

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

Our Town is an account of life in a small New Hampshire town called Grover's Corner. Wilder tells about the birth, marriage and the death happen in the town. It talks about the ordinary life circle, which could happen to everybody in everywhere. But it is not offered as a picture of life in a New Hampshire village; or as a speculation about the condition of life after death. It is an attempt to find the value above all prices for the smallest events in our daily life.

In this chapter, the writer tends to analyze the intrinsic elements of the play. Those are plot, character and setting. The writer also analyzes the sociological and philosophical backgrounds of the main character, which becomes the trigger to her view toward life.

3.1 The Intrinsic Analysis

In this subchapter, the writer only analyzes the plot, the main characters and the settings of the play to support the writer's study about Emily's humanistic view towards life in her society.



3.1.1 Plot Analysis

Act I begins with the appearance of Doctor Gibbs coming from a birth case. Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Gibbs are busy in their kitchen preparing breakfast for their families. The milkman and the paperboy come delivering the milk and the newspaper to each house. Meanwhile, the mothers in each family try to get their children up and dressed. They eat their breakfast together. When they hear the bell rings from the school they are hurry go to school. After the children leave, the two mothers meet and gossip.

The day has passed by. Young Emily Webb and George Gibbs coming home from school. George is having trouble with his schoolwork and Emily is the best student in the class. They arrange a way to help each other.

At the evening, Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Gibbs are seen at choir rehearsal while the children are at home doing their schoolwork. At their way home, they gossip about the organist's (Simon Stimson) drinking. Mrs. Gibbs tells her husband that the organist drinking is the worse she has ever seen. But Doc Gibbs says that there is nothing they can do but just leave it alone. The constable, Constable Warren, passes by, checking everything, this signals the end of a typical day.

The second act happens some years later. Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Webb are busy at their kitchen as they used to be. The two mothers are busy preparing for a wedding because today is George and Emily's Wedding day.

Time moves backward to the day when George and Emily first discovered that they loved each other. George is stopping Emily as they are leaving school. George asks her why she is mad at him and treats him so funny lately. Emily explains that George has been so busy playing baseball that he has forgotten his friends. He convinces Emily that he has not forgotten her. He tells her how special she is to him and how much he has thought about her. Emily now feels that she is mistaken about George and returns her affection..

Before the wedding ceremony begins, Mrs. Webb expresses her fear for losing her daughter. Then George and Emily expresse also some momentary doubts about getting married. But as soon as George and Emily see each other, they overcome their fears.

The third act takes place in the cemetery. Emily Webb has just died during childbirth, leaving her young husband and a four- year- old son. Because she is new among the dead, she feels strange and wonders how long the feeling will end. After the living people leave the cemetery, she imagines if there is a possibility to return to life for only one day.

Emily : But, Mother Gibbs, one can go back; one can go back there again . . . into the living. I feel it. I know it. Why just then for a moment I was thinking about . . . about the farm . . .and for a minute I was there, and my baby was on my lap as plain as day.(29)

Everyone tries to stop her, but she insists. She chooses to relive her twelfth birthday. She returns to her house in the condition exactly the same, as it was which she almost forgets. She meets her mother as usual in the kitchen and witnessing how young she was. She experiences the moment again and realizes that they were too busy that we don't have time just to look at one and another. They do not understand the greatness found in the mere act of everything living. She is unable to continue witnessing the entire day and decides to return to her grave on the hill.

From the plot analysis above, the writer finds out three important conflicts of event involving Emily which reveal her humanistic view. First, when Emily is asked by George why she treats him funny lately, she is hard to tell her feeling about George. But finally she decides to tell the truth to George for his goodness. The second conflict happens before the wedding. She is frightened to be married with George. She

hates him when she sees him. But after she meets him she realizes that George is the one she loves and the right man for her. The last conflict happens when she dies. Because she is new among the death, she feels strange. She always remembers the moment of living. She decides to relive her life again. She is able to see the present and the future. At the end she decides to go back to her grave again because she is aware that people just take their life for granted without understand the meaning of its trivial thing.

3.1.2 Character Analysis

Emily Webb

Emily is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Webb. She grows up together with George Gibbs, her neighbor, who later becomes her husband. When she is just reaching teen age, she is the brightest girl or student in her high school. She likes to go to school because she thinks that it is her duty as a person. She does all the schoolwork seriously.

She is very much aware of her qualities, but she also has a certain charm and sweetness about her that will allow us to accept her high evaluation of herself.

"I'm both, Mama: you know I am. I'm the brightest girl in school for my age. I have a wonderful memory."

She is at the stage in her life, which she is first becoming aware of her looks and appearance.

Although she awares of her intelligence, she is not selfish. She is willing to help George who has trouble with his schoolwork. She is also helpful to her mother. She helps her mother stringing the beans.

Emily leans somewhat toward romanticism, which is rather typical for a girl of her age when she has conversation with George Gibbs at the end of the first act. Emily does something that other person does not do. While she is staring at the stars she contemplates. This action shows a clue of Emily's role in the third act. She will find out that most people do not have time to understand the act of living.

In the second act, Emily's characterization is more clearly seen. It is when she and George discover for the first time that they are in love to each other. She feels annoyed at George Gibbs because he is too busy and spends all his time to play baseball and has been avoiding his old friends. Emily feels abandoned.

Emily: "I don't like the whole change that's come over you in the last year. I'm sorry if that hurts your feelings, but I've got to -
- tell the truth and shame the devil." (19)

She is also an honest girl. She is honest with George when he asks her why she is mad at him. She tells the truth to George because she feels disappointed with him. But she regrets saying any critical about him as soon as she is told about his feeling towards her and that she is the object of his affection. She begins to change her opinion towards George.

George: "I'm celebrating because I've got a friend who tells me all the things that ought to be told "

Emily : "George, please don't think of that. I don't know why I said it. It's not true. You're --" (20)

At the wedding, she shows a moment of fear and her worries about starting a new life with George. It is the typical feelings of almost any bride facing her wedding day. Emily is frightened when she sees the congregation in the church. When she looks at George she hates him so much. She turns to her father and tells him that she does not want to get married. She asks him to takes her away. But her fears are gone when she meets George.

At the last act, it is told that Emily has now died during childbirth. She leaves her husband, George, and a four-year- old son behind her. She comes among the dead with a strange feeling because she is new. She always remembers the

moments when she was alive. She remembers about her husband, George, her son and also their farm.

"Well, there's a patent device on the drinking fountain so that it never overflows, Mother Gibbs, and it never sinks below a certain mark they have there. It's fine. It won't be the same to George without me, but it's a lovely farm."(28)

At first she is not able to accept her position, but as a new comer she has the ability to comment about the difference between the living and the dead.

"They're sort of shut up in little boxes."

It is her expression about the living. It shows how the living are confined and unjoined to another in their life.

Remembering the moments in her life makes her wonders that she is able to go back again to the living and live all the days over again. The dead tries hard to stop her because she will be disappointed if she insists to relive her life again. But she has made up her mind and no one can stop her.

When she is allowed to relive an earlier day in her life, she chooses an unimportant day in her life, her twelfth birthday. She relives that moment and at the same time she is able to see it. Because she is able to relive and see it, she is able to see that the livings are too busy with everyday

activities so that they have no time to contemplate the meaning.

Because she is not able to continue to experience the whole day she decides to go back to her grave on the hill. At night, from her grave, she sees George comes with his grief. She observes it without any frustration of the living.

From Emily's characteristics, the writer finds out that Emily is not selfish, willing to help (helpful) and honest. These qualities reveal her humanistic view.

George Gibbs

George Gibbs is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs. He represents a typical American boy. He is not very good at his studies. In the first scene, it is when he is a teenager; he faces some difficulties with his schoolwork. He seeks out the help of a brighter girl, in this case, Emily. He uses his charms to convince her to help him.

Basically, George is a good boy. He respects his parents even though sometimes he forgets his duty. He is willing to help his mother in housework. Chopping wood is one of his works. But sometimes he forgets to do it because he is busy with baseball. After his father reminds him about his duty he realizes his carelessness.

In the second act, George has been elected president of his senior school. As typical, his selection is based on his excellence at baseball rather than on his intellectual leadership.

Until now, his time is still occupied by sports, especially baseball. He is too busy with baseball so that he does not have time for his old friends just to say hello. Many of them judge him arrogant. He does not feel comfortable when Emily mad at him because he has thought a lot about her. At the drugstore, finally, he is able to reveal his affection for her and convinces her that he is not arrogant as they think. It is the typical action and emotion involved in the discovery of love for the first time for high school students.

He wants to take over his uncle's farm as soon as he can and decides not to go to college. He thinks that a man needs not to go to college to handle a farm. He doesn't want to be far from Grover's Corner. These show certain maturity in him.

In his wedding day, before the ceremony begins, George shows the sense of immaturity found in most young men and most grooms of all ages just before their wedding. But his fears are temporary because as soon as he sees his bride to be, his fears are gone.

George: "Mr. Webb, I want to. . . I want to try. Emily, I'm going to do my best. I love you, Emily. I need you." (24)

George's role in the last act is small. He has become a successful farmer. From his marriage with Emily he has a four-year-old son. And now, Emily dies because of childbirth of their second child. He is left alone with the little boy in their farm. Late at night he comes to Emily's grave with his deep and sincere love he felt for her. But this feeling will be gone and he will forget her along the time goes by.

From George, the writer finds out his ideas about Emily which show her humanistic view. Emily is a good friend for her because she is willing to tell the truth to him and she is a perfect girl for him.

Editor Webb

Mr. Webb is a Publisher and Editor of the Grover's Corner Sentinel. He helps the stage manager by giving some information about the political and social background of the town.

Mr. Webb : Well . . . I don't have to tell you that we're run here by a Board of Selectmen. - All males vote at the age of twenty-one. Women vote indirect. We're lower middle class: sprinkling

of professional men . . . ten per cent Republicans; six per cent Democrats, four per cent Socialist; rest indifferent. Religiously, we're eighty-five per cent Protestant; twelve per cent Catholics, rest indifferent. (7)

Editor Webb has also another role to the play. He gives some of the plain philosophy and proverbial sayings typical for a small town. On the day before the wedding, he is faced with the terrible situation of talking to his future son-in-law. He explains later to his wife that in addition to the old saying that a bride must never see the groom on the wedding day, there is an older saying that the future father-in-law should not be left alone with the groom.

From Editor Webb, the writer finds out his idea that Emily is a confidence girl. This idea shows her humanistic view.

Dr. Gibbs

In the first act, Dr. Gibbs is used to introduce the concept of birth. He has been over the Polish section of the town delivering twins. Just like Mr. Webb, he represents another member of the town helping to give realism to the situation. Every small town has a doctor.

Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Webb

Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Webb are ordinary housewife. Mrs. Gibbs is a pleasant woman in the middle thirties. Mrs. Webb is a thin, serious and crisp woman. They do house work. They bring up their children, wash, clean the house and cook three meals a day, one of them for twenty years, the other for forty years. After all they've been through they are still healthy persons. Every morning they get their children off to school and then relaxed and gossip. At the evening, both of them go to the choir practice. They represent average woman in a small town.

3.1.3 Setting Analysis

In *Our Town*, setting plays an important role because it becomes a trigger of Emily's humanistic view toward life. Setting emphasizes the mood and the atmosphere of the situations, the events or the main characters' feeling. Setting consists of two kinds, physical setting and psychological setting. Both settings have important roles to reveal Emily's view.

3.1.3.1 Physical Setting

Act I, the day is May 7, 1901. It is just before dawn. The sound of rooster crow is heard. The sky begins to show

some streaks of light over in the east behind the mountain. The delivery of the milkman and the paperboy signals the opening of the morning. Doctor Gibbs comes down the Main Street overseeing the town's affair. Everyone wants to know the facts of everybody.

The setting moves to the two houses, the Webb's and the Gibbs'. The stage manager uses a table and three chairs to represent each house. Then breakfast begins at the two households, the mother preparing the morning coffee and breakfast for their children. It is spring season. The sun shines brightly at the east. The plants in the garden: corn, peas, beans, hollyhocks and heliotrope begin to grow. They eat their breakfast and suddenly the bell of the school rings. They are hurry to school.

After the children go to school, the mothers continue their work. They feed the chickens and string beans. Because their gardens are close to each other, they meet and gossip.

Afternoon comes. The children come home from school.

The stage manager: "There is an early afternoon, calm in our town: a buzzin' and hummin' from the school buildings; only a few buggies on Main Street—the horse dozing at the hitching posts;

you all remember what it's like. . . . No, sir. It's later than I thought. There are the children coming home from school already. (8)

George concerns with baseball game. He plays his ball everywhere, even in the main street. On the other hand, Emily concerns with her physical attraction. Emily helps her mother stringing beans while Doc. Gibbs is working in his office. Mr. Webb is working at home.

The sun is set. Dr. Gibbs sits in his kitchen reading the Sentinel. The children are busy doing their homework while the mothers are in choir practice. They gossip about the organist's drinking on their way home. Most of the lights are out at nine thirty. Constable Warren comes along Main Street to check a few doors. It is a signal for the end of the night.

The beginning of the setting in act II is the same as in act one. It is early in the morning at summer season. It 's been raining and thundering. The gardens and the plant are wet. It is 5:45 in the morning. This day is George and Emily's wedding day. The day is clear and the sun shines brightly. The morning of the wedding begins in the routine way, with breakfast and coffee and the groom coming downstairs. Then the

time moves backward to July seventh 1904. It is an after school time, the time when George and Emily first discover that they fall in love to each other. It happens at Mr. Morgan's drugstore. They make their personal, one-in-a-life-time decision.

The wedding is held in the Congregational church. George and Emily are both caught in a moment of panic before going to the altar. Suddenly, George feels that he is being push into manhood, that he is being forced to grow old. His mother gives him some advice. On the other hand, Emily shows the same fear. She turns to her father, she too wants to stay as she is. George quiets her fears.

Act III happens nine years later. It is between the end of the summer and at the beginning of the winter (1913). The setting is at the cemetery on a hilltop. The cemetery is still a part of Grover's Corner, here the death sit quietly. Here the undertaker meets Sam Craig, an old resident of Grover's Corner who has been away for along time. He comes back to Grover's Corner because he hears that Emily, his cousin is died. Emily dies in childbirth of her second child.

It rains in the hill, at the cemetery. Emily arrives among the dead. She is not ready for this yet, she feels that she can returned to life. She chooses an unimportant day that is her twelfth birthday. Time goes back to February eleventh,

1899 and the pattern of the routine day follows exactly as the beginning of act one and act two. The milkman , the paperboy and the constable make their morning rounds. The mother with her work at her kitchen. The children have their breakfast. Then the birthday gifts are passed out at the breakfast table and finally Emily is not able to continue the rest of the day. She decides to go back to her grave at the hill.

From the physical setting, the writer concludes that to live within a society who has a big concern to each other, it is very natural for Emily to have a humanistic view.

3.1.3.2 Psychological Setting

In this play, the seasons play an important role to strengthen the atmosphere of the story. Spring dominates the entire part of act I. At spring, the sun shines brightly. The plants begin to grow. Here, spring represents a season of birth and rebirth, of reinstitution of society. In act I, It is told that there is a birth case over the Polish mother. The phenomenon of familial society is seen clearly. Every member of the town has a close relationship with other member. Everyone wants to know the facts about the others.

In act II. Summer replaces spring. Summer is the season of romance, the quest of the hero, his adventure and final triumph. The pouring of the rain fertilizes the grass and the

plants. Love grows in Emily and George as if it is fertilized by the rain. The growth continues until the wedding.

In act III, summer is combined with the winter. Winter is the season of irony. Summer and winter are combined by revealing, in flash back, the contrast between the dead Emily and the unperceptive family. In this final act, the dead Emily relives her twelfth birthday again. She gathers with her family as she was. But there is something special at this moment, she is not only able to live it but she is also able to see it while the other members of the family are not.

Grover's Corner society is a religious society. They are eighty-five per cent Protestant, twelve per cent Catholics and rest indifferent. That's why it is very natural that Emily has a humanistic view towards life.

3.2 The Humanistic View of Grover's Corner Society

Grover's Corner society is a typical community of a village in a small town. Its typical can also be found in any places around the world. It is a common pattern of society.

The basic unit of Grover's Corner society is the family. Family becomes the center of everything, their life, work, happiness and sadness, and their marriage. The community is built up by families living together, working in tandem and intermarrying with neighbor's son or daughter. Living in

Grover's Corner means that one is willing to live side by side with the other members of society. Their relationship is very close, a kind of familial relationship. They help each other at any works and problems they face. One's problems become everyone's. The other characteristic of this community is their openhearted, everyone in this community want to know the fact of everybody.

DR. Gibbs : Yes, I'll take it. - Anything serious goin' on in the world since Wednesday? (3)

To be born into this community means that one is born into a warm relationship of a family. Each member of the family concerns with the condition of the other members. One grows under the upbringing of wise and affectionate parents and neighbors. In this community, neighbors also responsible for the growth of a child. To marry in this society means that one makes deepen the bonds of a friendship into a closer tie. Their boyfriend or girlfriend becomes their groom or bride. They usually grow together from early age. Along the time goes by, love grows in them. George and Emily get along as an athletic hero and the- girl-next door should. They take one another for granted until the moment when they realize how they feel about each other.

The identity of the adults is established primarily by their parenthood,--they are Father and Mother. Their life is focused here. They exercise a wise supervision over the children.

Son and daughter accept the world of their parents without any complain, and their own interrelationship is typical. When they decide to marry, they are willing to settle down on a farm near town and starting a new family that is the image of their parent's.

Professional men in the small-town manner, share their concern for their family with a concern for the town. The doctor knows his patients and sacrifices for all of them. He goes out on night calls in birth case, then attend to his other patient's stomach trouble.

Mrs. Gibbs : Bacon'll be ready in a minute. Set down and drink your coffee. You can catch a couple hours ' sleep this morning, can't you?

DR. Gibbs : Hm !. . . Mrs. Wentworth's coming at eleven. Guess I know what it's about, too. Her stummick ain't what it ought to be. (3)

At the other hand, he gets the aid of the neighbors in dealing with his son; the constable checks on his son, George's smoking.

DR. Gibbs : Well, he's seen a peck of trouble, one after another. . oh, Bill . . . if you see my boy smoking cigarettes, just give him a word, will you? He thinks a lot of you, Bill.(13)

From the milkman and the constable, the editor gets some news items and tries to write them in the paper.

People of Grover's Corner have little ambition of their own - to see the ocean, to visit Paris, France where people do not talk English and do not even want to,

Mrs. Gibbs: Well, if I could get the Doctor to take the money and go away some place on a real trip, I'd sell it like that. - Y'know, Myrtle, it's been the dream of my life to see Paris, France. - Oh, I do not know. It sounds crazy, I suppose, but for years I've been promising myself that if we ever had the chance - (5)

Because they never really want to go out of Grover's Corner.

Mrs. Gibbs: You know he is. I haven't heard a serious word out of him since I've known him. No, he said, it might make him discontented with Grover's Corner to go traipsin' about Europe; better let well enough alone, he says. Every two years he makes a trip to the battlefields of the Civil War and that's enough treat for anybody, he says. (5)

They run their dull monotonous routine without any real escape for them. They have no intention to make any changes in their life. From time to time, life is just the same as before. New things never happen in their life. People live and grow in it without any intention to leave it and settle down far from it no matter how dull the life within.

Mr. Webb: Very ordinary town, if you ask me. Little better behaved than most. But our young people here seem to like it well enough. Ninety per cent of 'em graduating from high school settle down right here to live - even when they've been away to college. (7)

3.3 The Influences of Society's Humanistic View Toward Emily

Human beings are social creatures; it means that they live among the others, depend on others and socialized by others. They exist within social organization and they are influenced by social patterns that have emerged in interaction. Interaction influences what people do. It becomes an important cause of the acts of each other. It shapes what the individual becomes.

As a human, Emily comes into being, lives and grows within her family and Grover's Corner society. She grows under the supervision of her parents and her neighbors. She learns everything about life for the first time from her parents. They teach her how to eat, how to talk, how to walk and etc. They teach her the primary activities of life. Along with the increasing of her age, she begins to interact with other people outside her family. From this interaction, she learns more about life. It can be said that people who take responsible to her life are her parents and neighbors. And because of this interaction, her life is affected by society's life style. She also undergoes the dull monotonous life as her society because as one of them she can't avoid the influence. Her life is the mirror of her parent's and her neighbors'. She runs her life as monotonous as they do. Times by times, days by days and years by years she deals with the same dull

routine without any changes happen. She wakes up in the morning, has her breakfast and then she goes to school everyday. These activities are repeated again and again. She does something in her life not because she wants to or likes to, but because she assumes that it is the way she used to be as a human.

George: You certainly do stick to it, Emily. I don't see how you can sit still that long. I guess you like school.

Emily : Well, I always fell it's something you have to go through. (9)

As the member of a society of a village as Grover's Corner, she grows up together with other children at her age. She grows with them at the early age. They go to the same school. They help each other to do their school works. As the common pattern in her society, this relationship grows into a closer tie. Her relationship with one of her friends, along the time goes by, changes into romantic relationship. She falls in love with one of her friends. At the same age as her, her parents also undergo this moment. In Grover's Corner, what happened to the parents will also happen to the children.

Until the time comes for her to marry, their influence never end. Her wedding is also the same as everybody's wedding. There is nothing special and new in it. After her

marriage, she and her husband, George, settle down in a farm near town. Just the same as everybody, she and her husband never want to leave Grover's Corner. It is like the custom of Grover's Corner to settle down near their family although they have gone outside of it, or even they have gone to college. They still come back to Grover's Corner no matter how dull the life within.

3.4 Emily's Humanistic View As The Reflection Of Her Existence

The main purpose of this thesis is analyzing the need of awareness of society that everything in life has meaning. Apart from the influences of society above, there are parts inside Emily, which are not affected. It means that although the influences of society are great but they don't occupy her completely.

When she is reaching teen age, she is already aware of her qualities. She is the brightest student in her school and she is much aware of her brightness.

Mrs. Webb: You know the rules as I do—no books at the table. AS for me, I'd rather have my children healthy than bright.

Emily : I'm both, Mama, you know I am. I'm the brightest girl in school for my age. I have a wonderful memory. (9)

At the same time, she is also at the stage in her life in which she is first becoming aware of her looks and appearance. She begins to be attracted to boys.

Emily :Mama, were you pretty?

Mrs. Webb:Yes, I was, if I do say it. I was the prettiest girl in town next to Mamie Cartwright.

Emily :But, Mama, you've got to say something about me. Am I pretty enough to get anybody . . . to get people interested in me?(10)

She has high self-confidence because of her knowing of her abilities, so that she becomes absolutely sure she'll never face any troubles.

Mr. Webb: Hem . . . yes. Haven't any troubles on your mind, have you, Emily.

Emily : *Troubles, Papa? No .* (13)

One night, she is standing in front of her window in her bedroom and watching pensively at the moonlight. It is very special because there is nobody in Grover's Corner ever contemplates anything in his or her life.

Mr. Weeb: Why aren't you in bed?

Emily : I don't know. I just can't sleep yet, Papa. The moonlight's so wonderful. And

the smell of Mrs. Gibb's Heliotrophe.

Can you smell it? (13)

Her awareness of her qualities, her look and appearance makes her special among the other members of her society, because those things never happen to them.

Emily lives within the society who never think deeply about themselves and their life. People run their life with a general acceptance that it is their destiny to be alive and no more. Therefore, her awareness and contemplation at the end of the Act I of the play give a clue to what will happen in the Act III.

Emily's life in her birth and her marriage and finally her death doesn't have any differences with the life of other's. She has the common pattern of life of a small town like Grover's Corner. In her childhood, she spends her life together with her neighbors' children. They go to school together, study together and they play together.

Three years later, another common occasion happens to them. Just like what happened to everybody in Grover's Corner, they face a romantic situation. They fall in love to one of their friends as the form of the deepening of their friendship. Emily and George discover that they fall in love each other on their way home from school. In a small town like Grover's Corner, it usually happens.

George : Emily, if I do improve and make a big change. . . would you be . . . I mean : could you be . . .

Emily : I . . . I am now; I always have been.

(21)

Then Emily reaches her next stage of life, that is her wedding. Again, it is a common wedding, which everyone may have. The superstition around the wedding, the fears before the moment and the comments of the guests also can be found in every wedding. For the bride and the groom, it may be a special wedding, but for the others it is just an ordinary one because there so many weddings happened before.

In Act III, there is an unusual event happens. At that time, Emily has just died because of childbirth. She is buried in the town cemetery at the hill. She is now among the other members of the death, people she knows well. They are Mother Gibbs, Mrs. Soames and Simon Stimson the organist. She feels strange among them because she is new. She feels that she doesn't belong to that place. She still remembers the moments when she is still alive which she just leave behind. She remembers about her four-year-old son and her husband, George, in their farm. She tells to the dead that their farm a lovely one and it can't be the same for her husband after she died.

Emily: Well, there is a patent device on the drinking fountain so that it never overflows, Mother Gibbs, and it never sink below a certain mark they have there. It's fine. It won't be the same to George without me, but it's a lovely farm. (28)

Then she wonders that one can go back alive again. All of the dead tries to stop her. They tell her that what she will face is not the same as her thought and she will be very disappointed. But she has made up her mind and no one can stop her. She is suggested to choose a less important day in her life and she chooses her twelfth birthday.

She comes back to the time when she was twelve-year-old and she wants to experience the whole day once again. Everything is the same as it was, February 11th, 1899 and the day is Tuesday. It begins at dawn and it has been snowing for several days; but now it has stopped. The sun's coming up. Emily sees the Main Street and Mr. Morgan drugstore before he changes it. She walks toward Main Street and sees the town she knew when she was a little girl. She loves the white fence around her house. Then, she sees Howie Newsome and Joe Crowel who has died. While she is wondering about them, she hears her mother calling her and her brother, Wally to get up. She sees how young her mother at that time. She never realizes before

that her mother was ever that young. One by one the events on that day happen the way it was. Time moves so fast that they don't even have time to feel and to think about what they have done. Every members of the family are too busy with their own activities and business. They don't realize that Emily they face now is not the same Emily as she was because she has died now and they just don't have much concerns for her being.

Emily: Oh, Mama, just look at me one minute as though you really saw me. Mama, fourteen years had gone by. I'm dead. You're a grandmother, Mama. I married George Gibbs, Mama. Wally's dead, too. Mama, his appendix burst on a camping trip to North Conway. We felt just terrible about it—don't you remember? But, just for a moment now we're all together. Mama, just for a moment we're happy. Let's look at one another. (31)

She does not want to continue the rest of the day. She sees that the time goes fast and neither of them ever realizes and notices what is going on. At that moment, there is something comes to Emily. She who is able to relive her life has the ability to see everything in a different perspective from the others. From a living person into a dead one and to be alive again, she is able to feel and realize that everything one has

when one is alive will be missed when one dies, because one doesn't have it anymore . It is because she undergoes herself such losing. And with her opportunity to relive again, she realizes that all people in Grover's Corner are just the same as her. They have wasted their time in ignorance. They never realize that their life and its trivial things have a meaning so that they have to do something useful in their life. They don't realize that to live, they must have a quality as an individual and they must show that quality. They just take their life for granted. They think that they live because it is their destiny to be alive and it is just the way they have to go through. They don't have goal in their life, so their life days by days run like a tired clock which has no changes.

Now, she realizes that to live, people have to choose and decide what is best for them. They have to be aware of their qualities. To live they have to explore all their talent and potential they have so that their life will be meaningful for themselves and others and not wasted in a dull monotonous way. To live, they have to participate in everyday act consciously. In Grover's Corner all the time people have been through, they just take their life for granted. They are so burdened with the troubles of life that they can never appreciate the mere fact of being alive. People go to school not because they know the importance of education but because they think that

it is just the way they have to go through. People get married because they assume that they are meant to go through life two by two and not because they are aware of the meaning. Those are the causes of the dull monotonous life in Grover's Corner in Emily's opinion.

CONCLUSION

CHAPTER IV