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Rediscovering identity in Rachel De Woskin's *Blind*

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Abstract

Disability means mental or physical imbalance of human beings. It affects the life activities of the individual. In the novel ***Blind,*** the author explores a one teen's journey as she tries to cope with a life changing injury that leaves her permanently blind. The protagonist wants to rediscover her own identity from her disability of blindness. The finding of this paper is that disabled people accept their reality and they want to make their own identity in this society.

Keywords: Blindness, Disability, Identity, Death, Life

Literature is an artistic expression of the best that is known and thought in the world. It is a record of man's dreams and idea's, his hopes and aspirations, his failures and disappointments, his motives and passions, his experiences, and observations. It appeals to the widest human interests and the simplest human emotions. It is occupied chiefly with elementary passions and emotions-love, hatred, joy, sorrow, fear and faith-which are essential part of human nature; and the more it reflects these emotions the more surely does it awaken a response in men of every face.

Literature comes spontaneously. It does not teach trill. It is not so much a lesson as song. It emerges directly out in life and satisfies its fundamental carving for truth, goodness and beauty. Literature provides food for the intellectual, emotional, imaginative and aesthetic of man's life and thus acquires a deep and lasting human significance.

Disabled can be defined as those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Disability in literature portrays what that our culture decides as normal and also what makes as human. Literature reflects both cultural ability and disability. Historically, disabled and abnormal people stand at an alienated position in their life. Disability includes three major facts caused by birth, disease, accident.

Blindness in capability to see anything. Blind people use such things as the alphabet in the braille and guide-dogs to do their routine work. Blind people touch to identify things, they use their sense organs to identify the persons (sounds, smells). The life of a visually impaired person is full of darkness. Blind people are intelligent, for example Helen Adams Keller is the deaf and blind person. She is an American author, political activist, and lecturer and Charles Dickens also was a deaf and blind person. Child blindness is a terrible one. They are very creative and also they have good humour. They can do their work in correct manner.

Blind is an in-depth study of what life is like for a newly blind teenager. It is a life changing accident of her life. Emma Sasha Silver is the main character in "Blind". She loses her eyesight in a tragic accident. The writer gives the descriptions of Emma's

blindness as "Words have vivid edges and colors now, and listening to Leah is like being inside a book with glistening page." She has missed half of grade nine and spent the remaining years at Briarly School for the blind were she learned to read braille and navigate the world as a blind person. She is back at her old school, entering the grade ten accompanied with her friend Logan.

Emma enjoys her present life with her six siblings at home, attending regular school, Lake Main, and visiting her therapist Dr. Sassoman. She recounts her journey over the past year struggling to come to terms with her loss of sight. Later, Mr.Otis arrives, Emma developing strategies that allow to lead her everyday life, like organizing her cloths, walking on the sidewalk and use her phone. Emma relearns everything because of her blindness. In this words of Emma "The work was a chocking, incessant reminder that I was back at zero flatter than any baby starts at…it was all matter of survival, even though it was literally stuff like learning to walk down the sidewalk or across the street."

Emma can practise the skills that are guided by Mr. Otis. She is re-integrated back into a regular school. Emma is sent to Briarly. Now Emma knows about the meaning of the word blind. She cannot imagine a future as she is blind forever. These are explained through the following lines: "I just wants to stop thinking about forever in the dark and endless, claustrophobic tunnel of a future. Because I'll never drive or get a job, or get married or lose my virginity. Maybe I'll never even kiss anyone."

Emma's journey continues with Annabelle. She lost her eyesight to a disease. Eventually, Emma realizes that she has to live with her blindness. She wants to live her

life and also remember everything. One incident changes Emma, that is the death of her friend Clarie who killed herself. Emma understands that Claire wants to die, she only see the darkness of her future like a blind person not understanding the reality and the possibilities of her future. Finally, Emma realizes that despite being blind, she is happy she is live. Emma knows about her identity as a blind. She improves herself to experience the colours and texture of the music.

Emma understands the two versions of her life, one is she can feel the world and another one is her losing eyesight. She finds out the way to live between them.

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