

Identity of Parvana and Beth.

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By AL

Short summary for The Queen's Gambit

The Queen's Gambit is the story of Beth Harmon's Life. This book shows how Eight-year-old orphan girls' identity changes while she grow up and become a grandmaster of chess.

The main conflict of the book is Beth vs tranquilizer and alcohol addiction. Background of the book is 1950's~1980's United States, when women's right wasn't secured and had a lot of underestimation when men thinks about women.

The reason why I chose this book.

Firstly, it shows how Beth grows and make up on her dreams and problems. So it's easy to find her identity. Second, the main character of this book is in a similar background and situation, so I thought it would be good. Lastly, I wanted to give an example that its way more easier for us to know character's identity when the book is about someone's life and especially some kind of extreme life.

Parvana's Identity

I think Parvana has 3 main characteristics that builds up her identity. First, **bravery**. Parvana's dad taught her to be brave and unlike other scared girls, Parvana's behavior was pretty special. For example, she holds a Taliban soldier's leg to save his dad even she knew it is dangerous. This tells us how brave she is. Second, **caring**. Parvana is a teenager, and I'm pretty sure especially teenagers needs their own life and they get hysterical. But as a teenager, Parvana serve for her family and give up her opportunity for her family. I think this kind of dedication is impossible if she wasn't caring. Lastly, **strength**. To explain about this personality, we have to think about how extreme her life is. Her country doesn't respect women's right and also they are in war. If Parvana was the character who never gave up in this extreme situation.

These are the characteristic that explains Parvana's identity.

Beth's Identity

Beth's Identity also can be explained with 3 characteristics. Foremost, she is **talented**. She won her state as chess when she was 15 and finally won the whole world and become a grandmaster. So we can tell that she is super talented. Next, she is a **trendsetter**. Just like where Parvana lives, the U.S. in the 1950s was full of suppression against women. Beth was a smart feminist and also she made a trend by wearing different cloth when all of her classmates wear the dress. Finally, she is **impulsive**. When I was reading a book, I felt she has a lack of responsibility. She likes to get drunk, and she likes to hang out. She gets drunk with her friends even she has an important chess match. These three characteristics explain her identity.

How are they similar?

- They both had an extreme life, and their identity grow up after facing harsh reality.
- They both experienced a lot of gender inequality.
- They both never give up on their dreams and bounce back even if they fall.
- They both have conflicts and ultimately that conflict makes them stronger.
- They both have good people around them that gives them help and make them as a better person

How are they different

- They have culture differences that might affect their identity changes.
- Beth has lack of responsibility while Parvana is really responsible.
- Beth use to be an orphan but she wasn't poor as Parvana after she got adopted.
- Parvana has a family but Beth doesn't. She was an orphan and her step mom who loved Beth died because of alcohol. Which means she had to take care of all hard times by herself.

Reflections

At first I thought it would be easy to compare and contrast two character's identity. But I was wrong, it was really hard. You actually have to take every facts and knowledge to compare and contrast their identity. It made me read book several more times. However I learned how to find out character's identity and for Breadwinner, Mrs. Fargo's padelt was really helpful.

Thank you!