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### Ambitions

There is nothing as unpredictable as the life we are living. People tend to develop positive thoughts and have a confident compelling always to prosper. Funny enough, it does not always end up in that manner as there are the adverse effects and the challenges that arise on the way which at times might make this life very unbearable. People think that if their success will be an upward curve only, as found in the *Ready Player One*, where the author is downed on the reality of life even after winning the Easter egg which was very coveted at his time. William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, shows cruelty by an uncle where he dethrones his brother by killing him, taking his wife, this leaves the son of the slain king in poverty and even pretending that he is mad. Marge Piercy, *Barbie Doll* shows the girl child is treated from a young age where and natured to take up roles that set out by the society at large, only for the same community to come against her because of her physical. This led to her committing murder. This essay, therefore, focuses on the demonstration of this theme of ambitions that may cause positive and negative effects and how it is evidenced in the three literary works.

Firstly, in Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One*, he narrates the story of Wade Watts who originates from a poor background in Oklahoma City. As much as Watts is much aware that life is very unfair to the less privileged in the society, that does not limit him from developing big

ambitions in life. As demonstrated, he is ever positive minded and turns every opportunity and struggle into a success. Things get worse when the only close relative to Wade, Halliday, passes on. At this point, he almost gives up in life because this was the only person who was close enough to him and they could share life experiences. However, with the much ambitions and his urge to always be at the top, he finally got the prize and the opportunity to run the business that was in much contest. "However he is faced with challenges of how the society is so cruel, and almost everyone cares for them" (Ernest 20). Therefore the ambitions' negative effects can be seen clearly because even after winning the Easter egg, he is still faced with the challenge of going without food and losing his mother. A lot of symbolism is applied in the reference of the Easter egg as anybody who gets the opportunity of acquiring it comes out with a big fortune. The egg, therefore, symbolizes the success that is attached to winning the egg. Some characters like Art3mis A.K.A Samantha Evelyn cook and Aech A.K.A Hellen Harris are a representation of the 80s culture, and at the very glance, the audience expects them to be the true hope of diversity and modernization. However, that does not emerge to be the case at the very end thus the fulfillment of the fact that the ambitions can end up on the bad side with negative effects.

Also, in William Shakespeare's *The Tragedy of Hamlet*, ambitions are very evident from the very start of the story. The story unfolds with the bringing of Prince Hamlet into the light. He is to inherit his father, but then his uncle is against this idea and plans the killing of the king. With the many events that happen in the plot, the story ends with the death of Prince Hamlet who is buried with much honor courtesy of prince Fortress. It is clear that Hamlet will take over the leadership of his father being the only son. However, his uncle, Claudius is not happy with the manner in which the events will unfold. He is hungry with power and hence proceeds to kill the king so that he can forcefully take the leadership considering Hamlet has not gotten of age to

inherit the leadership. His ambitions are very clear of taking over the kingship of Denmark. In fact, he marries Hamlet's mother after the death of the King. Symbolism is evident when Hamlet's mother accepts the marriage with his uncle as it is a representation of the backtracking and carefree society that the society is getting into. That was a clear indication that the ambitions of the ancestors of having a moral society had failed. The childhood ambitions of Hamlet inheriting the leadership of his father are shattered, and the rivalry between him and his uncle gets a notch higher when he kills one of the officers of the government Polonius. "Hamlet is pointing the ghost of his father to his mother. He kills one of the officers of the government Polonius making the rivalry between him and his uncle worse" (William 45).

Finally, in Marge Piercy's *Barbie Doll*, young girls at a tender age are introduced to dolls, this symbolises a child and hence her future roles as mothers, and they also have kitchen materials that tend to show off some of the duties they are expected of them in the future (Marge, First stanza). The plot of the story is simply based on a girl who is on her best behavior as expected of her. She follows her role models and is very diligent. However, as age goes by she is discriminated and this makes her cruel (Marge, Third stanza). "Her good nature wore out like a fan belt "finally, she commits murder, and "the undertakers apply cosmetics painted on a turned-up nose" her making her the envy of those who had before looked down on her (Marge, Fourth stanza). The characters that the poet employs seem to be negative minded full of negative thoughts and they are happy at other people's failure. Marge, therefore, uses characterization as a key feature in ensuring that the theme of ambitions is fulfilled and in this case, they turn out to be negative effects of the ambitions. Therefore, the theme is illustrated vividly in the story. When the girl is at a tender age, she is appreciated and has high hopes for the future however the same society turns against her, making her commit suicide.

In conclusion, it is apparent that ambitions in life are very necessary. However, life is so unpredictable that it might not turn out to be exactly how one expected it to be thus the theme of ambitions turning out to have both positive and negative effects is very evident and realistic. For instance, considering the three literary works, all the characters who were expected to have a brighter future turned out to have very poor and unexpected endings.

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Works Cited

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