

Enid Sinclair As A Sidekick In Wednesday Series

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Article Info

Article history:

Submitted Aug 15, 2024
Revised Aug 27, 2024
Accepted Aug 30, 2024
Published Nov 11, 2024

Keywords:

Enid Sinclair
Wednesday series
Sidekick

ABSTRACT

This research purpose to analyze Enid Sinclair's role as a sidekick through selected scenes and dialogues in the Wednesday series. This analysis was conducted using descriptive qualitative method. The Hero's Journey theory by Christopher Vogler (2007) underlies the sidekick analysis in three interrelated supports, namely emotional, moral, and physical support. This research emphasizes the role of sidekicks and their importance in providing complexity to the main character. Enid Sinclair is not only a contrasting character who provides humor, but also plays an important role in not only helping but also being a challenger and mirror in the development of the narrative and the main character. In addition Enid Sinclair assists Wednesday Addams in the internal conflict which gives a new dimension to her character by helping with social perspective, friendship, and sacrifice.

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<http://doi.org/10.30631/elltur.v6i2.87>

Introduction

In the literary world, a movie is a form of narrative literary work complemented by audio and visuals on screen. Many technologies already support movies such as television, smartphones, laptops, and computers, which attract massive audiences (Simanjuntak, 2020). This medium implicates movie development beyond providing entertainment but also a medium to convey messages from the dynamics of life. Netflix as one of the streaming platforms offers an exploration of movie themes, especially in specific genres such as drama and fantasy.

Wednesday is a popular series on the Netflix platform that presents drama and fantasy genres that reach broad audience. Directed by Tim Burton, Wednesday airs in 2022 with eight episodes in the first season. The series serves as a platform to explore the themes and characters of Wednesday Addams from the Addams Family franchise. Wednesday series showcases the life of Wednesday Addams as a teenager at Evermore Academy. The story begins with a murder case by a mysterious creature that appears around her new school. The presence of Enid Sinclair as Wednesday Addams' roommate adds humor to the dark narrative. Kenney (1966) states two types of characters in literature, those two are flat and round. Static characters are one-dimensional characters with simple and consistent personalities throughout the narrative. On the other hand, round or dynamic are multi-dimensional characters who have changing or evolving personalities. Enid Sinclair's static character highlights Wednesday Addams complex character becomes multi-dimensional as the main character.

Maslak (2020) states in Day's book that sidekicks as secondary characters have a friendly relationship in helping the main character. Enid Sinclair is a sidekick character who has loyalty in a friendly relationship with Wednesday Addams. The contrasting personalities of the two characters give balance to the narrative. Enid Sinclair's cheerful and friendly personality is the opposite of Wednesday Addams, who is intimidating and sarcastic. The difference characterizes the narrative so that one character does not overshadow the other. The narrative consists of four interrelated elements: theme, setting, character, and plot (Tulamepa, 2022). The plot has a tense atmosphere, especially when entering conflict, multimodal prosody or gestures on the sidekick will lighten the dramatic atmosphere with humor (Dorchin, 2021). Enid Sinclair has the charm to give color to the narrative, encouraging the plot to develop.

When entering the conflict stage, the hero will face a series of events that provide a trial or challenge. Enid Sinclair has a role as Wednesday's sidekick. A sidekick is a partner with very close relationship with a character, such as a partner in crime, in the twists of the plot, for example popular literary characters by Shakespeare's Falstaff, Cervantes' Sancho Panza, and Doyle's Dr. Watson (Vogler, 2007). Sidekicks are not always behind the main character. Zahroh (2015) states that sidekicks have a significant role as executing narrative. In her article, Dr. Watson as Sherlock Holmes' sidekick has an influential role in Sherlock Holmes' journey. Dr. Watson positions himself as a narrator, creating a view of Sherlock

Holmes who is the main character with his own narration, thus affecting the image of the main character.

Main characters and secondary characters have a vital role, if one of them is removed, the plot will not be able to develop (Nikolajaleva, 2002). Sidekick characters not only play a significant role as a narrative carrier, humor, and character contrast but also provide moral and emotional support to the main character. This research will analyze systematically about how Enid Sinclair as a sidekick plays a role in providing support for the development of the main character through the theory of Christopher Vogler in his book *The Writer's Journey*, a modern adaptation of Joseph Campbell in his book *Hero's Journey*. This research will use the test, allies, and enemies stage of the narrative to analyze Enid Sinclair's role in providing moral, physical, and emotional support to Wednesday Addams.

Method

This research used a descriptive qualitative method with a literature research approach. Qualitatively, data was collected according to a scientifically studied context. The first step is watching the Wednesday series through the Netflix platform as primary data. The series features the character Enid Sinclair, who plays the crucial role of a sidekick. Enid Sinclair is the object of analysis because her role provides insight into character dynamics and narrative development. In her interactions with Wednesday Addams, Enid Sinclair highlights the role of the sidekick who contrasts with the main character in narrative literature. Articles, books, and academic sources were used as secondary data.

According to Arikunto (2010), the quantitative descriptive method is a method that describes the results of the analysis in-depth and relates them to relevant phenomena. The exploration of Enid Sinclair's character in the Wednesday series is presented in detail as the primary focus to understand the data more deeply. Secondary data was collected through literature research. Christopher Vogler's theory in his book *The Writer's Journey* became the basis for analyzing the role of characters in narratives in literature and films that influence the storyline. In collecting data, several episodes of Wednesday series were selected to be analyzed in detail related to Enid Sinclair's role as a sidekick to Wednesday Addams' character development.

Result and Discussion

This research found that Enid Sinclair's interaction as a sidekick has a role to support the main character through interaction with Wednesday Addams. The Wednesday series has eight episodes in the first season. Selected episodes were chosen to be identified and then analyzed based on how Enid Sinclair's interaction and dialogue affect Wednesday Addams' character.

Moral Support

Moral support is the action of individuals to develop courageous characters in making wiser decisions (Aristotle, 2024). In narratives, this support is based on the purpose of encouragement to the main character in the dialog to get through difficult situations. The decision-making assisted by the sidekick gives the main character the opportunity to step out of the comfort zone (Vogler, 2007). Enid Sinclair's moral support to Wednesday Addams can be seen from the following data:

Data 1



(Episode 2, 2022: 00.19.25 – 00.21.23)

Enid Sinclair : "I'm busy and bees totally creep me out. Why don't you ask Thing? Wait, you can't because he's mad at you."

Wednesday Addams : "Why's he mad? He's the one who screwed up."

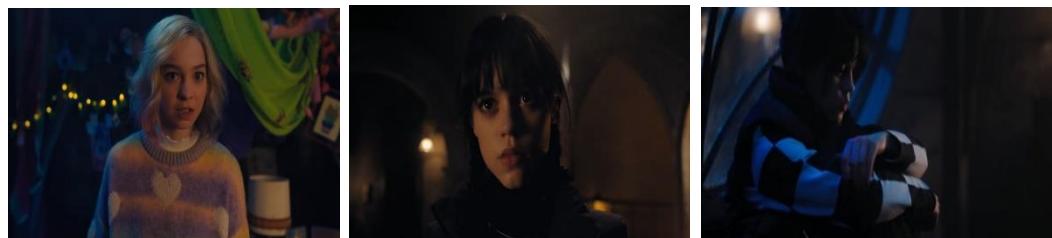
Enid Sinclair : "All I know is that we spent an hour giving each other manicures, and he really opened up. He feels like you don't respect him as a person."

Wednesday Addams : "Technically, he's only a hand."

Enid Sinclair : "Wednesday! He's your family and he would do anything for you. Go apologize and I'll reconsider helping you."

Data 1 is a conversation between Enid Sinclair and Wednesday Addams in the forest of Evermore Academy. Enid Sinclair was painting a boat when Wednesday Addams came to ask for help in carrying out the beginning of a murder investigative. Enid Sinclair refuses, she will only help if Wednesday apologizes to the Thing. Wednesday Addams is oriented towards the end result of her plan, she thinks Thing ruined the plan by failing to carry out the investigation. Even though Thing is just a piece of hand without a heart, Wednesday treats it in a way that Enid doesn't like. Sidekicks act as a counterbalance to the main character in the narrative (Vogler, 2007). Enid teaches Wednesday the way in social relationships, especially within the family, to forgive each other by showing humanity. As part of the family, the availability of help will definitely be accepted, making Wednesday realize to put respect and apologize to Thing.

Data 2



(Episode 6, 2022: 00.42.24 – 00.43.24)

Enid Sinclair : "You'll use anyone to get what you want, even if it means putting them in danger. We could have died tonight because of your stupid obsession."

Wednesday Addams : "But we didn't. And now I'm one step closer to solving this case. That is what is important."

Enid Sinclair : "I've tried really, really, really hard to be your friend. Always put myself out there. Thought of your feelings. Told people, *I know she gives off serial killer vibes, but she's just shy.*"

Wednesday Addams : "I never asked you to do that."

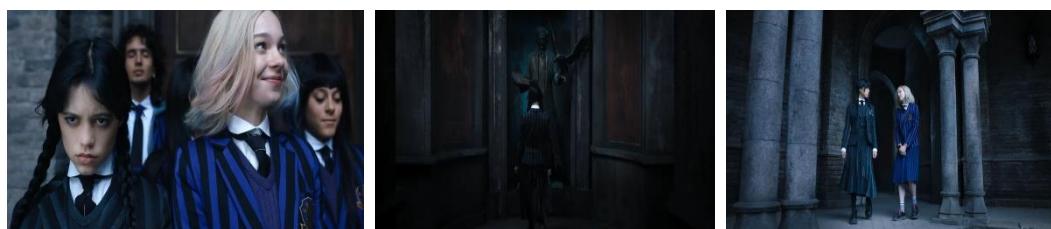
Enid Sinclair : "You didn't have to because that's what friends do! They don't have to be asked. The fact that you don't know that says everything. You want to be alone, Wednesday? Be alone."

The Addams family has habits that are different from others. Wednesday Addams as one part of Addams certainly has an interest in the opposite of others. Her interest in the macabre makes Wednesday often shunned and friendless. However, Enid Sinclair accepted Wednesday Addams and her unique personality. It's just that Enid Sinclair feels Wednesday Addams' actions have gone too far because she has put someone's life in danger for personal gain. The sidekick has a contrasting personality with the main character, this gives the sidekick the opportunity to provide a new perspective to make decisions (Vogler, 2007). Data 2 shows how Enid Sinclair's final dialogue gives Wednesday a hard slap on the importance of seeking approval before going through with a shared decision.

Emotional Support

Emotional support is a deep interaction between characters that creates complexity for the main character in the narrative (McKee, 1997). While the main character is accustomed to hiding their feelings, the sidekick's role is to show the main character's feelings and thoughts by helping them with motivation or care through an internal relationship bond. Characters will develop substance by acting on the emotional support they receive.

Data 3



(Episode 2, 2022: 00.39.02 - 00.40.20)

Enid Sinclair : "What are you doing down here?"

Wednesday Addams : "Hiding. People keep randomly smiling at me, it's unsettling."

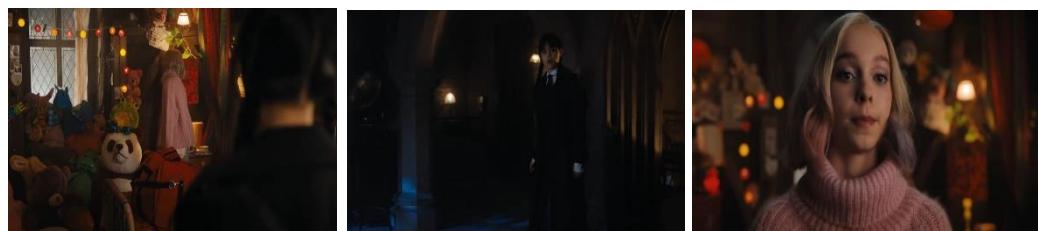
Enid Sinclair : "It's called having your moment. You took down Bianca Barclay. Try to enjoy it. The girls wanna know if you wanna hang out later. Oh, come on, it won't kill you."

Wednesday Addams : "I'll think about it."

Enid Sinclair : "Yes!"

Data 3 is a two-person dialog between Enid Sinclair and Wednesday Addams when they were a team. Edgar Allan Poe Cup competition is held once a year in Evermore Academy, Team Black Cats whose two members consist of Enid Sinclair and Wednesday Addams won the competition. The attention of the entire student welcomed the celebration, when everyone gathered Wednesday Addams chose to be alone in a building, hidden away from the crowd. Enid Sinclair who realized Wednesday was not around began to search and found Wednesday alone. Wednesday Addams is used to being alone, she dislikes being the center of attention. Wednesday found it "unsettling" when people gave her smiles when they won the Poe Cup. Enid Sinclair has a friendly and cheerful personality, she is nicknamed the queen of gossip because she loves to interact socially. Enid Sinclair reassured Wednesday Addams that the attention that people gave her when she won the Poe Cup was normal as a form of appreciation, especially after beating the popular Bianca Barclay at the Evermore academy. Enid assures Wednesday that other people are not as bad as she thinks.

Data 4



(Episode 7, 2022: 00.38.46 – 00.40.00)

Enid Sinclair : "Hey."

Wednesday Addams : "You're back."

Enid Sinclair : "I'm gone for a few days, the place gets trashed, and Thing almost dies. Someone's gotta look out for you two."

Wednesday Addams : "What happened to rooming with Yoko?"

Enid Sinclair : "Yoko's great. I just decided I needed a few more boundaries."

Wednesday Addams : "Skip the tape."

Enid Sinclair : "Don't tell me Wednesday Addams is mellowing out."

Wednesday Addams : "Never. More like evolving."

Enid Sinclair : "Well, one inch of duct tape at a time."

Wednesday Addams : "Why the sudden change of heart?"

Enid Sinclair : "Because we work. We shouldn't, but we do. It's like some sort of weird, friendship anomaly. Everything you said about me is true. But I don't apologize for it. Not anymore. It's just who I am."

Wednesday Addams : "Thing said he missed you."

Enid Sinclair : "I missed him too."

Data 4 shows the interaction between Enid Sinclair and Wednesday Addams after the conflict. Enid Sinclair admits that the dispute between them made her worried about Wednesday and Thing's condition. Wednesday did not expect Enid to return. The existence of a sidekick highlights the main character's contrasting strengths and weaknesses, the main character will express her feelings to the sidekick as her closest person (Vogler, 2007). Enid Sinclair and Wednesday friendship is an anomaly. They accept each other's flaws and Enid is able to create a mutual feeling that draws Wednesday to open his heart. The internal conflicts experienced between characters will trigger the complexity of the main character.

Physical Support

Physical support is the sidekick's actual act of assistance in actively helping the main character, or providing tools to solve barriers (Vogler, 2007). The presence of a sidekick alleviates the trial faced by the main character. This support deepens the bond between characters in the narrative especially when in life-threatening danger.

Data 5



(Episode 5, 2022: 00.27.13 – 00.28.00)

Wednesday Addams : "I've been thinking about my less-than-enthusiastic response to your surprise soirée. And I must admit, I regret not showing my gratitude towards you more appropriately."

Enid Sinclair : "You really mean it?"

Wednesday Addams : "Take the win, Enid. If only there were a way for us to get off and have a little birthday redo. Just two best friends. Too bad the school is on lockdown. Would you look at that full moon."

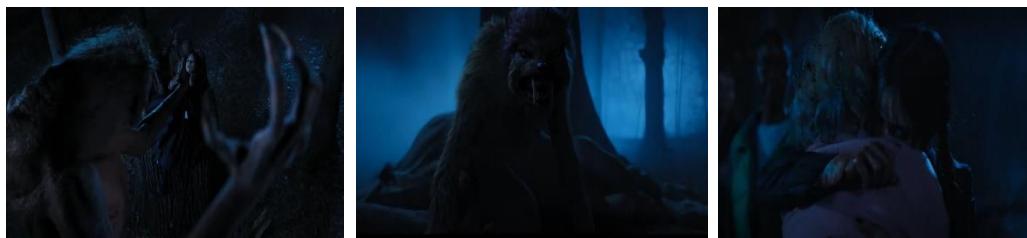
Enid Sinclair : "Oh, how about I say I'm about to wolf out and get a pass to the lupin cages? And say you volunteered to lock me in."

Wednesday Addams : "My deviousness has finally rubbed off on you."

Data 5 shows Wednesday Addams' interaction with Enid Sinclair on the night of the full moon. Wednesday Addams has a plan to investigate a mysterious murderous creature, but she needs co-operation in her mission. In the testing phase, the hero builds relationships

to get through the trial (Vogler, 2007). Enid Sinclair volunteered to help Wednesday Addams to get out of Evermore Academy without knowing she was tricked by Wednesday Addams to help her investigate a monster. The sidekick will help the main character achieve the goal with humor that layered the plot.

Data 6



(Episode 8, 2022: 00.33.20 – 00.42.53)

Enid Sinclair : "Oh my God. Oh my God! Oh my God! Oh my God! It's happening! Thing, I'm wolfing out!"

Wednesday Addams : Enid? I need to get back to the school!

Like the hero as the main character, the sidekick has room to develop on the way through the trial to help the hero (Vogler, 2007). Data 6 shows that Enid Sinclair finally managed to transform into a wolf after a long wait. It was because of her courage to face whatever obstacles in front of her in order to save Wednesday Addams. The challenges faced by the sidekick are a reflection of what the main character is facing. So that the two characters face each other's dangers including crisis moments on the journey in the form of loyalty as friendship. Enid Sinclair as a sidekick shows her loyalty to bravely face even monsters before she gains the ability to become a wolf. The sidekick's ability and strength is shown against fear and weakness.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis, sidekicks have a crucial role as companions in facing external conflicts, internal conflicts with moral, emotional and physical support. The sidekick is a loyal companion who helps the main character through the testing phase. Enid Sinclair as a sidekick gives a new dimension to the main character so that Wednesday Addams has narrative complexity. Enid Sinclair provides moral support helping Wednesday Addams to

take wiser steps, emotional support in the form of care and advice helping Wednesday Addams to see new perspectives, as well as physical support to the point of risking her life. The three supports help the main character to reach the goal or enter a new world in the test round, allies, and enemies. Enid Sinclair's role as the humorous sidekick contrasts with Addams, the main character with a dark and intimidating personality. The dynamic between the two characters gives the narrative an interesting combination of fantasy mystery. Enid Sinclair's interaction with the main character adds a layer of relatability and color to the storyline, making the Wednesday series successful and reaching a wider audience.

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