

## CHAPTER 3

### ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the analysis of *Rabbit Hole* play using New Criticism approach by uncovering the formal elements which are related. The first step started from Becca's traumatic experience which is caused by the death of her son which influences her characteristics. As the result, Becca's characteristics cause internal conflict which involves her mind, and external conflicts between Becca and people around her. The discussion about conflict is important since according to Griffith, the main discussion about plot is in its main conflict, the reason why the conflicts emerged, the character who faces the conflicts and to whom, also the way the conflicts resolved (Griffith 61). The next step discusses about Becca's survival attempt, how Becca's characteristic turns to be better in order to survive and to live a normal life like before losing her beloved son, the conflict is also resolved. The last discussion talks about the rabbit hole symbol which becomes the title of this play as a hidden meaning of parallel universes which becomes one of Becca's motivations to survive and its relation with the theme. From those steps in this analysis, the formal elements such as characterization, plot, and symbol work together to show the organic unity of the text and support the theme that is Becca's attempt to survive after experiencing a traumatic experience which is the death of her beloved son.

### 3.1. Becca's Traumatic Experience

A painful or traumatic experience usually influences a person's life; it happens because sometimes they still cannot deal with the incident that they feel so tragic. This case sometimes occurs in a story of literary work and showed by the characters in it. Character is the most important element because according to DiYanni "characters bring plays to life" (DiYanni 744), meanwhile, characterization is a representation of how the imagined person who inhabits a story or called character behaves throughout the story. Becca is the main character in this play who is in her late thirties or early forties. She is a mother of a four-year-old child named Danny and married to a man named Howie. In this story, Becca's characterization is portrayed as a traumatic person who is still in her grief because of the death of her beloved son.

Eight months ago, an incident which left a deep grief for Becca happened, a high school student accidentally hit her one and only son with a car while her son was chasing their family dog and caused her losing her son, Danny. In this story, the painful experience of losing her only one child makes Becca become a traumatic person, she is being a judgmental, rude, egoistic, and depressed person. She is also no longer believes in God, those traits appear because she still cannot bear her great sadness after knowing the fact that her little son died because of an accident. This situation makes Becca and Howie's relationship becomes bad, they like to argue and no longer having a good sexual relationship. Not only influence her relationship with

her husband, Becca's traits also influence her relationship with her mother, sister, and her friend.

One of the evidences that her trait is related to her traumatic experience because of her dead son can be shown in act two, scene one. Becca is rude, she has just arrived from a supermarket with her mother, she says she sees everything reminds her to Danny in the supermarket, and a talk about what happened in the supermarket appears between Becca, her mother, Howie, and Izzy. Becca hit a woman in the supermarket because she cannot stand seeing a little boy who is upset because his mother ignores him and does not want to buy him some fruit roll-ups which he wants so much. Becca feels pissed off seeing the little boy is upset, after complaining to the woman because the woman does not buy the little boy some fruit roll-ups, Becca punches the woman because the woman says to Becca to mind her own business (80). Becca hits a woman meanwhile in the beginning she complains to her sister, Izzy, for hitting a woman in the club. A little boy whom she met in the supermarket who reminds her to Danny proves Becca's rude trait as a result of her traumatic experience because of the death of her beloved son.

Since her poor characteristic or personality caused by her traumatic experience influences her relationship with people around her, besides her relationship with her sister, mother, and husband is disturbed, her relationship with her friend named Debby is also hampered after the death of Danny; she does not even talking to Debbie for some moments. Howie considers that Debbie has not called

Becca because maybe she cannot deal with the situation and does not know what to say, but Becca thinks that Debbie is bad for vanishing while Becca is in mourning situation, she considers that it is Debbie's job to call her first (25). Besides her relationship with other people is ruined, Becca also still cannot deal with the death of her son. Becca sees Danny everywhere in their house; everything that she looks reminds her of Danny, that is why she tries to hide Danny's stuff and wants to sell the house, she does not want to go for a job again when Howie offers it to help her to forget about her grief for a while, she says that she is not herself anymore (33). We can find another evidence of the effect of Becca's traumatic experience towards her life in the act one, scene three. Nat, Becca's mother says that Becca used to believe in God and went to church every Sunday, but Becca says that now she does not believe in God anymore (55). Becca feels disappointed to what happened towards herself because of the death of her only one child; that is why she says that she does not believe in God anymore, although if there was God she would think that He is a sadistic prick (55).

Becca's poor characteristic which is the result of her traumatic experience causes conflicts. According to Griffith there are two types of conflicts, they are internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict involves character's emotion and occurs in their mind; meanwhile external conflict involves a character with other characters or their environment (Griffith 31). Since conflict is the important thing in the plot which builds a story and it is related with character and its characterization

throughout the story, the writer will reveal the conflicts in detail, because through the conflict the reader can look at the cause and effect of the characters about the reason they take such an action or behave like that. The conflicts which are experienced by Becca occur between herself and her mind, which is considered as internal conflict, and conflicts between herself and people around her, such as with her sister, husband, and mother, which is considered as external conflict; the next discussion talks about the detail of conflicts between Becca's internal conflict with her mind, and the next is about Becca's external conflicts with people around her as the result of her poor characteristics because of a traumatic experience she experienced.

### **3.1.1 Becca's Conflict with Her Mind**

The traumatic experience caused by losing her little son creates an internal conflict between Becca and her mind. There is an opposite emotion occurs in Becca. Since she lost her only one child who is still in his very young age, four year old, by an accident while a car accidentally hit her son while Danny was chasing their dog, she still cannot deal with it. Becca experiences a great grief because of the loss. She feels that Danny still exists in their house, she even sees Danny everywhere, Danny's puzzles remind her of Danny, Danny's fingerprints remind her of Danny, and everything she sees reminds her of Danny (33).

An internal conflict which involves Becca's opposite emotion is shown when Becca and Howie argue because Becca says that she cannot stand with Danny's memory and has a thought to sell their house because their house always reminds her

about Danny, she sees Danny everywhere in the house. She thinks it would help if they moved. Howie is reluctant to move from their house because he is fine with Danny's stuff and Danny's memory in their house, but Becca considers it is fine for Howie because he does not need to get in touch with Danny's stuff and Danny's memory in the house all day long like herself because he also spends his time out of the house to work. It indicates that she feels more suffered than Howie because she has to stay in the house all day long because she does not go to work, and it makes her get in touch with Danny's stuff and Danny's memory, seeing Danny everywhere in the house all day long (33).

Regarding Becca's opinion, Howie offers her to go back to work again to use it such an escape for Becca from Danny's memory in the house to lighten her grief, but Becca refuses it because she would feel that she is not herself anymore, she left all include her work to be a mother but it ends up like this, losing her only one child. This is such an internal conflict for Becca as the result of her traumatic experience because there is an opposite emotion between her mind that wants to stay away from Danny's memory because she cannot deal with it, cannot stand seeing Danny everywhere in their house which makes her wants to move from their house, and herself who also does not want to make a little escape from Danny's memory in the house by going to work again when Howie offers it.

Another internal conflict of Becca is also revealed when both of them, Becca and Howie are arguing. Since cannot stand with the situation, Becca decides to make

things a little easier for herself by sending Danny's stuff away, such as Danny's clothes, art projects, toys, or something related to, because they remind her of Danny. She intends to send Danny's clothes to charity at the beginning, she hides some of Danny's photos, she also hides Danny's art projects such as his paintings which used to hang on the refrigerator in a box, Becca also even asks Howie to sell the house because she cannot stand with Danny's memories. There is an opposite emotion, she wants to make things a little easier for her by doing those things, but she also does not want to erase Danny from her memory. This is such an internal conflict for her. This internal conflict is revealed when Becca and Howie argue due to Becca's habit who likes to send Danny's stuff away meanwhile Howie cannot deal with it because he feels that Becca tries to erase Danny, Becca defends herself by pouring what she feels, she says that it is impossible for her to erase Danny's memory and she does not mean to, although she tries to hide or send Danny's stuff away (65).

Becca's opposite emotion between herself who feels that she does not mean to erase Danny's memory and her mind which tends to make decision to hide or send Danny's stuff away to make things a little easier for herself who is still in grief because of the loss indicates that there is an internal conflict between herself and her mind because of her opposite emotion as the result of her traumatic experience losing her son.

### 3.1.2 Becca's Conflict with Izzy

Besides experiencing internal conflict, Becca also experiences external conflicts. External conflict occurs between the characters with the other characters, the first external conflict occurs between Becca and Izzy, her sister. Losing her only one child shapes Becca's characteristic; her grief caused by her traumatic experience makes Becca become a judgmental person. In the act one scene two, Becca is portrayed as a judgmental person towards a character named Izzy, her sister.

This story begins with Becca and Izzy in the kitchen with a comfortable living room and dining room nearby on Saturday afternoon in late February. When Becca is folding the laundry, Izzy comes to Becca and tells Becca about what was experienced by her at the bar where she hits a woman who is known as a girlfriend of Auggie, Izzy's boyfriend. She says there was a stranger woman who suddenly approached her and profane yelled at her face. Suspicious that there is a certain reason why Izzy gets the harassment, Becca asks her sister if she knows who is the stranger woman talking about or not. At first Izzy did not know what the woman was talking about, because the woman suddenly approached her and yelled at her face. But later Izzy finds out that the woman is Auggie's girlfriend, a guy whom she is dating with. Feeling violated and thinking about her dignity, Izzy decides to punch the stranger woman (2-3).

Knowing that her sister punched someone at the bar, Becca feels upset, she considers it as a bar fight; she also even accuses that Izzy was drunk at that time (4-6). Although Izzy says that she does not want Becca to judge her, Becca keeps accusing, she accuses that Izzy slept with Auggie because she thinks that the stranger woman would have not come and yelled to Izzy if Izzy did not do something which makes that woman mad (11-12).

Becca's judgmental trait causes a little conflict between herself and Izzy, both of them argue because Becca keeps judging Izzy and seems to blame Izzy for punching someone meanwhile Izzy is still pissed off and what she wants is Becca for listening and understand her, not for judging and blaming herself. Izzy thought that her experience at the bar will amuse Becca; that is why she tells Becca, but regrets later because after knowing Becca's reaction she feels she is not allowed feeling upset after experiencing an unpleasant moment and judged by Becca instead (6-7).

A dialogue of act one, scene one below shows how Becca's judgmental trait causes a little conflict between herself and Izzy, both of them argue because Becca keeps blaming Izzy:

IZZY. Look, I went out. I got into a fight. I thought it was a funny story. I thought you'd be amused.

BECCA. I'm not.

...

IZZY. Hey, I'm still coping too, Becca. I know it's not the same, but it's still hard. Okay?

BECCA. Don't do that.

...

IZZY. What? I'm not allowed to be upset anymore?

BECCA. No, you're not allowed to use him. As an excuse. You're not allowed to use him to justify your own shit. Just don't do that. Please.

IZZY. That's not what I was doing (1.1.6-7).

The word 'him' here refers to Danny. Becca accuses Izzy for using Danny as an excuse to defend herself by saying that she is still coping too from that unpleasant moment at the bar and comparing it to Becca who is still coping too from an unpleasant moment of losing Danny. This situation shows that this early external conflict appears also because of Becca's judgmental characteristic, which makes the situation worse while Izzy is experiencing something unpleasant and tells Becca about it because she thought it would not be this serious.

What more shocking and disappointing for Becca in this situation is when she knows that Izzy is pregnant with Auggie's child, and Izzy has just told her about this when Izzy herself knows about her pregnancy a few weeks ago, Izzy decides telling her mother first before telling Becca (13-14). Becca tells Izzy that she is happy for

Izzy's pregnancy, but this is such an irony when Izzy is going to have a child while Becca just lost her little child few months ago and still in hard time because she could not cope her grief, and now she has to face that her sister is going to have a child.

### **3.1.3 Becca's Conflict with Howie**

Not only causes external conflict between herself and her sister, Becca's poor characteristic also causes external conflict between her and Howie, her husband. Still in act one but move in scene two, the conflict starts to emerge between Becca and Howie because of her judgmental trait. In the living room when there is no one except herself and her husband, Becca argues with Howie, her husband, because she thinks that he defends Izzy. Becca accuses that Izzy was drunk in the bar and involved in a bar fight, but in Howie's opinion Izzy was not in a bar fight because she just punched someone and did not get punched back (19-20). It can be seen that Becca is still into her negative thinking, she thinks Izzy was drunk just because Izzy was in a bar, she accuses only based on the place where Izzy was and the situation that might happen, not based on the fact that she saw or heard by herself.

The new conflict between Becca and Howie appears because of Becca's judgmental trait over Izzy's bar incident and Howie who she thinks he tends to defend her sister instead of her. What makes it becomes a problem between Becca and Howie is also because there is different reaction between both of them. Becca reacts negatively to the incident, she even considers it as a bar fight, meanwhile

Howie considers it as alright and not a big deal, therefore Becca accuses Howie that her husband defends Izzy from what Howie's response to her reaction towards it.

Break from Izzy's bar fight story, Becca and Howie starts to discuss about what gift they should give to Izzy for her upcoming birthday. Becca wants to give a bathroom set as a gift for Izzy's birthday, actually Howie does not feel a bathroom set is suitable for Izzy's birthday, but he does not want to argue with his wife anymore. Becca then asks about Rick, Debbie and their child. Howie suggests Becca to call Debbie if she wants to know how they are doing, but Becca denies it; she feels that it is Debbie who should call her first. Howie assumes that Debbie has not called Becca because Debbie might does not know what to say and might could not deal with the situation because not everybody has the same way in handling the loss. He then compares Debbie's case to her brother who spent the whole funeral talking about the Mets because he cannot deal with it, and it is different to Debbie because everyone has different way. Becca and Debbie do not talk for some moments since Danny's death; Becca thinks that Debbie is bad for vanishing while Becca is in mourning situation; that is why she does not want to call her first (24-25). In this case we can see another different perception about something between Becca and Howie.

Further conflict between Becca and Howie caused by Becca's judgmental characteristic can be seen in the next discussion. After having a different perception towards Izzy and Debbie's case, Becca and Howie argues about their sexual relationship. Becca accuses Howie for trying to put her in the mood to make love

when Howie plays Al Green's song 'Livin' for You'. Not in a good condition, Becca decides to leave to bag up the clothes she had been folding before when Howie tries to seduce her by giving her a back massage. They then argue about their relationship which seems worse since Danny's death because Becca is being sensitive. Becca feels that she is not in a good condition regarding Izzy's problem, meanwhile Howie thinks that Becca makes him feel guilty for him wanting to sleep with Becca from what she shows. Feels that she needs to defend herself, Becca says that she is just not ready, and it is a little selfish for Howie to seduce herself while she is still in her grief over Danny's death, she even uses the word "roping" towards Howie when he plays Al Green's song to seduce her (29-31).

Seeing his wife still cannot deal with what happened and being too sensitive, Howie suggests Becca to visit a psychiatrist, someone to talk to, to release her feeling, because she feels things are not nice anymore. Does not give reaction about visiting a psychiatrist, Becca suggests Howie to sell the house instead, because she sees Danny everywhere in the house and she cannot deal with it (32-33). The conflict between Becca and Howie above also proves that Becca's egoistic and judgmental characteristic creates a conflict between them, therefore her characteristics and what happens in the story such as conflict is related.

Another conflict between Becca and Howie appears in the act, one scene four. Both of them argue over a tape which is damaged, the matter here is because the tape contains the most recent of Danny's recording. Familiar with Becca's habit who tends

to like to get rid of Danny's stuff, Howie is suspicious that it is Becca who records another program over Danny's tape which makes it damaged; he believes she did it in purpose to get rid of Danny's stuff as usual to make things a little easier for herself. Becca denies it, she defends herself that she does not know that Howie switched the *Pride and Prejudice* tape with Danny's tape. She thought she recorded over the TV tape, and if Howie switched them why he did not take it out from the machine.

The conflict then appears, Becca and Howie argue. Howie defends himself why Becca did not check to see what it was. Howie is flustered because it is the only copy but the whole videos are gone because of Becca. Becca defends herself by saying that she did not do it in purpose, but Howie is not sure because he is familiar with Becca's habit who likes to send Danny's stuff away to lighten her sad feeling, that is why Danny's tape incident seems related to Becca. The situation which is getting worse when they argue about Becca's habit over Danny's stuff can be seen in act one, scene four through this dialogue:

HOWIE. I'm not talking about the tape. Not just the tape.

BECCA. And the paintings are downstairs. In a box. You can look at them whenever you want.

HOWIE. The clothes. His shoes.

BECCA. We don't need all that stuff. Why would we keep—?

HOWIE. Your wanting to sell the house.

BECCA. We already talked about—

HOWIE. Taz. Sending Taz to your mother's!

BECCA. There was a lot going on, Howie. We couldn't deal with the dog.

HOWIE. I was fine with the dog. I was the one walking him.

BECCA. Well he got under foot.

HOWIE. And he was a reminder.

BECCA. Yes, he was a reminder. So what? I wanted one less reminder around here. That's perfectly normal. Oh for godsakes— (1.4.62-63).

From the dialogue above, we can see the conflict between Becca and Howie because of the tape incident which later going to Becca's habit to get rid of Danny's stuff. In this situation, we can also see that Becca's egoistic trait who decides things based on her own desire, without thinking about other person, also supports in creating conflict. Howie feels disappointed to Becca because she tries to erase all about Danny, whether it is Danny's clothes or toys. Not only Danny's stuffs, Becca also sent Taz, a family beloved dog who is chased by Danny before he was hit by the car, to her mother because Taz reminds Becca to Danny, and the new one is Becca's urge

to sell and move from their house because she cannot stand with Danny's memory, meanwhile Howie is fine with those things (62-64).

Things are getting worse again when both of them seems to blame themselves for Danny's accident. For Howie who regrets if only he had not bought the dog, for Becca who regrets if only she had not run to home to get the phone and if only she had latched the gate, but then they themselves realize that it is no one fault, not even the dog's (64). Although realizing that it is no one faults, they are still arguing. Howie asks Becca to stop trying to remove Danny's memory. Becca who feels confused and depressed defends herself by saying that it is impossible for her to erase Danny, saying that she is mourning as much as Howie, and her grief is real. She says that they are just in different place; they just cannot be there for each other because their way to cope their grief is different:

HOWIE. It's not just about the tape! I'm not talking about the tape, Becca! It's Taz, and the paintings, and the clothes, and it's everything! You have to stop erasing him! You have to stop it! You HAVE TO STOP!

BECCA. Do you really not know me, Howie? Do you really not know how utterly impossible that would be? To erase him? No matter how many things I give to charity, or how many art projects I box up, do you really think I don't see him every second of every day? And okay,

I'm trying to make things a little easier on myself by hiding some of the photos, and giving away the clothes, but that does not mean I'm trying to erase him. That tape was an accident. And believe me, I will beat myself up about it forever, I'm sure. Like everything else that I could've prevented but didn't.

...

BECCA. Or mourning in the right way. But let me just say, Howie, that I am mourning as much as you are. And my grief is just as real and awful as yours. You're not in a better place than I am, you're just in a different place. And that's sucks that we can't be there for each other right now, but that's just the way it is (1.4.64-65).

The dialogue above shows the conflict between Becca and Howie regarding their traumatic experience for losing their son and what happened because of that. After arguing and trying to defend herself, Becca explains what she feels, and things get a little better. Howie says that Danny's stuff is all they have left, he also says that he wants the dog, Taz, back because he misses Taz. At first Becca is hesitant to bring the dog back, but Howie does not want to lose something again, then they regard each other silently (65-66).

### 3.1.4 Becca's Conflict with Her Mother

The external conflict between Becca and people around her also happens between herself and her mother, Nat. Not only being a judgmental person, Becca's traumatic experience also shapes Becca become a rude person. It can be seen when she is arguing with her mother on Izzy's birthday. In the kitchen on Izzy's birthday, the conflict between Becca and Nat appears when Nat brings up a topic about Aristotle Onassis who could not cope with the death of his son in the plane crash, who was always trying to find someone responsible for the incident, someone to blame, because he cannot accept what had happened was because of an accident, and killed because of his own grief a couple years after that incident. Becca who feels not comfortable with the topic because she feels that there is another hidden intention of her mother talking about that topic starts to argue with Nat. Becca feels that she is being compared to Onassis, she says that Danny did not die because of a curse or whatsoever related to Aristotle Onassis' case, and asks her mother why she brings up the topic about a person who died because of their grief if there is no hidden intention behind it (50).

Nat who feels that Becca missed her point says that what she is talking is not about people who died because of grief and because there is no one to blame, she says that what she is talking is about comfort, and asks Becca why she has never going to the support group, a place which is considered helpful for people who lost their child to cope their traumatic experience, since it can help people who have experience like

what was experienced by Becca. Knowing that Howie tells her mother about her who does not want to go to the support group, Becca feels mad and feels that it is such an intervention of her mother. The reason why she does not go to the support group is because she does not like the people. Nat has an opinion that there is thing in common between Becca and those people in the support group because she has experienced it when Arthur, her son and Becca's brother died, and the support group is helpful for her; that is why she thinks it would be good for Becca to join in it. Again, feels like being compared Becca says that she is not the same with her mother and Danny is not Arthur, she also says that she is not the same with those people in the support group which she called as God-freaks because everything they talk about is God plan which is she no longer believe (52-53).

Confused with Becca's behavior, Nat even assumes that Becca is jealous with people in the support group's comfort. Sarcastically, Becca says it is right that she is jealous for them who can feel a little better than herself. The conflict between Becca and Nat is getting worse when Nat brings up the talk about God. Nat is confused why Becca does not believe in God anymore where she used to believe in God and went to the church every Sunday. Becca says that she does not believe in God anymore, and if there was God, she would think that He is a sadistic prick. It indicates that she is upset because she feels that God had taken her only one child away from her. Cannot stand with Becca's rudeness, both of them argue, Nat says that Becca does not need to strike out at herself because she is just trying to help Becca. Both of them argue in

a higher tension when Nat brings up her experience about Arthur's death again, Becca feels mad because she feels she is being compared again and again, it can be seen through a dialogue of act one, scene three below:

BECCA. You know what I wish? I wish you would stop comparing Danny to Arthur. Danny was a four year old boy who chased his dog into the street. Arthur was a thirty year old heroin addict who hung himself. Frankly I resent how you keep lumping them together.

*(Silence.)*

NAT. He was still my son.

BECCA. And I don't recall anyone giving you instructions on how best to grieve for him (1.3.56).

From the dialogue above it can be seen that Becca is a rude person, she talks to her mother about her brother who died in that way without thinking about her mother's feeling. Becca's rude trait is a result of her traumatic experience, moreover her mother talks about other people whose son died, she feels uncomfortable and thinking that she is being compared.

The fact of Becca's rudeness towards her mother above proves that her characteristic influences what happens in the story, because of her characteristic, a conflict is created, therefore the conflict and her characteristic is related. Conflict between herself and her mother above is caused because of her rude trait which makes both of them argue.

### 3.2. Becca's Survival Attempts

According to DiYanni "Drama is essentially the development and resolution of conflicts" (DiYanni 744), after presenting some conflicts that are experienced by the characters throughout the story, whether it is internal conflict or external conflict, the resolution starts to emerge in the end of the story; it means that the conflicts start to resolved. In this story, the conflict between Becca and people around her such as her sister, husband, and mother caused by her poor characteristic as the result of her traumatic experience she cannot deal with death of her beloved son, is resolved at the end of the story.

Since plot and character is related, because the way the characters behave or act is influenced by events in the story and the actions of the character influence another event in the story follows it structure, so the resolution of the conflict which is one of the plot stages in the end of the story also related with character along with its characterization.

In this play, the resolution of the conflict happens along with Becca's changing characteristic which turns to be better. In the beginning, Becca is depicted as a judgmental, rude, egoistic, and depressed person as the result of her traumatic experience after losing her little son. Her poor characteristics create internal conflict and external conflict; her internal conflict which involves her mind because of her opposite emotion, and her external conflict between herself and people around her.

Becca's judgmental, rude, egoistic, and depressed characteristics put her into conflicts with people around her, and it ruins especially her relationship with her

husband, Howie. But at the end, Becca's characteristic turns out to be better; her changing characterization helps her to resolve her problem. At the end she is depicted as a person who tries to accept what has happened, it is her survival attempt to get up from her traumatic experience to continue her normal life like before, which leads her to build good relationships with people around her, which makes her conflict with people around her is resolved.

Experiencing some conflicts because of her poor characteristic, there is one conflict between Becca and her husband which makes her realize that no matter how hard she tries to stay away from Danny's memory, it is impossible for her to live without Danny in her memory, it also makes her realize that she is far away from her husband although both of them are in the same situation, a deep grief, but they cannot be there for each other because their way to face their traumatic experience is different. Becca is mourning by herself, while Howie tries to deal with it by sharing and joining with the support group and does not make any escapes from Danny's memory. Since then, Becca realizes that living in a grief is such a waste of time, which slowly leads her to deal with it and tries to be a better person who is no longer shows her poor personality towards people around her like before, and continue her normal life. That is why the conflict here can influence the changing of characterization.

Becca's changing characteristic can be seen in the next day when Jason, the one who accidentally strikes Danny while Danny was chasing his dog on the street, comes to their house. Becca does not even act rude or ignoring Jason, the one who is

obviously reminds her how painful it is for losing a child. It is Howie who acts a little rude to Jason, but Becca does not show any unpleasant reactions towards Jason. It is possible for Becca being rude to Jason if we take a look to her rude trait towards people around her before, but Becca learns to be patient, she does not ignore Jason who has a good intention to visit them, and tries to calm Howie down when her husband seems to act rude towards Jason (84-85).

Other evidence which shows that Becca's characterization grows can be seen in scene two when Nat helps Becca to clean up Danny's room. Becca says that she takes a continuing education class to pass the time and she enjoyed it (89). This is such a positive thing for Becca because she can spend her time in a better way instead of staying in the house all day long and thinking about her grief losing her son like days before. While cleaning up the room together, Nat accidentally talks about Arthur, Becca's brother, because Nat realizes that Becca hates it, she intends to avoid saying Arthur's name, but Becca lets her talking about Arthur and listening to it (92). During the conversation with her mother at that time, Becca does not show her rude side like before, she even asks her mother about the feeling of losing a son like what happened to herself, which from Nat's experience, the grief becomes more manageable as the time pass (97-98).

While learning not to be a rude person towards other people, Becca also learns to accept something that has happened. In the scene three, it is narrated that Jason visits Becca's house. Becca's decision towards Jason in this scene becomes the

obvious evidence where Becca's changing characteristic is portrayed explicitly when she accepts Jason's good intention who wants to meet her and ask for an apology. Based on her previous poor characteristic which creates conflicts between herself and people around her, this action of her who accepts someone whom she could really hate because causing her son died, shows us that in the end Becca's changing characterization as her survival attempt to continue her normal life, and accepts what has happened including the fact of her dead son, is true.

During the conversation, Becca and Jason talk about many things, they talk about school, girlfriend, prom, books, and others. While talking about fictions, Becca talks about rabbit hole, which is represented as the parallel universes. Becca asks Jason if he believed the parallel universes or not. Jason thinks that he believes it, that the space is infinite and there is a never-ending stream of possibilities, there are other versions of us in different lives. Talking about it, a nice thought comes up in Becca's mind, there will be other version of herself where she has a happy life and everything goes well (108-110).

It can be shown from the conversation between Becca and Jason that the portrayal of parallel universes, an infinite space, where they believe there is another version of themselves and there will be their turn to have a happy version of themselves, supports Becca's perception about life, which makes her learn again to accept everything that has happened, as her survival attempt to continue her normal life.

As the result of her willingness to be better, learning to accept what has happened and believing that this is not the end of her world, because there is possibility for her to have a good life and everything goes well, Becca's relationship with Howie is also getting better. In the end of the story, the conversation between them does not contain any disputes like before. They are talking about the bread from Howie's friend, talking about Jason's visit earlier, talking about Debbie and from this scene it is known that finally Becca have made a decision to call Debbie's first like what was suggested by Howie before. She is no longer being stubborn to her decision at the first who does not want to call Debbie first.

Because of her willingness to leave her egoistic trait, not only her relationship with Howie which is getting better, her relationship with Debbie also becomes better, after talking to each other, the misunderstanding can be fixed, they will also be gathering together in a barbecue time. There is also no longer attempt of her to stay away from Danny's memory, after all of things become better Becca offers Howie to reconsider the house, it means that she does not mind if they are not going to leave the house because she also thinks that the house is nice. There are also no more disputes between herself and her mother and also Izzy after she learns to be better and learns to accept what has happened. While Nat was talking about Arthur, there is no longer rude words from Becca as the response towards Nat like before, like when she feels her mother tries to compare Danny's case to Arthur's. The changing of characterization becomes an effective attempt for Becca to get up from her traumatic experience because she has experienced conflicts in her life caused by her poor

personality towards people around her. With her characteristic which turns to be better, her relationship with people around her will be better and it can support her attempt to survive and to live her normal life like before the traumatic experience happens.

This resolution stage shows us that both internal conflict, which involves her mind; and external conflicts between herself and people around herself are resolved along with Becca's changing characterization, to continue her normal life and build a good relationship with people around her, as her survival attempt after experiencing a traumatic experience losing her beloved son.

Becca's changing characterization from a traumatic person to a person who decides to get up from her traumatic experience is formed throughout the story and it is related with the plot, there is cause and effect why she behaves like that. Her judgmental, rude, egoistic, and depressed characteristics are the result of her traumatic experience losing her child, and the effect which is emerged by those characteristics is the presence of conflicts experienced by Becca, both internal and external conflicts.

Because Becca's characterization undergoes a change throughout the story, from judgmental, rude, egoistic and also depressed characteristic as the result of her traumatic experience, which then changes to be a better character who tries to accept what has happened, that is why in this story Becca is included in a round character type.

### 3.2.1. The Rabbit Hole Symbol

As what was stated in the chapter two, according to Kennedy, if we talk about symbol in a literary work, we will talk more than about its literal meaning, it can be also about its figurative meaning because symbol is a pointed image in a literary work which provides more than one meaning (Kennedy 206). The writer chooses to analyze the symbol which is represented by the title of this play, *Rabbit Hole*, since it has something related to the theme of this story.

Before this play was created by David Lindsay-Abaire, the term ‘rabbit hole’ appears in a popular fantastical novel entitled *Alice’s Adventure in Wonderland*. A story which is created by Lewis Carroll tells about the main character named Alice, a young girl who follows a rabbit down its hole. Alice’s decision leads her into an unfamiliar world; it is a place full of fanciful creatures. The different world which is entered by Alice presents a possible thing which seems impossible in Alice’s real world. It is similar to what is reflected in *Rabbit Hole* play, the title of the story has a hidden meaning which supports the formation of the theme. When Becca meets Jason and talks about fictions in the middle of their conversation, she talks about rabbit hole which is represented as the parallel universes. Becca asks Jason if he believes the parallel universes or not. Jason thinks that he believes the parallel universes, there is infinite space which goes on and on forever and there is a never-ending stream of possibilities, there are some versions of us in different life. Curious, Becca asks him if it is plausible or not, Jason considers that it is a possible thing if we accept the most

basic laws of science; he then added if space is infinite, then there are some versions of Becca and him out there.

Talking about the parallel universes, infinite space and the possibility of another version of herself out there, a nice thought comes up in Becca's mind, if this is the sad version of herself, there will be her turn where everything goes well and the happy version of herself comes to her, and somewhere she is going to have a good life (108-110).

An infinite space, another world which consists of another version of us, a world with a never-ending stream of possibilities which is symbolized as rabbit hole supports the formation of the theme. Since Becca believes that there are other versions of her, that somehow she will have a good life and everything goes well, she realizes that the tragedy that happened in her life is not the end of her world, there will be a time where a happier version of her family might exist. It motivates her to be better, she realizes that living in a grief is a waste of time; she realizes that life must go on. Find out that the rabbit hole is a parallel universe with a never-ending stream of possibilities which makes Becca realizes that she has to wake up and continue her normal life and build good relationships with people around her, which supports her changing characterization, so the title of this play *Rabbit Hole* which is used as the symbolism in the story is related and supports the theme of this play which is about Becca's survival attempt to continue her normal life, after experiencing a traumatic experience because of death of her beloved son.

### 3.3 The Theme of the Story

Every fiction such as drama always has a central or main idea which creates meaning of the story or called as theme. In New Criticism approach, the theme of a literary work cannot be separated from its formal elements. We have to work on its formal elements first to find the theme of the story. From the analysis of the formal elements above, it can be shown that the chosen formal elements such as characterization, plot, and symbol build an organic unity which supports in finding the theme which is about Becca's survival attempt to continue her normal life after experiencing a traumatic experience which is the death her beloved son.

The elements of the text reveal the main problem or issue which is about a survival attempt of a person after experiencing a traumatic experience since those formal elements are related to each other which then finds its main issue. The plot of the story indicates the cause of Becca's characterization which influences her life. Becca's poor characteristic builds conflicts both internal and external conflict in the story which is a part of plot, and the plot itself influences the characterization of Becca's again. After experiencing conflicts with her mind and people around her and realizing that living in a grief is a waste of time, Becca decides to change her personality to be better as her survival attempt after experiencing her traumatic experience losing her beloved son. Regarding her changing characteristic which turns to be better, her conflicts are also resolved since she is no longer an egoistic and rude person and no longer like to argue with people around her, there is also no more an opposite emotion which creates internal conflict because she learns to accept what

has happened instead of trying to stay away from Danny's. Then, the symbol element portrays and supports Becca's perception about life which then leads her learn to accept what has happened in her life and continue her normal life as her survival attempt after experiencing a traumatic experience which is the death of her beloved son as the main problem or issue of this story, that is how those formal elements of the text reveal this main issue.

A tragedy that happens in our life is not the end of our life, there will be a rainbow after the rain, there will be the turn where happy life comes to us, and Becca believes that. After experiencing conflicts both internal and external conflicts, and finding a new perception about life from the 'rabbit hole' which is considered as the parallel universes where there is a never-ending stream of possibilities, in the end Becca decides to get up from her traumatic experience. She realizes that life must go on, because her traumatic experience is not the end of her life. Thus she decides to change her personality to be better, learns to accept what has happened, and builds good relationships with people around her as her survival attempt to continue her normal life.