

# The Perks of being a Wallflower - Analysis

## The characters

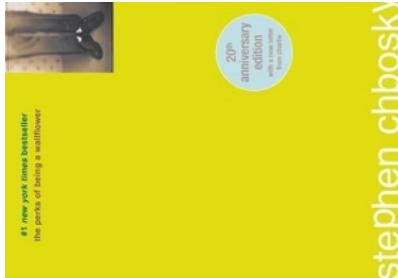
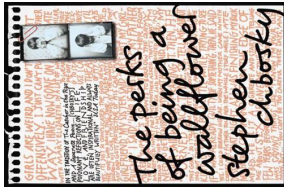

Character	Role and Core Psychological Facts	Potential Disorders
<b>Charlie</b>	The protagonist and narrator. Extremely sensitive, hyper-vigilant, and dealing with unresolved complex grief (Michael) and repressed trauma (Aunt Helen). Tends toward self-forgetfulness in relationships. Very observant, but shy.	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Recurrent Major Depression (psychotic episode). Uses dissociation (memory loss) and repression to cope with trauma.
<b>Patrick</b>	Charlie's best friend. Public exuberance serves as a mask for his sexual identity and the emotional stress of a secret relationship (Brad). Values freedom and acceptance. Sam's step brother.	Masked Depression and Anxiety. Employs humor as a coping and defense mechanism (sublimation) to manage personal stress and identity conflict.
<b>Sam</b>	Charlie's love interest and support figure. Suffers from low self-esteem due to past abusive/negative sexual experiences. Seeks redemption and validation through future success and helping others. Patrick's step brother.	Social Anxiety and feelings of powerlessness linked to her past. Uses overcompensation (focusing on college) and the savior role (helping Charlie) as a personal avoidance strategy.
<b>Mary Elizabeth</b>	Charlie's brief girlfriend. Exhibits a strong need for control and external validation. She seeks to define others based on her own interests and ideals.	Histrionic Personality Traits (need to be the center of attention) or Emotional Immaturity. Uses intellectual superiority to mask underlying insecurity.
<b>Bill</b>	The English teacher and mentor. Provides essential intellectual and emotional validation. Represents the positive attachment figure Charlie lacked in his early life.	Suggested stable psychological health. Utilizes empathy and validation as guidance tools.

Character	Role and Core Psychological Facts	Potential Disorders
<b>Aunt Helen</b>	The source of trauma. She was a victim of abuse herself, leading to her eventually becoming the abuser to Charlie (a traumatic repetition). Her memory is initially idealized by Charlie.	Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (C-PTSD). Likely suffered from severe depression and an inability to form healthy relationships due to her own trauma.
<b>Brad</b>	Patrick's secret boyfriend. Under extreme social pressure (popular athlete). His refusal to accept and live his identity creates intense cognitive dissonance.	Generalized Anxiety and denial of his identity. His outburst (physical fight) is a psychological break when denial is no longer sustainable. Motivated by fear.
<b>Charlie's Mother</b>	Manages family history through avoidance and minimization of problems. Lacks awareness regarding the depth of Charlie's trauma and mental health issues.	Emotional Avoidance and Denial. Her behavior is driven by a need to maintain a facade of family stability.
<b>Charlie's Father</b>	Often reserved and emotionally closed off. Although loving, he struggles to communicate about deep feelings or past traumatic events.	Alexithymia (difficulty identifying and expressing emotions) or emotional stoicism as a parenting style.
<b>Charlie's sister</b>	Charlie's older sister. Serves as a guardian and protector for Charlie. Despite her own relationship troubles, she maintains a consistent family connection.	Resilience. May use the mechanism of caretaking (parentification) to express affection.
<b>Charlie's Brother</b>	The oldest sibling. Initially distant and self-centered, he bases family dynamics on power hierarchy. Shows a more empathetic and supportive side toward the end.	Conformity to social expectations and gradual maturation.
<b>Michael</b>	Charlie's deceased friend (suicide). His death was the triggering event for Charlie's first major depressive episode and subsequent social isolation.	Likely suffered from severe depression leading to suicide. For Charlie, he represents loss and loneliness.
<b>Craig</b>	Sam's ex-boyfriend. Represents the shallow, unhealthy	A minor character, symbolizing emotional immaturity or toxicity in

Character	Role and Core Psychological Facts	Potential Disorders
	relationships Sam is trying to leave behind to pursue a better future.	relationships Sam attempted to endure.
<b>Peter</b>	A former acquaintance. Mentioned as one of the friends who distanced themselves from Charlie following Michael's suicide.	Represents the social impact of mental illness and grief (the discomfort that leads to avoidance among peers).

## Introduction

### Judge a book by it's cover (analysis)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little info / simple cover</li> <li>• Pic of a man's feet (looking shy), we don't see his face</li> <li>• The caracter may be introverted</li> <li>• Old-style cover and colours</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two pictures of a teen</li> <li>• Sad colors</li> <li>• Thoughts of a diary (teen's topics)</li> <li>• Shy caracter</li> <li>• Lot of thoughts in the background</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shadow of a teenager boy (hiding himself)</li> <li>• The teenager is looking at the floor</li> <li>• The boy might be shy &amp;/or afraid to speak</li> </ul>	

- “The perks of being a wallflower” means “The advantages to be shy.”
- According to the autor (Stephen Chbosky), a “wallflower” is somebody who’s shy, observing and overthinking.
- It’s an autobiography and epistolary novel, based on Chbosky’s life.
- It talks about coming-of-age topics

## 1990's USA

Subject	Trends and Key Facts (1990s US)
Music	Rise of Grunge and Alternative Music: Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and the Seattle movement dominated, ending the Hair Metal era. Hip-Hop exploded (East vs. West Coast), and Pop made a strong return late in the decade (Spice Girls, Britney Spears).
High School	Anti-Conformity and Cynicism: The Grunge aesthetic and anti-establishment attitudes were popular. Teen films highlighted social cliques ("losers" vs. "popular") and integration difficulties. This was the era of movies like Clueless, Dazed and Confused, and American Pie.
Politics	The Clinton Era (Democrat): President Bill Clinton was in power, often associated with economic prosperity and political centrism. The decade was marked by social debates and a major presidential scandal (the Lewinsky affair).
Women's Rights	Third Wave Feminism: Feminism became more inclusive of different identities, often linked to the Riot Grrrl music movement. Themes of empowerment and sexual positivity were discussed, reacting against 1980s conservatism.
Homosexuality (LGBTQ+ Rights)	Struggle and Increasing Visibility: Despite more media visibility, policies were still very restrictive. Two major controversial laws were passed: "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (rules for the military) and the "Defense of Marriage Act" (defining marriage as between a man and a woman). It was a period of tension for LGBTQ+ rights.

## Stephen Chbosky's biography

Date of Birth	January 25, 1970	Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA.
Education	University of Southern California (USC)	Earned a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in screenwriting from the USC School of Cinematic Arts.
Major Work (Literature)	The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Published in 1999. This coming-of-age novel became a cult classic, exploring mental health and adolescent trauma.
Major Work (Film)	Directing The Perks of Being a Wallflower	He adapted his own novel for the screen in 2012; the film was critically acclaimed and boosted the careers of several actors (Emma Watson, Ezra Miller, Logan Lerman).

<b>Literary Style</b>	Coming-of-Age, Emotional Realism	His work focuses on themes of identity, friendship, trauma, and healing among teenagers and young adults.
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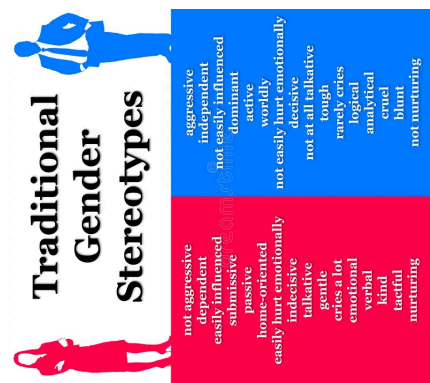
### Worksheet 1 (p.3-23)

- Mr. Vaughn (deputy director) made an announcement about Michael Dobson (Charlie's best friend). He announced that Michael has passed away by killing himself.
  - It creates a big trauma for Charlie.
- The favourite person of Charlie is his aunt (aunt Helen). Charlie talks about how much he regrets about making his aunt cry when he was younger, by asking her what happened, when she had a problem.
  - Charlie's father slapped Charlie, it was the only time he had hit his son.
- Bill gives to Charlie extra work to do because he finds that Charlie is a gifted person to him.
- Charlie's sister's boyfriend slapped Charlie's sister, so she stops abusing verbally her boyfriend.
- Charlie's father cries in front of Charlie for the first time.
  - Because of the M\*A\*S\*H series.

### Positive and negative aspects of an epistolary novel

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the character's mind</li> <li>• Talks about society issues</li> <li>• Character's honest opinion</li> <li>• Relate to the character</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holes between two letters</li> <li>• Only character's point of view</li> <li>• Subjective feelings</li> <li>• Written in a chaotic way</li> </ul>

### Gender stereotypes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I disagree with the stereotypes</li> <li>• Everybody is different</li> <li>• Depends on the situations</li> <li>• Charlie is dependant and emotional in the novel</li> </ul>	 <p>The infographic is titled 'Traditional Gender Stereotypes'. It features a blue silhouette of a man and a red silhouette of a woman. The male traits are listed in a blue box: aggressive, independent, not easily influenced, dominant, active, worldly, decisive, not easily hurt emotionally, not at all talkative, tough, rarely cries, logical, analytical, cruel, blunt, and not nurturing. The female traits are listed in a red box: not aggressive, dependent, easily influenced, submissive, passive, home-oriented, easily hurt emotionally, indecisive, talkative, gentle, cries a lot, emotional, verbal, kind, tactful, and nurturing.</p>
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### Characters' characteristics

Charlie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emotional</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn't want to hurt anybody</li> <li>• Avoids conflicts</li> <li>• Observant / quiet</li> <li>• Bullied &amp; unpopular</li> </ul>
Charlie's brother	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tough</li> <li>• Likes cars &amp; football</li> <li>• Hides his emotions</li> <li>• Want to look strong</li> </ul>
Charlie's father	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slapped Charlie once</li> <li>• Protective / Tough</li> <li>• Want to look strong</li> <li>• Works a lot → Responsibilities</li> <li>• House's master</li> </ul>
Charlie's sister's boyfriend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long hair</li> <li>• Creative / Respectful</li> <li>• Hit Charlie's sister once</li> </ul>

At the beginning of the novel, Charlie's father found that Charlie's sister's boyfriend was "weak". But after the guy hit Charlie's sister, the father, without knowing it, found that Charlie's sister's boyfriend was becoming a "fine young man who could carry himself".

## Worksheet 2 (p.23-49)

- Sam laughs when Charlie confesses that he dreamt about her naked.
- Charlie is very observant and doesn't participate in life.
- Charlie felt terrible when Bill told his parents that Charlie's sister's boyfriend is hitting her.
  - Charlie's parents forbid Charlie's sister from seeing her boyfriend.
- Charlie went to his first party with Sam & Patrick. In Bob's house.
- Charlie remembered about the rape he witnessed when he was younger.
- Charlie lets the air out of Dave's tires, to revenge the rape he saw.
- Patrick assumes openly that he's gay.

## Consent

Charlie witnessed that he saw a rape years later only, because he had a flashback while being in a party. It happened when a party was organised, and then some people tried to have sex in his room, on his bed.

It turned out that the couple were drunk, the girl was protesting and the guy (Dave) continued despite the protests.

Charlie then made the conclusion, many years later, that Dave raped the girl, but he can do nothing.

Sam said that there was nothing to do because it's usual. She wasn't surprised, maybe she experienced it herself. Reporting the rape would be a difficult process, and almost useless because there's no proof.

**Brad cries because he is ashamed of being gay.** But the girl was crying because she was raped.

### Homosexuality

Brad reacted nervously when he saw that Charlie discovered that he's gay. He wants to look tough. In order to look tough, he needs to hide that he's gay. Brad doesn't feel comfortable for being in a relationship with Patrick. He always finds excuses to avoid Patrick. Patrick respects his choices and avoids him during school time. Brad has to keep his homosexuality a secret, because he could miss his chance of becoming a professional player of football.

### Charlie's parties

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Socialize</li><li>• Have fun</li><li>• Nobody judges</li><li>• Try new experiences</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drink alcohol</li><li>• Smoke</li><li>• To be influenced badly</li><li>• Sexual abuses</li></ul>

### Worksheet 3 (p.49-78)

- Sam goes out with Carig and Charlie doesn't her to, because Craig isn't listening to Sam.
- The grandfather of Charlie is very proud of his grandson playing football on national TV. (Charlie's brother)
- During Thanksgiving, the family was united by the match his brother played. He says he's grateful for it, in front of the whole family.
- Sam kisses Charlie to make sure that the first person who kisses him, really loves him.
- For the secret santas, Charlie offered a kid suicide note to Patrick.

### 'Asleep' by The Smiths

"Sing me to sleep Sing me to sleep I'm tired and I I want to go to bed Sing me to sleep Sing me to sleep And then leave me alone Don't try to wake me in the morning 'Cause I will be gone

Don't feel bad for me I want you to know Deep in the cell of my heart I will feel so glad to go

Sing me to sleep Sing me to sleep I don't want to wake up On my own anymore Sing to me Sing to me I don't want to wake up On my own anymore

Don't feel bad for me I want you to know Deep in the cell of my heart I really want to go

There is another world There is a better world Well, there must be Well, there must be Well, there must be Well, there must be Well... Bye, bye Bye..."

Charlie makes a mixtape about multiple songs that he likes, but his favourite one is 'Asleep' by the Smiths. It talks about suicide and uses euphemisms to talk about it.

Charlie offers the mixtape to Patrick, for the secret santa, he wants him to listen to it when he drives alone. It talks about the same topic as the suicide note that Charlie offered to Patrick.

## Worksheet 4 (p.78-102)

- Charlie finds his birthday strange due to his trauma of Aunt Helen dying at his birthday.
- Charlie doesn't know his father well, he doesn't know what to buy him for Christmas.
- Charlie's brother goes out with a beautiful cheerleader.
- The family goes to Ohio, in the paternal family's house (grandmother's house).
- Charlie's dad's stepfather used to hit him, his mother and his sister.
- Aunt Helen used to be molested by a friend of the family.
- Aunt Helen died of a road accident on December 24th, 1983.

### Charlie's mental health

Charlie has a weird behaviour, with trauma signs such as : introverted, shy, guilty, mental health issues, silent (& abused family). Based on his symptoms, he can have PTSD, depression or Asperger's syndrome.

## Worksheet 5 (p.105-130)

- At the beginning of part III, Charlie's under LSD, and his thoughts went everywhere.
  - He compares his thoughts to hopscotch (marelle).
- Charlie passes out in the snow because he took LSD the night before and passes the night there, while doing an angel.
- Charlie is asked out by Mary Elizabeth at the Sadie Hawkins' dance.
- He learned a lot about Mary Elizabeth during the date, because he didn't talk. He can't say if the dating was good or not, because he has nothing to compare with.
- Charlie's sister gets pregnant, and she needs the help of Charlie to abort.
  - She witnesses that he smokes, but she can't tell their parents, otherwise Charlie will talk about the abortion.
  - They're getting closer to each other.

### Qualifying relationships

<b>Charlie's parents</b>	Married
<b>Charlie's sister and her boyfriend</b>	Toxic (relationship)
<b>Patrick and Brad</b>	Toxic (relationship)
<b>Sam and Craig</b>	Imbalanced (relationship)
<b>Charlie's brother and Kelly</b>	Dating

<b>Brad and Nancy</b>	Fake (relationship)
<b>Sam &amp; Charlie</b>	Friendzone (friends)

## Abortion in the USA

Period	Key Abortion-Related Events in the U.S.
19th Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1821: Connecticut becomes the first U.S. state to criminalize abortion (by banning the sale of an abortion-inducing "poison," but without punishing the woman who took it).</li> <li>• 1845: New York criminalizes a woman's participation in her abortion, regardless of whether it took place before or after quickening (first detectable fetal movement).</li> <li>• Mid-1800s: The American Medical Association (AMA) campaigns to outlaw abortion nationwide.</li> </ul>
20th Century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early 1900s: The majority of states have banned abortion.</li> <li>• 1965: All 50 states have outlawed abortion, with some exceptions varying by state.</li> </ul>
1960s & 70s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January 22, 1973: The Supreme Court ruling <i>Roe v. Wade</i> legalizes abortion nationwide, declaring most state anti-abortion laws unconstitutional. It established a framework based on trimesters.</li> <li>• 1976: The Hyde Amendment is passed, limiting federal funding for abortions (except in cases of rape, incest, or danger to the mother's life, depending on the versions).</li> </ul>
1980s & 90s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August 1984: Mexico City Policy adopted, blocking federal funding to foreign non-governmental organizations that perform or promote abortion.</li> <li>• June 29, 1992: The ruling in <i>Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey</i> is delivered. It upheld the constitutional right to have an abortion but abandoned the "rigid trimester framework" in favor of a less restrictive standard for state regulations, allowing requirements like waiting periods, as long as they do not impose an "undue burden."</li> <li>• 1990 - 2011: Abortion rates decline.</li> </ul>
2000s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November 5, 2003: The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is signed into law by President George W. Bush.</li> <li>• 2009-2010: Obamacare does not cover abortions (with exceptions).</li> <li>• June 24, 2022: The Supreme Court ruling in <i>Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization</i> overturns <i>Roe v. Wade</i> and <i>Casey</i>, eliminating the federal constitutional right to abortion and allowing states to ban or regulate the procedure individually.</li> </ul>

To sum up, abortion in the USA has been a very controversial topic for a few centuries now, and Americans are still fighting about it, and they probably won't stop.

## Charlie's sister's abortion

Charlie feels very uncomfortable, awkward, sad and he has a lot of anxiety due to his sister's abortion. His sister and him have a balanced relationship. It's the first time that he takes care of somebody instead of somebody doing that for Charlie.

They also both know a secret of each other, that makes their relationship really balanced.

## Worksheet 6 (p.131-149)

- Mary Elizabeth asks Charlie out for a second time.
- Charlie kissed a boy when he was younger, which scared his father.
- Charlie and Mary Elizabeth went to make love but Charlie wasn't aware of what he was doing.
- Charlie doesn't appreciate the fact that Mary Elizabeth is talkative.
  - He doesn't listen to her
- Charlie's sister thinks that Mary Elizabeth lacks self-confidence.
- When playing truth or dare, Charlie admits that he finds Sam prettier.
  - Charlie's isolated since that incident.

## Charlie's dating profile

Your character's name: <u>Charlie</u>	
Your character's interests: 1. <u>MUSIC</u> 2. <u>LITERATURE</u> 3. <u>PARTIES</u>	A fun fact about your character: <u>He has an older brother that plays football at college. He's going to be a professional player.</u> <u>SAM</u>
A quote that describes your character well (from your character or a quote said about them): <u>"I couldn't put a thought together" p. 168</u>	
Strengths that could bring happiness to a relationship: 1. <u>He listens</u> 2. <u>He is kind</u> 3. <u>He cares</u> Explain how these traits may bring happiness to their partner: <u>His partner will feel free to talk about everything. He's not going to hurt his partner.</u> <u>They will always feel special.</u>	Weaknesses that could bring problems to a relationship: 1. <u>Overthinker</u> 2. <u>Mental health problems</u> 3. <u>Anxious</u> Explain how these traits could lead to relationship problems: <u>He's going to ask himself too many questions. He's not stable and he's going to do some crazy stuff.</u> <u>He's going to do things that he'll regret afterwards.</u>
The type of person that your character would be most compatible with is someone with the following characteristics: 1. <u>Someone who puts him before</u> 2. <u>Someone caring about him.</u> 3. <u>Someone who understands him.</u> Explain why: <u>He'll feel important.</u> <u>He'll feel loved</u> <u>He'll feel understood</u>	The type of person that your character would be least compatible with is someone with the following characteristics: 1. <u>Talkative person (too much)</u> 2. <u>Somebody who doesn't know enough about him.</u> 3. <u>Somebody who doesn't understand him.</u> Explain why: <u>Because he can't control his emotions in general, and he doesn't know what to do in complicated situations.</u>

## Worksheet 7 (p.153-173)

- Charlie asks Susan about Michael, which upsets her.
- Charlie learns that Brad got caught with Patrick, Bob told Charlie.
  - Brad gets hit by his father.
- Brad says "Thank you." to Charlie, during detention, for stopping his teammates.
  - Brad still cares about Patrick and feels guilty.
- During Patrick's exclusion, Charlie & him went to have a picnic together.
  - Patrick listened to Charlie's mixtape all night, he likes it a lot.

## Symbols (drugs)

<b>Symbol (drugs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Escaping the reality</li><li>Numb one's feelings when dealing with something difficult</li></ul>
<b>Quote</b>	"I wish I could report that it's getting better."

There's a lot of symbols in the novel, but the most important one is the **tunnel**.

→ It's representing the freedom

## Charlie & fights

Comparison between the fights with Sean and with Brad and his teammates.

	<b>Fight with Sean</b>	<b>Fight with Brad</b>
<b>Reasons</b>	Sam threatens Charlie.	Patrick was told a "faggot" by Brad, Charlie helped Patrick.
<b>Charlie behaviour</b>	Goes for the "knees, eyes & throat". Didn't say anything.	He beat up all Bard's teammates, and told Bard "If you [...] you". Helped Patrick to get up.
<b>Charlie's reaction afterwards</b>	He starts to cry in front of everybody.	No particular regrets.
<b>Consequences</b>	No consequences, because it was self-defence.	1 month detention because he helped Patrick.

At first Charlie was defending himself. Now he defends his friends, he got better with his emotions.

## Bullies

<b>Reasons for Harassment</b>	<b>Consequences</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>
Physical Appearance	Emotional Distress (anxiety, anger), low self-esteem, development of body image issues.	Talk to a trusted adult (parent, teacher, manager). Document all incidents. Seek counseling or psychological support.
Sexual Orientation	Social isolation, increased anxiety/depression, risk of suicidal ideation, avoiding school/work.	Contact specialized support groups. Know your anti-discrimination rights. Report the incident to authorities.

Reasons for Harassment	Consequences	Key Actions
Origin, Ethnicity, or Religion	Feeling unsafe, post-traumatic stress, loss of trust in institutions, difficulty integrating.	Report the incident to the police/management. Join support networks. File a formal complaint if it's a criminal offense.
Socio-Economic Status	Difficulty concentrating, decline in performance, may lead to the victim leaving the job/school.	Set clear boundaries. Look for a mediator (HR, union rep). Create a safety plan (e.g., changing routes).
Cyberbullying	Constant anxiety (harassment is always present), lasting reputation damage, loss of control over personal info.	DO NOT respond. Keep all evidence (screenshots). Block the harasser. Report the content to social media platforms.

### Worksheet 8 (p.173-196)

- Charlie went to a park with Patrick and recognised the sports journalist.
- Sam is going to Penn state university, the same one as Charlie's brother.
  - Charlie can go to the university for his brother and Sam.
- Charlie uses his analyzing skills to play the music according to the party.
- Charlie finds school lonely, because his friends already left school.
- Sam and Craig broke up, because Craig cheated on her.
  - Charlie is sad because he wants Sam to be happy even if she's not with him.
- Bill gave out throughout the year extra work to Charlie because he thinks he's gifted.

### American high school

Term	Short Definition
Freshman	A first-year high school student (9th Grade).
Sophomore	A second-year high school student (10th Grade).
Junior	A third-year high school student (11th Grade), often the most academically challenging year.
Senior	A fourth and final-year high school student (12th Grade).
Graduation	The official commencement ceremony marking the completion of high school (or college/university).
Prom	The formal year-end dance for Juniors and Seniors, often the biggest social event of the year.

Term	Short Definition
Homecoming	An annual celebration (usually in the fall) centered around an American football game and a dance, intended to welcome back alumni.
Finals	Final exams typically held at the end of a semester or academic year, counting for a large percentage of the final grade.
Valedictorian	The top-ranking student (Senior) in the graduating class based on academic performance. They usually deliver the farewell speech at Graduation.
Senior Prank	A traditional hoax or practical joke organized by the graduating Senior class to mark their departure.
Academic Scholarship	A grant or financial aid awarded to a student based on their academic merit and excellence.
Sorority/Fraternity	Exclusive social organizations (female/male) with shared housing and social bonds on campus (mostly at university, but sometimes referenced in high school culture).

#### Character's yearschool

Year of High School	Name of the year	Characters' year
1st	Freshman	Charlie
2nd	Sophomore	-
3rd	Junior	-
4th	Senior	Sam, Patrick, Mary Elizabeth, etc.
College	-	Charlie's Brother

#### Prom features

Feature Category	Prom Feature	Description
Logistics	Venue	A location where the prom is held, often a ballroom, hotel, or convention center.
	Date and Time	Usually held in the late spring (April/May/June), often starting in the evening and lasting until midnight or later.

	Tickets	Required for entry; sold in advance to students and their dates.
<b>Atmosphere &amp; Decor</b>	Theme	A decorative concept that dictates the look and feel (e.g., "A Night in Paris," "Hollywood Glamour," "Under the Sea").
	Decorations	Elaborate visual elements aligned with the theme, including lighting, backdrops, and centerpieces.
	Music / DJ	A disc jockey or live band playing popular dance music.
<b>Attendees &amp; Dress Code</b>	Formal Attire	The standard dress code: Tuxedos/suits for guys and formal gowns/dresses for girls.
	Dates	Students typically attend with a partner, who may or may not be from the same school.
	Chaperones	Teachers, administrators, or parents who supervise the event.
<b>Food &amp; Drink</b>	Refreshments	Non-alcoholic beverages (punch, soda, water).
	Catering	Can range from light appetizers and dessert stations to a full sit-down dinner.
<b>Key Moments</b>	Dancing	The main activity, including slow dances and fast-paced group dances.
	Grand March / Walk-in	A formal introduction where couples/groups walk into the venue for others to see (common in some regions).
	Prom King and Queen	A highlight where two students are crowned based on a popular vote.
	Photo Booth / Photographer	Designated areas or professionals to take formal and informal pictures.
	After-Prom	An optional, often supervised, post-prom party held in a safe, non-alcoholic environment.

### Worksheet 9 (p.196-221)

- Charlie's brother has become more mature.
  - He has a beard, he's courteous and interested in other people.
- Charlie and his brother hugged their mother sideways during the graduation.

- They are getting closer. That made their mother cry.
- Charlie's dad thanked him for being patient, due to Charlie wanting to join Sam.
  - The dad shows a new facet of himself, because he was drunk.
- Sam had a "closure" lunch with Craig.
  - She's mature, because instead of insulting him, she wanted to understand why they broke up. That made her get through her break up.
  - Sam wasn't bitter about the break up, she was just sad.

#### Type of abuses

Type of Abuse	Short Definition
Physical	Any intentional act causing bodily harm or injury, such as hitting, kicking, pushing, or restraining.
Verbal	The use of spoken or written insults, threats, ridicule, or screaming to demean, control, or frighten someone.
Emotional/Psychological	Behavior that damages self-worth or emotional well-being, including manipulation, constant criticism, intimidation, or gaslighting.
Sexual	Any unwanted sexual act or contact forced upon a person, or the exploitation of a person for sexual purposes.
Isolation	Controlling a person's life by separating them from friends, family, school, or work, and restricting their movement or communication.
Financial/Economic	Controlling a person's access to money, resources, or employment, such as stealing money, withholding funds, or preventing them from getting a job.

#### Character's abuses

<b>Who</b>	Charlie
<b>Kind of abuse</b>	Sexual
<b>Abuser</b>	Aunt Helen
<b>Trigger</b>	Sam touching him sexually.
<b>Description</b>	He was dissociating, reliving his trauma a thousand times. He feels guilty, and doesn't want to talk about it much.

#### PTSD

Symptom Category	English Term	Description
<b>Intrusion</b>	Intrusive Memories / Flashbacks	Unwanted, distressing memories of the trauma; reliving the event as if it were happening again (flashbacks).
	Nightmares	Disturbing dreams related to the traumatic event.
	Distress at Reminders	Severe emotional or physical reactions (like heart racing) when exposed to cues resembling the trauma.
<b>Avoidance</b>	Avoidance of Thoughts/Feelings	Actively trying to suppress or avoid thinking about the traumatic event.
	Avoidance of External Reminders	Avoiding people, places, activities, or objects that trigger memories of the trauma.
<b>Cognition and Mood</b>	Negative Beliefs	Persistent and exaggerated negative beliefs about oneself, others, or the world (e.g., "I am bad," "The world is completely dangerous").
	Detachment/Alienation	Feeling emotionally numb, detached, or estranged from others.
	Loss of Interest	Markedly decreased interest or participation in significant activities.
	Inability to Recall	Inability to remember key aspects of the trauma (dissociative amnesia).
<b>Reactivity</b>	Irritability/Angry Outbursts	Displaying excessive irritability or engaging in aggressive verbal or physical behavior.
	Hypervigilance	Being constantly alert and on guard for danger.
	Exaggerated Startle Response	Being easily startled or jumping at unexpected noises.
	Sleep Disturbance	Difficulty falling or staying asleep.
	Concentration Problems	Difficulty focusing or concentrating on tasks.

## Symbol of the tunnel

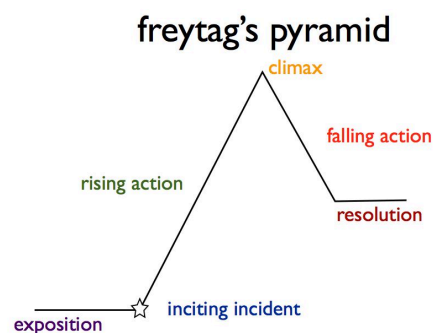
<b>Symbol</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freedom, making new chapters.</li><li>• Going from somewhere to another place without escaping.</li></ul>
<b>Quote</b>	“But mostly, I was crying because I was suddenly aware of the fact that it was me standing up in the tunnel with the wind all over my face.”

There's a lot of symbols in the novel, but the most important one is the **tunnel**.

→ It's representing the freedom

## Conclusion

### Freytag's pyramid



<b>Exposition</b>	Charlie, a fifteen-year-old boy, learns that his best friend has committed suicide and he is now pretty lonely and nervous about starting high school.
<b>Inciting Incident</b>	Charlie meets Patrick and Sam and starts hanging out with them. He starts writing for his teacher Bill.
<b>Rising Action</b>	Charlie has accepted and overcome what his aunt did to him. He has changed as a person: he is less shy, more outgoing. He is closer than ever to his family and friends.
<b>Climax</b>	Charlie has a mental breakdown and wakes up in the hospital. He discovers that his aunt molested him as a child.
<b>Falling Action</b>	While Charlie is in the hospital, his doctor helps him cope with the sexual abuse and his family and friends visit him.
<b>Resolution</b>	(Not explicitly detailed in the events A-E, but would typically follow E.)

## Themes in the book

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationships (Friendships)</li> <li>High school</li> <li>Adolescence</li> <li>Music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mental health</li> <li>Abuses</li> <li>Abortion</li> <li>Rapes</li> </ul>

Theme: Abuse & Trauma

Examples from the book		
1. Aunt Helen's death. "I'm really glad that Christmas and my birthday are over soon" (p. 78)	2. Charlie molested by Aunt Helen. "But I kind of figured out [...] I watch television." (p. 225)	3. Sam abused by her father's friends. "She told me about the first time she was kissed [...] She was seven." (p. 74)
4. Dave raping the girl at the party. "After a few minutes, the boy's hands went up the girl's shirt, and she started protesting." (p. 33)	5. Patrick verbally abused by Brad "The thing that Brad yelled at Patrick. 'Faggot!'" (p. 162)	6. Charlie's sister's boyfriend hitting Charlie's sister. "And he wound up and hit her hard across the face. I mean hard." (p. 13)

### Theme Description (explain the theme and why it is important – go in depth!)

- Sexual abuse of the step father on Aunt Helen
- Charlie molested by Aunt Helen
- Dave raping the girl in Charlie's room
- Charlie's trauma of Aunt Helen's death
- Sam abused by her father's friends
- Patrick verbally abused by Brad
- Craig cheated on Sam
- Charlie's sister getting hit by her bf

There's different kind of abuses: physical, financial, emotional, isolation, verbal & sexual. Those abuses can lead to traumas & mental health issues, such as PTSD, depression, etc.

Those traumas can be forgotten, and come back years later. It causes a lot of issues: flashbacks, nightmares, anxiety, stress and then, in the worst cases, it leads to suicide.

It's important to cure those mental issues, because the sick person always lives a difficult life and it stops him being happy.

For an instance, we'll only talk about Charlie being molested by his aunt (Helen). As he was a young boy, Aunt Helen was his favourite person in the world. He was abused by her, but he wasn't aware about it.

When Charlie's birthday arrived, Aunt Helen wanted to buy Charlie a spare gift, but she died of a road car accident. The trauma of the death of Aunt Helen "covered" Charlie's abuse trauma.

It was only years later that Charlie recovered memory and remembered about Aunt Helen abusing him sexually. It happened when he went for sex with Sam.

He stayed months in the hospital because of how strong his trauma was.