously to avoid harassment as the prince of England.</p>
<p>Privacy Invasion.</p>	<p>Alex doesn’t even hear the last part of what she says, because his stomach has just dropped all the way down thought the floor and into the fucking basements two floors below. “Fuck.” Hands shaking, he switches Zahra to speaker, opens up Google, and types his own name. Breaking: Photos Reveal Romantic Relationship Between Prince Henry and Alex Claremont-Diaz (McQuiston, 2019, p. 321, 322) The Daily Mail’s report this morning revealed that First Son Alex Claremont-Diaz has been involved romantically and sexually with Prince Henry since at least February of this year, according to emails and photographs obtained by the paper. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 329) The queen purses her lips. “Henry.” She says returning to him “wouldn’t you have a more pleasant go of it without all these unnecessary</p>	<p>Filtering information, conversations, or personal data about individuals has become normalized, but it is important to remember that invading someone's privacy should not be taken lightly. Sometimes, without considering how it would impact the personal life of the individual concerned, this leads to the victim taking various actions regarding their life which can be severe. One of the strongest aspects of the novel is when all the conversations, emails, and photos exchanged between Alex and Henry are leaked. This reveals the depth of their loving relationship and causes a global sensation. As a result, the lives of both young men are impacted in significant ways. In Alex's situation, it impacted his mother's political career. On Henry's part, the royal family disapproved of their relationship, causing Henry to conceal their romance and pretend to be someone else.</p>

	<p>complications? You know we have the resources to find a wife to you and compensate her handsomely.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 352)</p>	
<p>The lack of privacy can make it hard to possess freedom.</p>	<p>A muscle in Henry’s jaw moves, and something soft, almost like a smile, tugs at his lips. “D’you ever wonder,” he says slowly, “what it’s like to be some anonymous person out in the world?” Alex frowns, “What do you mean?” “Just, you know-” Henry says. “If your mum weren’t the president and you were just a normal bloke living a normal life, what things might be like? What you’d be doing instead?” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 106)</p> <p>He doesn’t often wish his position in life, but in this moment, he does. He wants to be having this conversation in a different life, just his mother sitting across from him at the dinner table, asking him how he feels about his nice, respectable boyfriend, if he’s doing okay with figuring his identity out. Not like this, in a West Wing briefing room, his dirty emails spread out between them on the table. “I’m…” he begins. To his horror, he hears something shake in his voice,</p>	<p>Wanting to live freely is a desire of many people, especially those who face different problems in their lives daily or those who cannot be themselves for fear of discrimination or violence. The pressure of being constantly watched by the public often results in a lack of freedom, causing individuals to strive for perfection and leading to the destruction of their lives. In the novel, Henry expresses his desire for freedom from the chains of royalty. The prince wants to be himself without the pressure of being perfect or being what an entire country expects of him. Henry expresses his desire to be anonymous so as not to be under public pressure; he wants to have a private life without fear of being himself. The reality is that many people in high-ranking positions do not have a private life, and society often ignores their right to privacy. Alex also begins to feel the same desire when all his</p>

	<p>which he quickly swallows down. “I don’t know. This isn’t how I wanted to tell people. I thought we’d get a chance to do this right.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 327)</p>	<p>conversations with Henry are exposed. He wishes to have a private life without worrying about the consequences that his relationship might have on his family or job. Unfortunately, these problems continue to impact the lives of many people. Artists often have their private lives revealed by others, which can have negative consequences. An example is the situation that actor Kit Connor faced as the protagonist of the Netflix series <i>Hearstopper</i>. Due to pressure from viewers, Kit was forced to come out of the closet, which caused him various personal and professional problems.</p>
<p>Right to privacy.</p>	<p>The queen’s head turns slowly. “And what options might those be, Catherine?”</p> <p>“Well, I think there’s something to be said for coming clean. It could save us a great deal of face to treat it not as a scandal, but as an intrusion upon the privacy of the family and the victimization of a young man in love.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 352)</p> <p>The truth is, Henry and I have been together since the beginning of this</p>	<p>Wanting to have a private life is a right that everyone, regardless of their status, rank, or position in society, should have. Being able to do what they want with their life as long as they don't hurt others should not be a problem; however, today, it still is. Alex and Henry's relationship has become public, and they must now confront the consequences that come with it. Henry, being a member of the royal family of England, is facing</p>

year. The truth is, as many of you have read, we have both struggled every day with what this means for our families, our countries, and our futures. The truth is, we have both had to make compromises that cost us sleep at night in order to afford us enough time to share our relationship with the world on our own terms. We were not afforded that liberty.

But the truth is, also, simple this: love is indomitable. America has always believed this. And so, I am not ashamed to stand here today where presidents have stood and say that I love him.

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 373)

opposition from the Queen who refuses to accept Henry's lifestyle. His mother, on the other hand, defends her son, arguing that what they did to him was to investigate and destroy his private life, which ended up affecting him. Alex delivered a speech to the US press addressing the revelation of his relationship with Henry without his consent. During the speech, Alex openly expressed his love for Henry to the audience and acknowledged the truthfulness of the leaked information about their relationship. However, he also highlights that beyond the fact that they are a couple, the important thing is that they are people. Alex emphasizes that they have feelings, families, dreams, and lives, lives that should be private, and that they should have the right to be themselves without living in fear. This speech not only conveys a clear message but also reflects the desire of many individuals to live without the fear of judgement or discrimination. They just want to be themselves in a world where privacy is a rare commodity.

Table 1 demonstrates the analysis of the privacy observed on the book Red, White, & Royal Blue.

Source: Researcher’s own creation

Table 2

Political Barriers analysis of the LGBT community on the book Red, White, & Royal Blue

<i>Barriers</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Analysis</i>
<p>Political Stigmatism.</p>	<p>But Alex is the golden boy. The heartthrob, the handsome rogue with a heart of gold. The guy who moves through life effortlessly, who makes everyone laugh. The whole point of him is that his appeal is as universal as possible.</p> <p>Being... whatever he's starting to suspect he might be is definitely not universally appealing to voters. He has a hard enough time being half-Mexican.</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 112, 113)</p> <p>He wants his mom to keep her approval ratings up without having to manage a complication from her own family. He wants to be the youngest congressman in US history. He's absolutely sure that guys who kissed a Prince of England and liked it don't get elected to represent Texas.</p>	<p>As has been demonstrated and explained throughout the research, homophobia is a problem that continues to affect a large number of people daily. In the novel, this discrimination and the stigmas that encourage violence against people in the LGBT community become visible from different perspectives and situations. One of the situations addressed in the book is the political issue. It focuses on both Alex's life and that of his family. The story's main conflict revolves around Alex, who engages in a secret romantic relationship with the Prince of England, Henry. One of the challenges Alex faces is keeping the relationship hidden, as it could potentially damage their respective careers, families, and Alex's mother's political campaign. In her</p>

	<p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 113)</p> <p>“But,” she goes on, “this is a really, really big fucking deal. This is not just some person from class or some intern. You need to think really long and hard because you are putting yourself and your career and, above all, this campaign and this entire administration, in danger here. I know you’re young, but this is a forever decision.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 238)</p> <p>“Also,” she says. “I am so sorry to do this, sugar. But you’re off the campaign.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 238)</p> <p>“This is not up for debate, Alex,” she tells him, and she does look sorry, but he knows the set of her jaw too well. “I can’t risk this. You’re way too close to the sun. we’re telling the press you’re focusing on other career options. I’ll have your desk cleaned out for you over the weekend.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 239)</p>	<p>work, McQuiston employs the theme of criticizing contemporary societies where being openly gay as a high-ranking political figure is still deemed unacceptable. This point can be substantiated by analyzing the current state of society, where no president has ever openly acknowledged being part of the LGBTQ+ community. A principal reason behind the discrimination faced by the queer community is the widespread rejection they experience from people. As a result, many individuals are unwilling to accept the possibility of a queer person holding a high position in society, such as the role of president. The latter ends up affecting and frustrating the work of many people who wish to run an electoral career; however, because of their sexual orientation, these purposes are frustrated by society. This problem is something that the character Alex deals with in the book. When Alex begins to feel something special for Henry, he considers his entire electoral life, questioning whether it is right to be attracted to the prince since it could</p>
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		<p>put at risk all the work he has done in recent years. Alex emphasizes that he is the face of the race, the aspiration, and the example of many, but if he falls in love with Henry, it would no longer be what everyone expects of him. It would not be something <i>normal</i>, so It would put the entire electoral race at risk. This problem is later reinforced by Alex's mother, who, upon discovering his relationship with Henry, decides to separate him from anything related to politics. She does the latter so that it does not affect her political campaign since, as she explains, it is a risky decision that could destroy all the work they have invested for so many years. Again, this reinforces all the political stigmas that force a person to be correct in every way, minimizing queer people to be themselves if they want to have a political position.</p>
<p>Aristocratic oppression.</p>	<p>“But he goes on dates with girls all the time.” “Yeah, because princes aren’t allowed to be gay.” Nora says as if it’s the most obvious thing in the world. “Why do</p>	<p>The topic of homosexuality is taken differently depending on the culture of the country. However, it is no secret that discrimination and oppression towards queer people is something that happens worldwide.</p>

you think they're always
photographed?"

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 119)

Henry keeps looking at him, holding
his gaze for two seconds too long.

"The options I'd like..." he says,
dragging the words out. "They don't
quite seem to be options at all."

Alex blinks. "What?"

"I'm saying that I have ... people ...
who interest me," Henry says, turning
his body toward Alex now, speaking
with a fumbling pointedness, as if it
means something. "But I shouldn't
pursue them. At least not in my
position."

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 107)

"I'm gay," Henry tells him flatly. One
of his broad palms flattens over Alex's
hip, and Alex inhales sharply, either at
the touch or at the hearing Henry
finally said it out loud. "No something
wise to pursue as a member of the royal
family,"

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 137)

Alex looks at him, trying to think of
something to add, when Zahra jabs a
manicured finger into his shoulder.

For many years of history until
today, the monarchy has followed
different patterns for its legacy, and
one of these involves the absolute
prohibition of a prince or princess
who can maintain a relationship
with someone of the same sex.

Since homosexuality in the
aristocracy has been seen as
something sick or depraved.

Therefore, throughout history, all
those who were royalty and gay
were oppressed by the crown.

Which, on many occasions, led to
the person's death. Throughout the
book, Henry highlights several of
these cases where he tells the story
of public figures who were secretly
part of the queer community.

McQuiston highlights this problem
through the character of Henry,
who, unlike Alex, has suffered from
oppression for as long as he can
remember. In the novel, Henry's
strong desire for freedom and the
ability to be himself is highlighted.
He narrates how his grandmother,
the queen, compels him to conform
to societal norms, which he finds
oppressive and stifling. Henry's
natural behavior is considered

“Well, I hope it was fun, because if anyone ever finds out about this, we’re all fucked,” Zahra says. She points at Henry.

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 232)

The queen says, setting down her teacup. “the country simple will not accept a prince of his proclivities. I am sorry, dear, but to them, it’s perverse.”

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 354)

“My position is unchanged, dear. Your role in this family is to perpetuate our bloodline and maintain the appearance of the monarchy as the ideal of British excellence, and I simple cannot allow anything less.”

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 351)

“Stop it!” Henry burst out. All the eyes in the room swivel to him, and he looks pale and shocked at the sound of his own voice, but he goes on. “you can’t – you can’t intimidate me into submission forever!”

(McQuiston, 2019, p. 353)

Henry hisses, the note balled in his fist.

“when I have *ever*, since the first instant I touched you, pretending to be

indecent and perverse by his grandmother, who forces him to date girls and conform to his family's legacy of marriage. As a result, Henry is unable to live freely without being judged. Henry expresses his unhappiness to Alex, explaining that he is unable to be with the people he loves because it is not allowed. Throughout the story, one can observe the desperation of Henry's character, who distances himself from Alex for the fear of not being able to be himself and for the problems that this situation may cause for both of them. The text reflects the centuries-long struggle of individuals to avoid negative perceptions and dangerous consequences.

	<p>anything less that in love with you? Are you so fucking self-absorbed as to think this is about you and whether or not I love you, rather than the fact I’m an heir to the fucking throne? You at least have the option to not choose a public life eventually, but I will live and die in these palaces and in this family, so don’t you dare come to me and question if I love you when it’s the thing that can bloody well run everything.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 272)</p>	
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Table 2 shows the analysis of the political barriers of the LGBT community on the book Red, White, & Royal Blue. Source: Researcher’s own creation.

Table 3

Social challenges analysis of the LGBT community on the book Red, White, & Royal Blue

<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Quote</i>	<i>Analysis</i>
<p>Family rejection.</p>	<p>And so June knows; she knows about him, and she hugs him and doesn't care. He didn't realize how terrified he was of her knowing until the fear is gone.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(McQuiston, 2019, p. 181)</p> <p>“Raf ever tell you his parents kicked him out when he was sixteen?”</p>	<p>Family is often considered as the primary source of support for many people. It represents a bond that lasts forever due to the shared bloodlines. However, this is not always true. Sometimes, family relationships can be unstable and unhealthy, depending on the</p>

	<p>Alex winces. "I knew he had a hard time before college, but he didn't specify." (McQuiston, 2019, p. 254)</p> <p>"the rest have suspected. I was always a bit different, never quite had the stiff upper lip. I think Dad knew and never cared. But Gran sat me down the day I finished my A levels and made it abundantly clear I was not to let anyone know about any deviant desires I might be beginning to harbor that might reflect poorly upon the crown" (McQuiston, 2019, p. 170)</p> <p>Henry practically shouts. His eyes are flashing, wet and angry and afraid. "don't you bloody see? I'm not <i>like</i> you. I can't afford to be <i>reckless</i>. I don't have a family who will support me. I don't go about shoving who I am in everyone's faces." (McQuiston, 2019, p. 273)</p>	<p>circumstances. This last is due to different circumstances that cause family fractures or even toxic environments in them. These tends to happen more frequently with queer people since they are rejected and physically and psychologically attacked by their families. The above sometimes leads to suicides or murders due to the aggression of the parents themselves (Newport Academy, 2023). In the novel, we can see the fear and rejection that several characters suffer throughout the story. In Alex's situation, he openly acknowledges that he is scared to inform others about his relationship with Henry. This fear becomes apparent when June discovers the truth and confronts him. Many individuals who are still in the closet experience the same fear. They worry about the safety of themselves and their loved ones when disclosing their true identity. Often, individuals in the LGBTQ+ community face the fear of rejection and discrimination. The last is highlighted in McQuiston's work through the character of Rafael Luna. When Rafael came out to his</p>
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parents, they kicked him out of the house at a young age, leaving him with no choice but to find alternative ways to survive. Unfortunately, this is a reality for many young people today who are forced to leave their homes due to a lack of family support. Such situations can have an impact on the lives of these young individuals. On many occasions, many parents force their children not to say their sexual orientation and force them to pretend to be heterosexual so as not to deal with their coming out. McQuiston reflects this through the character of Henry, who does not have the support of his family and is forced by his grandmother, the queen, to remain in the closet for life. Many young people end up falling into depression or anxiety due to the great weight of protecting their own identity from their families, often having to live a double life. The lack of understanding and family support is something that can damage the mental health of the young person, who, on many occasions, feeling alone, usually resorts to suicide.

<p>Social pressure</p>	<p>Henry is quiet. He says enough for Alex to glean that Philip is apoplectic and Her Majesty is annoyed but pleased Henry has finally found himself a girlfriend. Alex feels horrible about it. The stifling orders, pretending to be someone he's not—Alex has always tried to be a refuge for Henry from it all. It was never supposed to come from his side, too. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 309)</p> <p>“Look, I might not be a fucking royal,” Alex says crosses the horrible rug, moves into Henry’s space, “but I know what it’s like for your whole life to be determined by the family you were born into, okay? The lives we want – they’re not that different. Not in the ways that matter. You want to take what you were given and leave the world better that you found it. So do I. We can – we can figure out a way to do that together.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 274)</p>	<p>The novel portrays social pressure from various perspectives. Henry, a prince, is oppressed by the royal family as he is unable to live an openly gay life due to his position. Consequently, the family tries to find him a heterosexual partner so that he can conform to societal norms. In real life, many people go through the same thing. Many queer individuals often repress their sexual orientations by forcing themselves to date people they do not like just so as not to be discriminated against by society. The novel's author tries to reflect a hopeful future in the character of Alex, who dreams of reaching a point in history where they can just be themselves. The latter is the desire of the entire LGBT community. The desire to be free and live with those they love without the fear of being attacked by society. Something McQuiston tries to wrestle with in the novel as well.</p>
<p>Stigmatization</p>	<p>Henry closes his eyes and exhales through his nose. “I want to believe you. I do. But I’m so afraid I’ll never be allowed.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 312)</p>	<p>Another barrier that the LGBT community faces is stigmatization. Because many groups of people often denigrate or discriminate against the queer community just</p>

	<p>“it’s not fucking <i>fair!</i>” he goes on, his voice nearly breaking. “My shit ancestors walked around doing a thousand times worse than any of this, and nobody <i>cared!</i>” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 312)</p> <p>“Seriously,” he says. Henry’s looking back at him, beautiful and vital and heartsick and still, always, the person Alex is willing to risk ruining his life for. “I hate this so much. I know. But we’re gonna do it together. And we’re gonna make it work. You and me and history, remember? We’re just gonna fucking fight. Because you’re it, okay? I’m never gonna love anybody in the world like I love you. So, I promise you, one day we’ll be able to just <i>be</i>, and fuck everyone else.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 312)</p>	<p>because of their sexual orientation. Much of the LGBTQ+ community lives in fear of being themselves, something that Henry reflects in the novel since, in different states, it is not legal to be homosexual. Currently, society tends to place more emphasis on a person's sexual orientation than on the person, which causes the dehumanization of the individual by those who are homophobic. On many occasions, they tend to be strongly judged by people who believe in a religion, judging them to be sinners or aberrations only because of their sexual orientations, ignoring the behavior and ethics of the person. Henry demonstrates this by saying that his ancestors made even bigger mistakes, and yet he is the one they judge and reprimand.</p>
<p>Self-sabotage</p>	<p>“I’m not... good at saying these things like you are, but I’ve always thought ... ever since I knew about me, and even before, when I could sense I was <i>different</i> – and, after everything the past few years, all the bad things my head does – I’ve always thought of myself as a problem that deserve to</p>	<p>One of the obstacles many queer people face when exploring themselves is self-sabotage. It is not easy for a person to know themselves, and when it comes to sexual orientations and gender identities, it is usually even more difficult. Either because of living in</p>

stay hidden. Never quite trusted myself, or I wanted. Before you, I was all right letting everything happen to me. I honestly have never thought I deserve to choose.”
(McQuiston, 2019, p. 279)

a conservative family or because of their stigmas. Living in a world where homophobia is still present in all parts of the world, identifying as someone from the LGBT community is not a pleasant thing. On many occasions, this leads to self-rejection, fear, and denial. Many fear themselves, transforming this fear into hatred, anger, and frustration, feelings that lead to hatred towards openly homosexual people. Something is known as internalized homophobia. Sometimes, identifying as a queer person can cause a decrease in self-esteem, leading to feelings of being a mistake, unworthy of success, and doomed to a life of unhappiness. Unfortunately, some heterosexual individuals may not understand or empathize with these struggles and may view them as exaggerated or unnecessary. It is crucial to consider the current societal context when discussing homosexuality. Unfortunately, identifying as queer can often lead to experiencing hostility, aggression, discrimination, and rejection from one's own family, friends, and society. As a result,

		<p>those who are exploring their queer identity face numerous challenges and difficulties. In the novel, the character of Henry represents all this, and it is not until he meets Alex that he feels like someone insignificant and deserves to be unhappy all his life.</p>
<p>Social pressure</p>	<p>“Okay, fine, kid,” Luna finally snaps, “you want me to be your fucking Sherpa? Here’s my device: Don’t tell anyone. Go find a nice girl and marry her. You’re luckier than me – you can do that, and it wouldn’t be a lie.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 317)</p> <p>“I know it will be difficult,” Henry says. “I... It’s terrifying. And if you’d asked me a year ago, I probably would have said it was fine, that nobody needs to know. But... I’m as much a person and a part of this family as you. I deserve to be happy as much as any of you do. And I don’t think I ever will be if I have to spend my whole life, pretending.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 353)</p>	<p>One of the most relevant barriers that a person in the LGBTQ+ community faces is coming out. The latter is usually a feared, traumatic moment for many. Many individuals who have been hiding their true identity for years experience a moment of vulnerability when they finally decide to open up to others about it. Unfortunately, this often leads to rejection by their loved ones. This causes a lot of fear in some individuals, who, like Luna in the book, suggest other queer people hide in the closet to avoid a bigger problem.</p> <p>Even so, as Henry explains, coming out is difficult, but everyone deserves to be themselves. Although homophobia remains a serious problem today, everyone deserves to be free to be themselves. It is not fair that due to homophobia, a</p>

	<p>person has to live hidden as, Henry mentions, happiness will never come by pretending to be happy when, in reality, you are unhappy for not being yourself.</p>
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Table 3 illustrates the analysis of the social challenges of the LGBT community on the book Red, White, & Royal Blue. Source: Researcher’s own creation.

Table 4

Analysis of the themes, motifs, and symbols reflected in the book Red, White, & Royal Blue

<i>Literary term</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Analysis</i>	<i>Quote</i>
Themes	The quest to find a place in the world	. The book explores the theme of finding one's place in the world, which is considered to be one of its most important themes. Throughout the novel, the main characters, Alex and Henry, as well as some other characters, attempt to discover their roles in the story and the significance of the story to them. Throughout the novel, Henry's character questions his legacy to the throne and everything that has happened in his family's history. On several occasions, Henry recounts his desire to break away from royalty to find his path, longing to be a writer or poet. Henry talks about his ancestors' experiences and his own isolation while	<p>Thinking about history makes me wonder I’ll fit into it one day, I guess. And you too. I kinda wish people still wrote like that. History, huh? Bet we could make some. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 241)</p> <p>A crowd of teenagers in front of the White House wearing homemade T-shirts that all say the same thing in crooked Sharpie letters, a phrase he recognizes from one of his own emails: HISTORY, HUH? (McQuiston, 2019, p. 355)</p>

		<p>referencing hidden characters and poems. Alex was someone who always had everything in his life planned out. He had thought through every little detail of what he wanted to do. However, when he met Henry and got involved in a relationship with the prince, he realized he did not know his historical position. Throughout the book, both characters are afraid of the consequences of their relationship, but they decide to face it together. Alex and Henry embark on a journey of rebellion and courage to overcome obstacles in their relationship, including Alex's mother's political campaign and Henry's royal legacy. In the book, the phrase "history, huh?" gains more significance as the protagonists use it as a symbol of hope and unity in the story they create.</p>	<p>Every person who bears a legacy makes the choice of a partner with whom they will share it, whom the American people will hold beside them in hearts and memories and history books.</p> <p>America: He is my choice (McQuiston, 2019, p. 374)</p>
	<p>The power of love to tear down facades</p>	<p>Throughout the story, Alex and Henry wear masks, hiding their true desires and dreams from society. However, when their relationship begins to form, these masks begin to fall away. At the novel's beginning, Alex and Henry both engage in relationships or interactions with certain people to gain attention from society. For instance, Alex tries to attract attention by being with Nora, while Henry takes June dancing only to take photos of the dance.</p>	<p>“He thoughts he was smart enough about his own identity that there weren’t any questions left.”</p> <p>They’re rounding the corner for their eight lap now, and he’s starting to see some flaws in his logic, straight people, he thinks, probable don’t spend this much time convincing themselves they’re straight.</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 112)</p>

	<p>Both these individuals are very concerned about how they are portrayed in the media and invest a considerable amount of time and effort in creating and maintaining their public personas. In the novel, both characters present a particular version of themselves to the media, which they begin to believe is their true personality. However, this leads to some suspicion and criticism from Alex, who questions their way of being. As the two characters' initiate to interact, they start to uncover the genuine person behind their facades. McQuiston expertly portrays the intimate scenes between the characters, highlighting how they gradually unravel themselves through their intense love and passion. The latter is to emphasize that the facades they once presented are now breaking down.</p>	<p>I thought, this is the most incredible thing I have ever seen, and I had better keep it a safe distance away from me. I thought, if someone like that ever loved me, it would set me on fire. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 300)</p> <p>“it was... <i>tolerable</i> before, somehow,” Henry says. “When there was never – never the possibility of anything else. But, Christ, this is – it’s vile. It’s a bloody farce.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 311)</p>
<p>The right to a private life</p>	<p>Throughout the entire book, the theme of privacy is touched upon, and both protagonists struggle to maintain a private life. Being public figures, they live under constant pressure from society, which forces them to repress their true selves in order to be accepted and happy. Throughout the novel, a conflict arises over leaks and invasion of privacy, which leads to various problems. Alex and Henry</p>	<p>A muscle in Henry’s jaw moves, and something soft, almost like a smile, tugs at his lips. “D’you ever wonder,” he says slowly, “what it’s like to be some anonymous person out in the world?” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 106)</p>

		<p>both yearn for a private life where they can be themselves without being judged and without the need to pretend to be someone else.</p>	
<p>Motifs</p>	<p>Alex’s old house key</p>	<p>The key to Alex's old house in Texas is a literary device used in the story to emphasize Alex's character. In the novel's beginning, Alex wears the key around his neck as a reminder of his roots, but he keeps it hidden under his clothes. The latter symbolizes how far he is from his true self. The hidden key reflects how he hides a side of himself deep in his chest. When the key appears for the second time in a row, Alex has her first meeting with Henry after accepting her bisexuality. On this occasion, the key protrudes from the shirt, even hiding a particular part of it under the clothes. The latter represents how Alex gets to know himself, connecting more with his true self, but he continues to repress that part of him by hiding it from the rest of his family. When Alex travels to England to confront Henry and confess his love for him, the key appears again. This time, when Alex promises to fight to defend Henry and for a future at his side, the key is completely revealed. This latter is a symbol that Alex has finally accepted his true self and that he will defend his values no matter what.</p>	<p>It’s all gathering dust in the house they still keep back home. On a chain around his neck, always hidden from view, he’s worn the key to that house since the day he left for DC.</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 2)</p> <p>“What’s this?”</p> <p>Alex huffs impatiently. “The key to my mom’s house in Texas,” he says, winding a hand back into Henry’s hair. “I started wearing it when I moved here. I guess I thought it would remind me of where I came from or something – did I or did I not tell you to quit stalling?”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 139)</p> <p>At cruising altitude, he takes the chain off his neck and slides the ring on next to the old house key. They clink together gently as he tucks them both under his shirt, two homes side by side.</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 291)</p>

		<p>The key's last appearance is at the end of the book, where Alex opens the door to his old house. This represents that what he most hides, his whole being, is already discovered, and he is willing to walk a new destiny, a new story, now with Henry by his side.</p>	<p>Alex reaches down into the from of his dress shirt and finds the chain with his fingers, pulls it out carefully. The ring, the key. Under winter, victorious, he unlocks the door. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 418)</p>
<p>Star Wars</p>		<p>In the book, Star Wars references are used to symbolize the characters and their roles in the story. Early in the book, Alex and Henry bond over a friendly debate about which Star Wars movie is the best. Alex, on the one hand, defends his favorite since it is when Princess Leia and Han Solo have their first kiss; Henry, on the other hand, defends his because the movie has a happy ending. Both parts allude to a certain romanticism shown in the novel. Throughout the book, both characters use similarities from the Star Wars movies to define themselves and how they see themselves reflected in each other, with Leia and Han Solo being Henry and Alex, respectively. The parallel with Star Wars also emphasizes the heroic nature of their romance and their ability to fight against the traditions of empires. This last is reflected in the mural of the two of them as their Star Wars monologues at the end of the novel, around which a movement of support and acceptance emerges.</p>	<p>(By the way, in this relationship, I am absolutely the Han and you are absolutely the Leia. Don't try to argue because you'll be wrong.) (McQuiston, 2019, p. 293)</p> <p>Up close, it's beautiful. Two stories tall. He can't imagine how somebody was able to put together something like this so fast. It's a mural of him and Henry, facing each other, haloed by the bright yellow sun, depicted as Han and Leia. Henry in all white, starlight in his hair. Alex dressed as a scruffy smuggler, a blaster at his hip. A royal and a rebel, arms around each other. He snaps a photo on his phone, and fingers shaking, types out a tweet: Never tell me the odds. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 358)</p>

	<p>Magazines</p>	<p>Magazines play a significant role in the novel, emphasizing the lack of privacy. From the beginning of the story, these publications depict a perspective of harassment and an investigation into the private lives of the protagonists. In the novel, magazines are used to illustrate the influence of social pressure and to indicate danger or threat. They also serve to emphasize Alex's relationship with Henry. As a child, Alex kept a magazine featuring Henry, which was one of the first signs of his love for the prince. In the novel, it is shown that both young men, Alex and Henry, had created certain images of themselves in magazines, and how this caused Alex to develop a hatred towards Henry for his perspective in those magazines. However, towards the end of the novel, the same magazines begin to show support for Alex's relationship with Henry, leading Catherine to rebel against the queen to grant her son the freedom to be with Alex.</p>	<p>She's dumped her stack of magazines out on the bedspread and is already busying herself with them.</p> <p>“Doing your part to keep the great America gossip industry alive?” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 4)</p> <p>Zahra slaps a stack of magazines down on the West Wing briefing room table.</p> <p>“This is just what I saw on the way here this morning,” she says. “I don't think I need to remind you I live two blocks away.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 21)</p> <p>It's a news report from the BBC, and the sound is off, but Alex reads the scroll at the bottom of the screen: WORLDWIDE SUPPORT POURS IN FOR PRINCE HENRY AND FIRST SON OF US. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 354)</p>
<p>Symbols</p>	<p>Henry's signet ring</p>	<p>Henry's signet ring holds great significance as it represents his family's heritage. Signet rings have been worn by British royalty for centuries and have been used to authenticate official documents.</p>	<p>“Listen,” he says, pulling a curled fist out of his pocket. He takes one of Alex's hands and turns it to press something small and heavy into his</p>

		<p>Therefore, this symbolizes Henry's sense of duty towards his family and his connection to the royal lineage. When Alex confesses her love to Henry, Henry takes off his ring, symbolizing his distance from the royal family and the facade he has maintained. After Henry decides to be with Alex, Alex gives him his ring, illustrating his decision to leave his legacy to follow his heart.</p>	<p>palm. "I want you to know, I'm sure. A thousand percent." He removes his palm, is the signet ring. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 291)</p>
	<p>Alex's old house</p>	<p>At the end of the story, Alex and Henry leave the celebration for Alex's mother's victory when she is re-elected as president. Both young people head towards Alex's old house. The house represents the privacy they longed for. Compared to the celebration, it is a secluded and silent place with no cameras or people, just the two of them. A place where they can be themselves without being judged. The book ends as soon as they enter the house and close the door. A symbol that they finally achieved that private life that not even the reader can appreciate, because, at last both characters achieved what they wanted, to be themselves.</p>	<p>There are no Fireworks out here, no music, no confetti. Just sleeping, single-family homes. TVs finally switched off. Just a house where Alex grew up, when he saw Henry's picture in a magazine and felt a flicker of something, a start. (McQuiston, 2019, p. 417)</p>
	<p>The garden</p>	<p>In the story, the garden where Henry and Alex share their first kiss represents the intimacy they both crave. It is described as a quiet and calm place, in stark contrast to the chaotic New Year's party. The garden</p>	<p>There, under a tree in the snow, exhalation little puffs of steam, is a tall, lean, broad-shouldered figure that can be only Henry.</p>

		<p>is also a symbol of Henry's isolation from society, as he feels disconnected from those around him. The cold atmosphere reflects the sadness that Henry is feeling. But at the same time, that garden is narrated as a place of peace, reflecting that desire for privacy that both characters long to achieve. That's why this is where the first kiss happens, a place where no one sees them, a place just for the two of them.</p>	<p>He slips out onto the portico without really thinking about it, and the instant the door closes behind him, the music snuffs out into silence, and it's just him and Henry and the garden.</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 104)</p>
	<p>Museum statues</p>	<p>The statues in the museum symbolize Henry's desire to live in a world where he doesn't have to hide his love for Alex. In this museum, Henry openly expresses his love for Alex, and the two of them dance, surrounded by numerous statues. The above represents the desire to live in a world where people can be themselves without fear of discrimination or judgment.</p>	<p>“In here, at night, it’s almost like walking through a real piazza.” Henry says. “But there is nobody else around to touch you or gawk at you or try to steal a photo of you. You can just <i>be</i>.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 287)</p> <p>“When I was younger,” Henry says, “I had this very elaborate idea of taking somebody I loved here and standing inside the chapel that he’d love it as much as I did, and we’d slow dance right in front of the Blessed Mother. Just a... daft pubescent fantasy.”</p> <p>(McQuiston, 2019, p. 290)</p> <p>Alex exhales a laugh. “Aren’t you gonna ask if I know how to waltz?”</p>

			<p>“No waltzing,” Henry says. “Never cared for it.” (McQuiston, 2019, p. 290)</p>
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Table 4 identifies some examples of the themes, motifs, and symbols reflected in the book Red, White, & Royal Blue. Source: Researcher’s own creation.

Chapter V

Conclusions and Recommendation

This chapter provides the conclusions and recommendations deduced from the analysis of the novel *Red, White, and Royal Blue*. The conclusions and recommendations are taken from the book's analysis and investigation. Furthermore, the researcher will present the objectives mentioned at the beginning of the document and the research question. Finally, some recommendations are added to help other researchers who want to work on a similar topic or the same book.

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

The purpose of the conclusions of this research is to provide readers with a broader understanding of the persistence of homophobia in the world. This was determined by analyzing the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*. The research objectives will be addressed, and arguments will be answered through an exhaustive analysis of research instruments. Additionally, the achievement of each objective will be explained. In addition, the investigator will communicate their experience throughout the process. This information helps determine if the investigation's objectives were achieved. Finally, the investigator will provide recommendations or specific courses of action to address the problem.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 To compare, based on the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*, how the invasion of privacy is a current problem in our society

Throughout the novel *Red, White, & Royal Blue*, one of the central themes is focused on highlighting the importance of privacy and how the lack of it can affect a person's personal and

social life. In the book, many conflicts the character encounters arise from privacy invasions. The author also emphasizes at various points how the lives of these characters were being watched by the public eye simply because they were prominent figures. The actions taken by the two main characters in the story put their futures and their countries at risk due to their relationship. In real life, invasion of privacy has become increasingly common. With the rise of social media, it has become easier for the public to leak personal information about individuals, causing damage to their personal and social lives.

The invasion of privacy is usually a topic that many people end up ignoring without considering all the negative consequences it brings. In recent times, social media have become a popular way of communication. It offers opportunities to stay in contact with loved ones and develop new relationships with people worldwide. However, this also leads to many individuals paying close attention to the social media profiles of others, famous or not. This often results in a surge of followers and, unfortunately, sometimes leads to harassment. All of the above ends up showing intense harassment to know their private lives and those of their families, to the point of invading the subject's privacy. This problem is reflected in the book, how the media filters Alex's entire relationship with Henry, and how the population dedicated themselves to investigating their lives, to the point of investigating their relationships and family members.

The character of Henry helped the researcher better analyze the negative consequences of the lack of privacy in our society. Henry demonstrated throughout the book his desire to have a private life due to all the problems of being a public figure. Henry, like many people today, is forced to maintain a public image very far from their true self, affecting their mental health by sticking to a lie for the sake of their image. However, Henry also demonstrated the social pressure by which many people constantly suffer, trying to be perfect in an imperfect society,

which ended up causing anxiety attacks on the character, something that often happens today due to social networks. However, social pressure can also cause diverse circumstances that endanger a person's professional life.

Due to the invasion of people's privacy, they often end up pressuring a person to know their private life, such as their love relationships, their sexual orientation, their family, or other elements of their life. The latter has come to affect the lives of many people today. As demonstrated in the analysis, there have been cases in which people invade a person's private life to the point where they are pushed to reveal their secrets until affecting their personal lives. In the book, both characters were affected in different ways due to the leak of their love relationship, being forced to declare their relationship in public, which Alex reproached that they were their private lives and that they took away his right to privacy. It is worth mentioning that, in real life, the trial of two public figures had been broadcast worldwide, causing a wave of hatred towards the members of the trial, even though a trial should be private.

In summary, according to the analysis of the *Red, White, & Royal Blue* book and the instruments used in this research, it was concluded that the invasion of privacy is a problem that affects a person's life. The absence of privacy in one's life can be a serious concern, as it can result in a range of mental health issues. Anxiety, depression, and fear are just a few examples of how the lack of privacy can impact an individual. Furthermore, social pressure can be overwhelming, adversely affecting personal and professional aspects of one's life. It can even destroy a person's future and prospects in severe cases. The solution to this problem is to raise awareness that we all deserve to have a private life, whether someone is famous or not, and learn to respect the space of each human being since everyone deserves a private life.

5.2.2 To explore the historical impact of homophobia in society and how it has influenced the barriers, challenges, and opportunities that LGBTQ+ people face when holding political office in national and international contexts

It is evident the barriers that many minorities face in our society today since currently discrimination towards everything different continues to be a problem. The LGBT community is not excluded from suffering discrimination by many people. As has been shown throughout the research, homophobia is present in all countries, in some cases more drastic than in others. Because of this, the queer community faces multiple barriers that prevent them from many job opportunities or relevant positions in society. Thanks to the analysis carried out in the previous chapter, other tests can be taken that show how these barriers currently continue to affect the lives of many people who are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

In the book *Red, White, and Royal Blue*, the two main characters, Alex and Henry, face various challenges in their professional lives due to their relationship. As they are two men in love, society does not accept their relationship. Throughout the book, discrimination against Alex is evident in different instances. For example, he was discharged from an electoral race due to his relationship with Henry. This was because society is not yet accepting of queer individuals holding important positions in society, such as being present in an electoral campaign. Alex's life is filled with frustration as he loses everything he has worked for due to something he cannot control. Unfortunately, this is a common occurrence in many countries where being openly LGBT is illegal, making it impossible to hold high positions, such as becoming president. In turn, there has never been an openly gay president to date. Another place where this rejection occurred was when Alex questioned his own identity. He stated that he could not be different since the population would not like that, affecting his political career, which he had worked so

hard for so long. The latter is linked to what was said above, being part of the queer community imposes challenges on the part of society, as evidenced by holding a relevant position in society.

Henry serves as an example of the limitations that exist within the monarchy. Just like the presidency, there has never been a king who is openly queer and free to be in a same-sex relationship. Throughout the novel, the character of Henry sheds light on the oppression that monarchs impose on their legacy. In the novel, Henry expresses his fear of being the same as everyone else and how he is not allowed to be himself. He confronted the demands of his grandmother, the queen, to be happy with Alex. Throughout the story, Henry narrated various historical figures who were part of the LGBT community but had to hide their true selves to be happy. It is important to note that all the stories presented are based on real events. Throughout history, many influential authors and figures in ancient societies were part of the queer community. Discrimination forced many people to hide their true selves, which remains a challenge today.

In summary, it is easy to affirm that currently, there are still many barriers, difficulties, and challenges that queer people face when trying to take charge of important political positions in society. The evidence and the analysis carried out show that homophobia currently continues to affect people from the LGBT community to the point of being a challenge for them to reach an important political position. On the other hand, also when it comes to the monarchy, it is still unthinkable for a prince or princess to maintain a relationship with someone of the same sex. Due to all of the above, the difficulties that queer people currently face are evident. It is crucial to examine this situation to eliminate homophobia. The most effective solution to this issue is to validate the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals and promote the understanding that homosexuality is

a normal and natural aspect of human sexuality. No one deserves to suffer discrimination for something they cannot control, such as their sexual orientation.

5.2.3 To explain the evolution of homosexuality perspective inside the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue*

Throughout history, the evidence unequivocally shows that the issue of homosexuality has been viewed from various perspectives, often with a negative inclination. However, it is time for society to recognize that homophobia is a serious problem that affects the lives of numerous individuals who are unable to express themselves freely. It is time to create a world where everyone can live without fear of persecution or discrimination. Throughout history, homosexuality has been treated in different ways. An example of this is in ancient Greece and Rome, where having homosexual relationships was normalized. During ancient times, homosexuality was considered normal and natural, especially among young people. However, with the beginning of Christianity, this perspective changed drastically, and homosexuality was deemed a sin. This is explained throughout the research. For centuries, homosexuality has been judged to be inappropriate, an aberration of nature, a sin that deserves to be purged.

For this reason, in much of history, it was judged to be homosexual, being penalized with imprisonment or death, something that still happens today. It was not long ago that they finally removed homosexuality from books on mental disorders, which in previous years was considered an illness. Something which led to the construction of conversion centers, which were horrible places where people ended up dying. There was also the creation of *medicines*, which ended up killing people, like what happened with Alan Turing, who, no matter how much he helped in the war, was marginalized and forgotten for being homosexual.

At present, numerous individuals persist in achieving an equitable life. They are demanding fundamental rights such as the right to marry and adopt children, which would allow them to create a family. Unfortunately, this is not yet a reality in many parts of the world. Discrimination varies depending on the country and culture, and in some countries, it is somewhat more severe, as mentioned before, reaching the death penalty. In other societies, it has become more normalized, giving them their rights and no longer being punished by the law. However, discrimination, harassment, violence, and lack of rights continue.

The book *RW&RB* demonstrated the change that has been emerging about homosexuality, and the book itself was already proof of this. Just a few years ago, it was impossible to find a story like this, in which the issue of homosexuality was seen in such an open way and with a beautiful message. Throughout the investigation, it has been demonstrated that being homosexual was considered a crime in the past. As a result, homosexual individuals had to live hidden lives, invisible to society. Many writers who were part of this community gave small indications of their sexuality in their literature, although it was often hidden under the surface. Thanks to the fight for equality, society has been changing slowly, but this has allowed books and stories like these to exist today. Henry narrated the story of several individuals who were part of the LGBT community and how they communicated their romantic feelings to their loved ones through letters.

The book portrays a conflict of thoughts regarding homosexuality through its various characters. The queen, who represented the closed-mindedness of the older generation, insisted that Henry should deny his true self and enter into a heterosexual relationship, even though this would cause him immense emotional pain. On the other hand, Philip represented those who were subjected to living a life they did not want, and now they reflect this hatred to those who want to

be different. Currently, many people live being repressed, so this hatred and resentment is transmitted in the form of homophobia towards those who could be themselves. On the other hand, Luna's character represents individuals who have come out of the closet and faced negative consequences, such as losing their families and homes. These individuals often lead challenging lives filled with hardships, which is sadly more common than people realize. However, the author also reflected a more positive perspective in the eyes of other characters. Alex's family represented those who supported and defended the LGBT community in the face of discrimination. They represented a loving family that did not care about a person's sexual orientation, a family that respects and accepts the person, something many queer people long to have.

In conclusion, McQuiston highlights the conflict between hostile and inspiring perspectives on homosexuality. Society has many things to change, and one of them is homophobia. For many years, queer people have suffered a lot of contempt, hatred, and countless aggressive acts. Society's perspective towards the LGBT community has been changing gradually, as depicted in the book *Red, White, and Royal Blue*. Although there is still a long way to go, many countries have legalized same-sex marriage, and society is showing more support towards the LGBT community. This evolution of homophobia can be seen through the events in the book *Red, White, and Royal Blue*. One solution to this problem is to move forward as a society, respect those who are different, and fight for a future without homophobia.

5.2.4 To demonstrate with the help of the book *Red, White, & Royal Blue* how homophobia continues to be a problem in our society and how this negatively affects the lives of queer people

Homophobia, as has been shown, is something that affects the lives of many queer people. On many occasions, rejection, hatred, and aggression end up physically and mentally harming a person. The book portrays Henry's family as a representation of the rejection faced by many members of the LGBT community. Henry dealt with constant oppression from his grandmother and brother throughout the story. This is a common experience for many individuals who identify as LGBT. In many families, people reject everything differently, so queer people end up repressing their raw feelings to pretend they have a *normal* life. The latest usually causes different problems, such as depression, anxiety, and anger attacks, among others. Many young people end up committing suicide. They do not feel normal because they are rejected. All of this causes being homosexual to be seen as a punishment, a curse, which creates an internal fear in many young people when they realize their sexual orientation.

Homophobia causes the problem of self-hatred in society, as many individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ often feel sinful and impure. This is demonstrated in the book, where Henry's character spends time blaming himself for his identity and eventually develops a decisive hatred towards himself. Henry told how he hated himself, to the point of not even trying to be happy because he felt that he deserved harmful things to happen to him for being someone different. The above demonstrates a situation that many people go through. The fact that homosexuality is viewed negatively by many people causes many people to hate themselves for it and feel guilty for being themselves.

In summary, the book demonstrates how homophobia creates different problems that end up affecting the lives of many people. How they are rejected by their families or come to have diverse mental disorders are just some of the problems that homophobia causes. It also creates self-rejection on the part of the victim, which can lead them to make more serious decisions,

such as suicide. The solution to this problem, as mentioned before, is to raise awareness of the issue and help and guide queer people who do not have the support of their families. Create support centers and psychological help to help them deal with their disorders so they can live being themselves without fear of anything.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

An analysis of the homophobia presented in the book *Red, White & Royal Blue* was conducted using comparative tables and prose analysis. The collected information was used to obtain an in-depth analysis that answers the research question. It is crucial to note that the data collected during this research produced positive results. It has been shown that homophobia continues to be a problem today, one which affects various aspects of a person's life. Lack of privacy can lead to revealing important information, such as their sexual orientation, which can affect both their private and professional life. It was shown that queer people often suffer barriers and challenges when trying to have positions in society, and many people are also constantly rejected by their families, which affects them physically and emotionally. Moreover, although today, many things have changed for the good of equal rights, homophobia currently remains a severe problem that must be solved so that all those who are different can be happy being themselves.

5.4 Recommendations

It is important to highlight some of the best recommendations when carrying out work similar to this to help other researchers who need advice before starting their work. First, it is essential to choose a book that catches your attention. During the work, it will be necessary to work for a long time with the same book to analyze it in depth. So it is recommended that it be a

book you like and not just out of obligation. This will help make the process of reading the book and analyzing it in depth more bearable.

Another tip is to choose a problem that catches your attention and that you feel excited to investigate. Carrying out work like this is not easy; it involves many hours of work and research, so choosing a problem you like can help lighten the load. When selecting a topic for research, it is crucial to choose wisely to avoid feeling overwhelmed and exhausted. Choosing a problem, you are passionate about, have some prior knowledge of, and can dedicate hours of investigation to is recommended. This will motivate you to keep going and produce quality research. As a third recommendation, since time was mentioned, it is crucial to be well-organized with your hours. Conducting an investigation requires effort, and you will likely spend many hours researching. Therefore, keeping an organized agenda can be incredibly helpful. The researcher recommends making a list of all the points to investigate and working on them in an orderly and punctual manner; this will be something that will help when finishing all the chapters on time and without pressure.

Some other recommendations based on this research are to read the book multiple times, noting important pages and details. Doing a general reading first to understand the characters, story, and their problems is advised. It is recommended that important data such as page numbers, references, and literary elements be written down during each reading to facilitate analysis. If you would like to analyze the book *Red, White & Royal Blue* using a different approach, it is recommended to use the feminist approach. This is because the book has significant characters and points that help view the novel differently. For instance, Alex's mother, who became the United States' first president, is a great example. As a final

recommendation, knowing the author's bibliography is crucial in understanding the book's different elements, which helps create a more accurate analysis.

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