

MORAL VALUE IN THE MOVIE SERIES “THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY”

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Abstract

Moral values are important lessons learned from experiences, events, or tales that guide what is good and evil in human existence. This study was aimed at analyzing the moral principles offered in the movie “The Summer I Turned Pretty.” Using a descriptive qualitative technique, it seeks to identify and explain the many forms of moral ideals in the series' first two episodes. This study applied Linda and Eyre's (1993) moral value theory. The movie series “The Summer I Turned Pretty” is the focus of this study, with moral ideals as the objects of investigation. The result of this study shows that this movie presents two kinds of values: values of being and values of giving. The moral of giving includes love and affection, respect, kindness, and friendliness. Meanwhile, the moral of being includes self-confidence, courage, self-discipline, and honesty. The characters most prominently express love and affection. All data in the series were analyzed in light of their situational context.

Keywords : Movie, Moral value, Literature

Abstrak

Nilai-nilai moral adalah pelajaran berharga yang dipelajari dari pengalaman, peristiwa, atau cerita yang mengatur apa yang baik dan buruk dalam kehidupan manusia. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk meneliti cita-cita moral yang disajikan dalam film “The Summer I Turned Pretty”. Ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif untuk mengidentifikasi dan menggambarkan berbagai jenis cita-cita moral yang ditemukan dalam dua episode pertama dari seri tersebut. Studi ini menggunakan teori nilai moral Linda dan Eyre (1993). Penelitian ini berfokus pada serial film “The Summer I Turned Pretty,” dengan standar moral sebagai objek pemeriksaan. Menurut temuan studi ini, film ini menampilkan dua jenis nilai: nilai keberadaan dan nilai memberi. Etika memberi melibatkan cinta dan kasih sayang, serta rasa hormat, kebaikan, dan keramahan. Sementara itu, kebajikan dari keberadaan termasuk kepercayaan diri, keberanian, disiplin diri, dan kejujuran. Emosi paling signifikan dari para karakter adalah cinta dan pengabdian. Semua data dalam seri tersebut dianalisis berdasarkan konteksnya.

Kata kunci : Film, Nilai-nilai moral, Sastra

A. INTRODUCTION

Literature often refers to written materials, hence oral literature, which is not documented in written form, does not fall under this category (Regassa & Mitiku, 2024; Mayer, 1997). Literature encompasses well-established literary forms, including poetry, fiction, playwriting, and literary criticism, (King, 2021). Nevertheless, the concept of literature can be expanded to encompass other mediums in addition to traditional written forms, according to Mayer (1997). Literature and movies are profound artistic manifestations of the human intellect (Agrawal, 2024). Though film and literature are distinct forms of expression, both share a common purpose: to cultivate generosity within the realm of human imagination and comprehension, (Fasikh, 2021).

In this broader context, Hornby (1995) defined a movie also known as a motion picture as a tale or related material preserved as a sequence of moving pictures. These moving images are meant to be seen in a theatre or on TV. As Sharjeel and Dadabhoy (2013) noted that there are numerous categories of movie, including horror, comedy, drama, action, and documentaries. The consumption of movie may serve a variety of purposes, including entertainment, education, and the acquiring of new insight and emotions. Movie exerts a profound influence on our lives, inspiring people to become better individuals. Inspiring us to be better versions of ourselves, they may also play a big role in our motivation and personal development. (Fasikh & Natali, 2021). In the other words, every movie will provide some moral values to the viewers.

Moral refers to social norms and proper behavior within a community, as well as an individual's adherence to these norms. Ali states that the term comes from the latin "moralist" derived from "mos" and "moris"

meaning customs or behavior related to good or bad actions. Morality involves an awareness of right and wrong and concerns one's attitude towards others (Febrian, 2020).

While values are the central and sustained belief that certain behaviors or final circumstances are preferred over their opponents (Lee, J., Bardi, et all, 2021; Rokeach, 1973). Actions and behaviors are guided by values, which assist in assessing the moral and ethical ramifications of decisions in situations where there is the freedom to do good or bad.

In their publication, Teaching Your Children Values, Linda and Eyre (1993) posit that values should be instilled in young individuals with specific objectives and developmental milestones that evolve with age. The family unit, particularly the home, serves as the primary setting for moral instruction. Furthermore, in the theory they also clarified that values have two divisions, 'Value of being' and 'Value of giving'. Where value of being contains, honesty, courage, peace of ability, self-confidence, self-discipline, fidelity. Conversely, virtues such as justice, sympathy, loyalty, dependability, respect, love, and affection make up the value of giving. Values, they also said, are the guidelines that direct behavior and the attitudes of hearts and minds, thereby forming people's personalities, way of life, and treatment of other people. Good ideals obviously result in better people, better lives, and more polite treatment of others, (Zhao, K., Ferguson, E., & Smillie, L. 2017)

Following the context given, this study discovered certain issues in this research, (1) What type of moral value is presenting in the movie series "The Summer I Turned Pretty"? (2) Which moral value are particularly important in the movie "The Summer I Turned Pretty"? This study relates to the

moral qualities of the movie's series "The Summer I Turned Pretty" episodes 1 and 2, The movie illustrates the journey of adolescent maturation through first love and emotional turmoil pertinent to young viewers. It underscores the significance of love, friendship, and family, which profoundly impact teenagers. Furthermore, the deep relationships among the characters enhance the narrative's depth.

This literature reviews examine the contributions of previous studies that are pertinent to the examination of moral values in movies. First study was written by [Windriani \(2020\)](#) entitled "An Analysis of Moral Values In "Up" Movie". This study highlighted how moral ideals such as honesty, empathy, and accountability impact the characters and narrative of the film. Both studies demonstrate how ethical principles are fundamental to storytelling and character development, highlighting how these values resonate across genres and storylines.

Second study, [Fasikh and Natali \(2021\)](#) in "An Analysis of Moral Values In "Zootopia" Movie Ended by Byron Howard and Rich Moore" shows that some moral principles found in that movie and their effects on human existence are investigated. These findings are connected as they indicate how moral values operate in forming character and story, this pertinent to how this study ties moral values to the categories Linda and Eyre have defined.

Third study was from Priyoto and [Priskila \(2023\)](#) entitled "An Analysis of Moral Value in The Movie "Aquaman" Directed by James Wan (2018)" This study revealed how the moral principles stated in the Aquaman movie influence the messages and characters of the movie. These outcomes are interrelated since they depict how moral values including true love, concern for the

environment, courage, forgiveness in Aquaman, as well as love and compassion, self-confidence, respect, determination, compassion, friendship, self-discipline, and honesty in The Summer I Turned Pretty affect the characters and narrative of the movie.

Based on the theoretical explanation provide above, it is possible to deduce that the study aims to analyze how the movie series combines entertainment with moral lessons, highlighting the key values depicted in the story. It examines Belly's journey of self-discovery and personal growth, focusing on his complex relationship with Conrad and Jeremiah. This study explores how this series emphasizes the nature of youth and the importance of appreciating moments and relationships. It also investigates the themes of change and resilience, seeing how the characters respond to the challenges and support they receive from their loved ones. Furthermore, the research reflects the universal experience of adulthood and provides insight into character education by evaluating moral decisions made by characters. In general, the objective of this investigation is to identify the moral value that are significant in the first two episodes of the movie series "*The Summer I Turned Pretty*" and to analyze them through the lens of [Linda and Richard Eyre's \(1993\)](#) moral theory.

B. METHOD

The study used a qualitative methodology as it aimed to analyze the moral value elements found in the movie series "The Summer I Turned Pretty" episodes 1 dan 2. The study involved watching the movie series "The Summer I Turned Pretty" episodes 1, and 2 to gather information to examine the elements of moral values found

in the series. Data collection for this study was obtained from the movie series using several data collection techniques. The study used primary and secondary data. The primary data included the original movie, dialogues, and transcripts to understand the movie's purpose. The secondary data included websites for additional information and data. The data analysis in this study will be conducted using the descriptive qualitative method. The data will be analyzed based on the theoretical framework proposed by Linda and Richard Eyre (1997), focusing on identifying the personal, social, and moral values reflected in the characters' actions and interactions. The conclusions of this analysis are well-founded and meaningful, as they are based on the evidence presented in the data.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Summer I Turned Pretty centers on Belly, a teenage beach house resident who spends every summer with her family and best friend, the Fisher family. Belly discovers she is in a love triangle this summer with two brothers, Conrad and Jeremiah Fisher. The narrative looks at ideas of first love, friendship, and Belly's path to maturity. Important principles discussed in the narrative include the meaning of love and friendship in the life of a teen, the value of family ties, and how Belly develops both individually and emotionally. Using the challenges and life decisions she encounters, the show emphasizes the emotional path of self-discovery and learning from the first love experiences of a teenager. The Summer I Turned Pretty revealed seven different kinds of moral principles throughout its production.

Table 1. The Summer I Turned Pretty

No.	Moral Value	Number of Occurrences
1.	Value of giving	
	Love and affection	12
	Respect	5
	Kindness and Friendliness	3
2	Value of being	
	Self-confidence	6
	Courage	4
	Self-discipline	2
	Honesty	1

The movie "The Summer I Turned Pretty" prominently explores the moral values of love and affection, which are highlighted in 12 sequences. These moments underscore the significance of emotional connections throughout the plot. The six scenes depict acts of kindness and friendliness, demonstrating the characters' care and support for one another. Courage is a significant virtue, demonstrated in five scenarios that emphasise persistence and unwavering resolve. Additionally, the characters and narrative of the story also demonstrate other moral attributes such as self-confidence, respect, self-discipline, and honesty, but they are less frequently depicted.

1. Value of Giving

a. Love and Affection

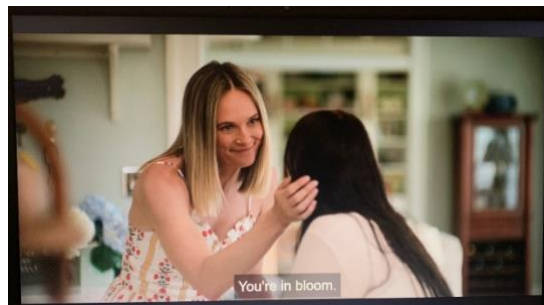


Figure 1. Scene 1 (00:10:21- 00:10:35)
Episode 1.

Susannah: : You have always been lovely, but... oh honey, look at you. [laugh]

- Belly** : I think I look pretty much the same
- Susannah** : You don't look the same at all. You're growing up, you're in bloom.
- Belly** : [Susannah has a way of saying things that almost makes me believe her.]

The scene above shows Susannah was amazed to watch the improvements in Belly's growth, and she always provided genuine support, ensuring Belly's trust. In that scene, set in the kitchen of Susannah Fisher's house, where they prepare lunch for the children, when Belly appears who has just done swimming, Susannah is amazed to see the changes in Belly, she does not hesitate to praise "You're always beautiful, but ... oh honey, look at you." Susannah expresses appreciation and devotion for Belly. Belly answers, noting that she hasn't altered much: "I think I look pretty much the same." Belly believes that her look has not altered greatly, and Susannah verifies the alterations she notices: "You don't look the same at all. You're growing up, you're in bloom." According to Linda and Eyre's view (1993), when Susannah thanks Belly for "bloom" she is displaying love and affection. they stresses the importance of love and affection in a person's growth, which may be exhibited via praise and encouragement. Susannah's compliments improve Belly's self-confidence and self-esteem, which are the core of "love and affection" according to Linda and Eyre (1993). This type of emotional support helps Belly mature and appreciate himself, illustrating how love and affection can have a significant impact on character development. This scene shows how love and respect help a person grow from the inside out. Susannah's words not only show how much she cares about Belly, but they also

help and improve their relationship, showing how important love and affection are for personal growth and emotional bonds.

Respect



Figure 2. Scene 2 (00:16:33 – 00:16:51) Episode 1.

- Stevan** : When are you leaving for training camp, man?
- Jeremiah** : Uh, he quit football
- Stevan** : Wait, really? Are you quit?
- Conrad** : Mm-hmm.
- Stevan** : Are you kidding me, man? I'd-I'd k*ll to play college ball.
- Susannah** : He can always change his mind.
- Conrad** : **I'm not gonna change my mind,
I was just gonna sit on the bench all season anyways**

The scene takes place at the dinner table between the Belly and Susannah families. Steven immediately asks Jeremiah when Conrad will travel to training camp: "When are you leaving for training camp, man?" Stevan appears to presume Conrad will attend football training camp. Jeremiah responds that Conrad has opted to leave football: "Uh, he quit football." This surprises Stevan and indicates a significant shift in Conrad's goals. Stevan is astonished and requests confirmation: "Wait, really? "Are you quitting?" He does not believe

Conrad is truly quitting football. Conrad acknowledges the choice momentarily, and Susannah tries to console him by stating, "He can always change his mind." She demonstrates that Conrad still has the option of changing his mind and returning to football if he wishes. When Conrad decides to leave the football team, Susannah replies in a way that demonstrates respect for his decision. Linda and Eyre's (1993) idea emphasizes accepting others' decisions, particularly those based on personal values and well-being. Susannah accepts and supports Conrad's decision, demonstrating respect for his integrity and personal wishes.

Kindness and Friendliness

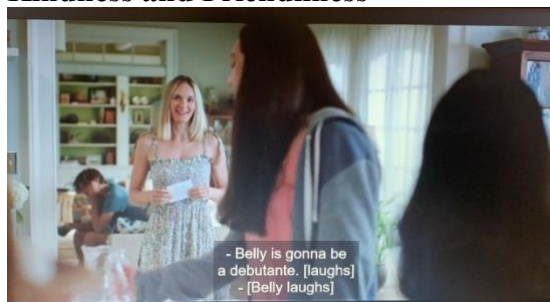


Figure 3. Scene 3 (00:02:46 – 00:03:09) Episode 2.

Susannah : Oh, my God! Belly is gonna be a debutante
Belly : It's really not that big deal
Stevan : I'm sorry. Like, Belly? Like, my sister? Like, that thing right there?
Belly : Shut up, cretin
Susannah : Okay, this is gonna be so much fun, just you wait. There is, uh...there's the tea, the auction the ball, of course, the rehearsal. I got to write this down.

This scenario takes place in the morning, as everyone is eating breakfast and

conversing together, when Susannah enters eagerly, revealing that Belly will be a debutante. "Oh, my God! Belly will be a debutante." Susannah is thrilled about the thought of Belly participating in a debutante function, which is often a formal occasion in which a young woman is presented to society. Belly reacts by playing down the significance of the event: "It's really not that big a deal." Belly attempts to downplay the significance of becoming a debutante, either because she feels uneasy or is not especially enthused about the notion. Steven reacts with astonishment and some perplexity. Steven does not believe Belly, his sister, will be a debutante. He probably sees Belly as his younger sister and cannot envision her in such a formal, grownup role. Susannah's enthusiasm grows as she proceeds to recount all of the events surrounding her debut. She even feels compelled to write them all down, demonstrating how important this is to her. Kindness, according to Linda and Eyre's (1993) view, is a basic virtue that promotes the development of healthy, supportive relationships. Susannah exhibits generosity in this moment by maintaining a happy attitude and displaying genuine excitement. Despite Belly's and Stevan's reservations, she fosters a welcoming environment. Susannah's efforts demonstrate how compassion can counterbalance and overcome negative energy in social encounters. This scene makes a point of showing kindness and friendliness when you're with other people. Susannah's positive attitude and Belly's reaction to Stevan's doubt show how important compassion is for making and keeping helpful friendships and a positive social atmosphere.

Value of Being Self-confidence



Figure 4. Scene 4 (00:05:33 – 00:06:04) Episode 1.

- Jumper** : Hey
Belly : [Boys at school never look at me, Taylor the only one they look at, I guess you could say I'm just kind of there]
Jumper : Are you new this summer?
Belly : Uh, me? N-No [chuckles]
Jumper : Really, hmm. Thought I knew every pretty girl in Cousins, coming to the bonfire tonight? First of the season.
Belly : Uh, maybe
Jumper : Come, I'll introduce you to some of my friends.
Belly : Maybe I will. Hmm

The scene takes place at a gas station, when Belly and her mother are purchasing snacks before traveling to Susannah Fisher's house. As she tastes one of the store's goodies, she encounters a young man who works there. He says hi. Belly muses on how the males at her school never notice her and how she feels like the only one present. Jumper expresses his interest by complementing Belly, inviting her to the first bonfire of the season, and attempting to introduce her to his friends. According to Linda and Eyre's book, self-esteem increases when a person is provided the assistance and opportunity to handle new social contexts or hurdles. In this situation, Jumper's compliments and invites help Belly see

herself in a more positive light. Receiving praises and partaking in new social situations may enhance Belly's self-esteem, giving her greater confidence in her abilities and potential. This incident demonstrates the importance of self-esteem in interactions with others. Belly's misgivings about herself are contrasted with Jumper's encouragement, demonstrating how compassion and nice words may enhance self-esteem and make individuals more social. This is congruent with Linda and Eyre's book (1993), which emphasizes the value of self-confidence in developing character and facing life's challenges.

a. Courage



Figure 5. Scene 5 (00:23:28 – 00:23:50) Episode 1.

- Taylor** : Oh, why didn't you go with them?
Belly : Like I care about a beach bonfire,
 And it's not like they invited me either, so...
Taylor : They don't own the beach
Belly : Well. I-I did talk to this one guy, um, who ask me to come
Taylor : See? Come on girl. Go have fun
Belly : Yeah, but... I don't like the guy
Taylor : But that's not the point, Conrad will be there. Go to Bonfire!

This scene takes place after Belly has finished swimming, she calls Taylor about the beach bonfire that all her friends are planning to attend, including Conrad, Jeremiah, and Steven. Belly considers attending the bonfire thanks to the man at the gas station who invited her earlier. However, she doesn't have the guts elsewhere, Taylor persuades Belly to join in the fun. Taylor wants Belly to have fun and take advantage of the opportunity to interact. Linda and Eyre's (1993) define courage as overcoming inner problems and taking action for personal improvement. In this scenario, Taylor encourages Belly to overcome her social anxiety and her feelings for Conrad. Belly demonstrates courage by stepping up and going to the bonfire, which is beneficial to her personal growth. This scene shows the importance of being brave when faced with personal anxiety and sadness. Because Taylor is there for Belly, she overcomes her worries and attends the social gathering, showing that being brave can lead to incredible experiences and personal growth.

b. Self-discipline



Figure 6. Scene 6 (00:14:02 – 00:14:25) Episode 2.

Susannah : So... how's Nicole?
Conrad : Mom, can we not do this?
Like, no. Uh, uh, you asked me to come sit for this portrait, and-and I'm here, and I'm sitting, and I'm more than happy to be

here, but can we not make this, like, a bonding experience, please?

Susannah : Well, excuse me for trying to connect with my son before he leaves for a year.

The scene takes place while Susannah is painting Conrad at a lake near his house. Susannah starts the conversation by inquiring about Nicole, Nicole appears to be someone close to Conrad, and Susannah attempts to make small chat or learn more about Conrad's personal life. Conrad answers with dissatisfaction, he is plainly unhappy with his mother's attempts to bond with him. He emphasizes that he agreed to come and sit for the photo, which may be a significant occasion for his mother, but he does not want this talk to develop into an attempt to rebuild their connection. According to Linda and Eyre's (1993) "self-discipline" refers to the ability to manage emotional responses in a variety of settings. Conrad, being the focus of the sketching session, prefers not to engage in emotional exchanges that may make him uncomfortable. Although Susannah wants to get closer emotionally, Conrad maintains calm and does not let himself get taken away by difficult-to-control emotions. This shows how self-discipline helps keep relationships balanced by stressing the need for self-control in human exchanges and staying true to one's own comfort levels.

c. Honesty



Figure 7. Scene 7 (00:20:24 – 00:20:40) Episode 2.

- Susannah : Have fun tonight
 Laurel : Are you not driving with us?
 Susannah : Didn't Belly tell you? She has a date
 Belly : Sorry, Mom. Um, his name is Cam, Yeah, his mom works at the club
 Susannah : Really nice boy, very smart

This scene takes place in Susannah Fisher's house at night, as Susannah notices Belly preparing to go on a "date night" with Cameron. Susannah wishes them a good night, Belly's mother comes, and Laurel asks Belly if she is not coming with them, implying that Belly is accompanying them on the trip, maybe to an event or meeting. When Laurel asks, Belly appears embarrassed, as if she has not told her everything. Susannah then explains that Belly has a date that evening. Susannah informs Laurel that Belly is going on a date, which appears to be news to her. Belly apologizes to her mother and explains a bit about who she is going to meet, but Elly feels compelled to explain who Cam is and how she is related to them, possibly to allay her mother's fears or to explain that her date is with someone she recognizes. According to Linda and Eyre's (1993) view, honesty is essential for developing strong, trustworthy relationships. In this scenario,

Belly's candor regarding her date demonstrates that she is secure and comfortable enough to discuss this information with her mother. There is no attempt to conceal or distort information, demonstrating how critical honesty is in sustaining openness and trust in family ties. It is clear from this scene how important it is to be honest in order to build trusting relationships. Belly's openness about her plans and Susannah's sincere praise show that being honest builds trust and makes for a more positive atmosphere.

D. CONCLUSION

This study aims to investigate the manner in which the first two episodes of the movie series *The Summer I Turned Pretty* depict moral values, with an emphasis on the extent to which these values are consistent with the categories identified by Linda and Eyre (1993). Love and affection, self-confidence, respect, fortitude, compassion and friendliness, self-discipline, and honesty were among the seven kinds of morals that the researchers identified. Love and affection were the most prevalent among these, significantly impacting the relationships between characters and propelling the narrative.

The next study could investigate the evolution of these moral values in the series and their comparison to other media. Furthermore, the examination of how audiences interpret these values could provide valuable insights into their influence. This study establishes a strong foundation for the further examination of the moral themes in *The Summer I Turned Pretty*.

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