

Kusumawati, Inneke. *The Impact of Parents Absence Undergone by the Main Characters in Betsy Byars's The Summer of The Swans.*

ABSTRACT

This thesis is presenting an analysis of how the main characters, Sara and Charlie undergo their absence of parents in the novel written by American author; Betsy Cromer Byars, titled *The Summer of the Swans*. Sara Godfrey, one of the main characters, is portrayed as the protagonist character that is not satisfied with her appearance. Charlie as her brother suffered from weakness of physical defects. She was living with her Aunt Willie's home after her mother died. This thesis will analyze Sara Godfrey characterization and also her mental development undergone as the impact of her parents' absence. New Criticism is the theory that will be used in this thesis and which only focuses on the novel instead of the author's intention. This thesis focuses on the relationship between formal elements in the novel to support the topic of the analysis. The data analysis is descriptive-qualitative and the method in data collecting is close reading and quoting lives related to the topic discussed which is supported by any other related references such as journals, book or online. The end of the analysis the writer found that Sara as the main character becomes understand that family is more important than material things or being modest. It is shown in the incident when Sara finally found Charlie by the help of others. She felt that Charlie is more important than being modest or more perfect in physical appearance

Keywords: Absence, Physical Deflected, Formal elements