

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

#### 5.1. Conclusion

*Ever After High: The Storybook of Legends* series by Shannon Hale is a series of middle-grade children's books that focuses on the lives of children of famous fairytale characters while studying at a boarding school named Ever After High, where they are prepared to continue the legacy of their respective fairytales. The series mainly follows Raven Queen, daughter of the Evil Queen from "Snow White," who announces her decision to revoke her destiny and choose her own future. The other central character is Apple White, daughter of Snow White, who attempts to persuade Raven to become the next Evil Queen so she can have the future she has dreamed of since she was young.

This series can be analyzed using literary Darwinism. Specifically, adaptationist literary study analyzes how the characters attempt to preserve their life and existence and learned mechanism theory to analyze how the characters deal with generational norms and values. The story shown in the three novels features tropes and elements that are crucial concepts in literary Darwinism. After analyzing all three books in the main series, it can be concluded that this series does feature Darwinian ideas.

The characters in the series are motivated by self-preservation, mainly the preservation of their existence, prestige, and the desire to create a new way of life. The way the world of Ever After works means that one group is disproportionately at a disadvantage due to the status quo, causing this group to rebel to ensure their existence is not harmed in any way, shape, or form. While other groups have several privileges because of the status quo, this causes them to not want a change in the tradition because change means that they will lose some of these privileges. As seen in the analysis in the previous chapter, the characters' view on tradition and how it affects them also leads to them adapting and using different methods

of preserving their survival or prestige. The Royals all follow their written destinies because they fear the consequences of abandoning traditions. The Rebels also revoke their written destinies because it interferes with their possibility of living an eventful life.

Another aspect of this series is how the characters have been groomed and conditioned by their elders in the name of tradition. The characters of this series are a product of years upon years of generational norms and values. Ever After High students have been groomed since birth to follow their predetermined path and to always follow tradition. While characters like Raven have always existed, it wasn't until Raven officially refused to sign the Storybook of Legends that other students expressed dissatisfaction with their written path, thus 'unlearning' the learned mechanism they received from the older generation. On the other hand, characters like Apple, Briar, and Lizzie, who all benefit from their written destinies, see the Rebels as threats to their otherwise well-secured future. They attempt to enforce the learned mechanism on the Rebels as a way to maintain the status quo that benefits them. This leads to some characters enforcing the learned mechanism to preserve tradition and some characters going against their learned mechanism and realizing their ability to govern themselves.

## **5.2. Suggestions**

For subsequent research on this series, discussing the spin-off books in the series may be interesting. All the spin-offs are written by Hale and contain stories about other characters in the canon. This can add more perspective to the research and obtain more insights into how the series portrays its message.