CHAPTER III

The Effect of Friendship on Sam Oliver McQueen’s Character in Sally Nicholls’s Ways to Live Forever

This chapter analyzes the data which refer to the research problems in chapter 1. The researcher analyzes the novel Ways to Live Forever in three parts. The first part, the researcher discusses the characterization of Sam before he met Felix, then the description of friendship between Sam McQueen and Felix Stranger. Here, the researcher applies New Criticism and the concept of friendship from Aristotle to describe a whole of friendship’s condition between Sam and Felix. The last part is discussion on effect of Sam and Felix friendship toward Sam’s character. The researcher applies psychology approach from B.F Skinner, to reveal the changing character of Sam. The data are from the form of paragraph, the conversation among the characters, or in direct and indirect quotation from the utterances of the author.

1.1 The Characterization of Sam Oliver McQueen Before Meets Felix Stranger

To emphasize the readers understand and get clear description on character’s personality, an author can follow nine ways of characterization which are described by Murphy (161-171), such as; personal descriptions, character as seen by another, speech, past life, conversation of each others, reaction, direct comments, thought, mannerism. The researcher starts the analysis with
characterization of Sam, who becomes the center discussion in the novel. It can be seen by the domination of Sam’s character in the whole story, because the form of Ways to Live Forever novel is like a private diary belonging to Sam McQueen. In this part the researcher focused to Sam’s character before he met Felix and got the effects from his friendship, as Robert DiYanni said that, from the beginning until the end of the story a major character is called dynamic character because they are changing (55). The characterization of Sam in this novel show by some parts, such as:

Sam lives with a family who love him very much. They are; Sam’s mum who was very strong and sensitive toward her son, Sam’s daddy who was very quiet and a little stiff but in fact he was very care toward his son’s condition, a younger sister named Ella, who was an annoying girl which sometimes becomes a good girl, and Sam’s grandmother who was always warm with Sam. In Ways to Live Forever Sam was described as an eleven years old boy who got leukemia since he was six years old. He has got leukemia in three times, including when he has met Felix. Leukemia is a dangerous disease for a child as old as Sam McQueen. In this condition, Sam must adapted with his condition and also his environment. One of the way to adaptation with his condition, Sam tried to find out what is leukemia exactly. It can be found on the paragraph below:

Leukemia is a type of a cancer. What happens is your body makes too many white blood cells. White blood cells are like your own personal resistance army. They fight injections and stuff. But when you get leukemia they take over and the other blood cells get scrunched up and can’t do all the things they’re supposed to do. So, you might get very pale or get loads of bruises or nosebleeds that won’t stop or you feel tired all the time (Nichols 49).
Based on the paragraph above, the researcher concluded that the people who get leukemia must keep their lives away from some painful things, as like; collision, injury of slice and also they can not doing many activities hardly to avoid worse condition. They should stay with the medicines and have bed rest during their medicinal treatment like chemotherapy. It was the same with Sam in his experience about leukemia. He thought that this condition is still mysterious for him, start from the first time he got leukemia and how he should accept this bad destiny with chemotherapy and any medicines. He was considered as a strong child when he thought to face this disease. He must go to the hospital to get a chemotherapy for a month and had to take many pills in long times.

I've had it three times, including now. The first time was when I was six. I was in hospital having chemotherapy for a month and I had to take pills for ages afterwards. But they thought they’d cured it, for sure. It came back again when I was ten. That’s when I met Felix. They gave me the chemotherapy drugs then as well and my hair fell out again and everything. And they thought they’d cured it then too. Well, kind of. (49-50)

It becomes obvious that Sam’s leukemia always came back again in his life. He must go to trough this situation with many healing efforts. And because of the leukemia, Sam becomes a weak boy. Sam had to go to private school a long time ago. This is because Sam has a very weak physical condition. If he tried to do the severe things, he will got nosebleed suddenly. This also indicated that Sam feeling was not confident among his other friends, when he should go home to rest
quickly. Then, Sam decided that he don’t want to go back school again. It was expressed when Sam talked to his father below;

“If you’re putting that much effort into your homework, don’t you think it’s time you went back to school? That poor woman’s been coming out here long enough.”
“I like Mrs Willis, “I said quickly. I don’t want to go back to school. The kids all stare and ask questions. Like: “How come you get to go home when you tired?” Or: “How sick are you really?” (Nichols 28).

However, behind his condition, Sam has his own ways to pass his days. One of them is creates some fantastic stories about his life. Besides the fact of his disease, he also tried to learn of how science has the role to his life, and he also has many wishes to make about death. That is why Sam becomes an imaginative boy and curious about the fact of death. As the quotation below;

“Do you believe in demons?”
“Demons?” said Granny. “You mean with horns and pitchforks?”
“No,” I said.
“Absolute rubbish.” Granny firmly.
“But you believe in ghosts and things,” I said.
“There’s no point in inventing devils to be scared of,” Said Granny very strenly
“We’ve enough real things to worry about without making up more for ourselves.”
“Right,” I said “And I wasn’t scared. I only wondered.” (Nichols 46-47).

In the situation above, Sam tried to think about the thing which still makes him imagine about something living in his body and making him do creepy stuff. It happened after he get inspired by the real story of demons after a person died in a movie. His character as an imaginative boy and curious about the fact of death
have covered in this situation. In this part, Sam always tried to take the answers about his curious feeling to Granny.

He also has the same character with his father. That is a quite person. As the explanation below.

...Dad’s just quiet, like me. He’s shy. When it’s just our family, he’s no quiet... He just doesn’t like it when there’re loads of people in the house, like now when they keep coming to visit us.

I don’t think there’s anything wrong with that. I wish I could go and hide sometimes too. (Nichols 18)

Father is the important figure who is giving affection and love. He becomes the example for his family, especially to his child. He is the first teacher who teaches his child in any times and situations since his child was born. Therefore, at least the character of a child cannot stand away from the father’s character. It also happened to Sam character. It was proved that Sam has the same character like his father. Sam tends to be a quiet character and always leaves the crowd just like his father.

In this novel, Sam is also characterized as a boy who loves to collect the facts about his life. He made the lists of difficult to answer by older. Almost his questions include as the critical questions. As like an excerpt below;

I like facts. I like knowing things. Grown-ups never understand this. You ask them something like, “Can I have new bike for Christmas?” and they give you a waffly answer, like, “Why don’t you see how you feel nearer Christmas?” Or you might ask your doctor, “How long do I have to stay in hospital?” and he’ll say something like, “Let’s wait and see how you get on”, which is doctor speak for “I don’t know”. (Nichols 6)
Based on Sam’s speech above, the researcher found the indication that Sam was counted as a critical person. He thought that there is no one can answer his complex questions. It was expressed through his curious feeling toward detail of his death or other questions related to his life.

Even, in eleven years old, a child like Sam Oliver was characterized as a brilliant dreamer. It was more press of the argument that Sam wants to be a scientist who does something unusual. It becomes the indication that Sam is really a smart child. Here’s the excerpt in the page of 7.

If I grow up, I’m going to be a scientist. Not the sort that mixes chemicals together, but the sort that investigates UFOs and ghosts and things like that. ... I’m going to find out the answers to all the questions that nobody answers. (Nichols 7)

In addition, he has other dreams to make various things before he died. However, in fact Sam cannot make his dreams come true. He only wrote his dreams into a diary. Those all are very boring for him. It was concluded that Sam needs an external stimulation to help his dreams come true. Finally, he met Felix Stranger at the hospital. Felix was older than Sam. He was thirteen years old boy. He also got the same cancer like Sam. Whereas his character was contrary to Sam’s character. Felix was a brave boy who has many ideas about the new and absurd things. As following the quotation below;

“Felix had lots of ideas,” I said. “And he made up lots of games. He never thought anything was impossible.” (Nichols 139)
Based on the quotation above, indicated in Sam’s mind Felix characterized brave to do anything appropriate to the his mind in real situation. Even he was not afraid to face the death. It becomes the indications that Felix has a role to influence Sam’s life.

1.2 The Description of Friendship Between Sam McQueen and Felix Stranger

Baron and Byren said that, friendship is a relationship in which friends spend a great deal of time together, interact in variety of situations, exclude other from the relationships, and provide emotional support to one another (278). As one of creation of God, every human needs friends. Therefore, human being is called social creature because no people can live alone without friends. It is likely in a friendship. In every life of a person, he or she needs friendship to share anything. It happens either in happy or difficult situations. Those all because friendship has the role which can make human’s life more colorful and valuable. In addition, a person with friendship will be feeling useful to another person.

It is similar with Sam and Felix. They were getting along in a friendship together very intimately. It also made Sam’s life becomes more colorful during friendship with Felix indirectly. Basically, Felix’s character was very contrary to Sam’s character. In this part the researcher describes the friendship of Sam and Felix focusing to the kind of their friendship and the function of their friendship as the complement. Based on Gottman and Parker (130-131), there are six important
functions to friendships. They state that when a child lacks a function in a friendship they will experience confusion and conflict and without comprehending the source of their frustration will lash out in a variety of ways. Those functions: Companionship, Stimulation, Physical support, Ego support, Social comparison and Intimacy or affection. Based on the concept of friendship from Aristotle, the researcher has proved that the friendship between Sam and Felix is categorized as friendship based on goodness. As the result, it can be seen from their relationship. Such as; they are benefit to one another, they please to one another, they also care to one another.

1.2.1 Benefit to One Another

1) Sam to Felix

One of the function of friendship is Companionship. It mean that friendship will give a chance to every person to operate their functions to another as a friend. They will do it, when both of them do an activity. As a friend, means someone should give and sacrifice their life in aspect of time, energy, and even the voluntary cost to common good (Gottman and Parker 130). This function was described when the first time Sam met Felix. In this part, Sam started his function as a friend who gives and sacrifice his time and energy to help Felix getting the cigarettes. There are some funny actions when Sam stays in this situations. It happened last year, when Sam was in a hospital for six whole weeks. There has been a couple days when he met Felix in the hospital. It was evening and Sam was lying on his bed with the door of his room opened. In his room, he was feeling
bored and also tired and sort of heavy because of his disease. He only looked into the corridor and was looking at the fuzzy reflections of the lights on hospital floor. Suddenly, there was a boy who was older than him went past in a wheelchair, precisely in front of Sam’s corridor room. At the first time he met Sam, Felix has taken Sam’s attention with his attitude. As the paragraph below;

He was acting like a spy too. He wheeled himself to the end of the corridor where the nurse’s station was. Then he peered around the corner, just quickly. Then he reserved back into my corridor. Then he did the same thing again...

I reckoned he was putting it out, mostly, because he really didn’t need to do all that forwards-and-backwardsing just to look round a corner. I leaned forward in bed, wondering what he was going to do next. (Nicholls 32).

Based on the paragraph above, Sam described Felix as a silly boy. It could be found from Felix’s attitude and his appearance. He did something childish by playing role as a spy in a hospital. Sam thought that Felix really didn’t need to do it all. Besides, Sam was very curious with what Felix was going to do next. Sam kept staring at him very seriously. He was bending over his back to Felix and waiting what the next Felix doing. However, Sam saw Felix was gone from Sam’s corridor quietly.

He’d only been gone half a minute when he came back, reversing frantically. Only this time he came right up to my room and in through the door. He scrabbled for the door-edge with fingers, caught it, and flung it back.

The door shut with a slam. We sat there, me in my bed, he in his chair, staring at each other.
I went shy. Felix didn’t. Felix isn’t ever shy. I would never have barged into some strange kid’s room without asking, but he wasn’t bothered at all. (Nicholls 33)

At Sam’s first impression, Felix was indicated as a boy who has no rules. It was looked from his ways to met Sam in Sam’s room. Without permission he came to the other’s room directly, although Felix was older than Sam. It becomes one of evidences that Felix has different behavior from Sam. Sam still has the manner on how to met somebody else but Felix does not.

“Why’re you hiding?” I said.

“I am going to the shop,” said the boy. He fumbled in the cloth pocket on the side of his wheelchair and pulled something out,... It was a packet of cigarettes.

“Where did you get those from?” I said, staring.

“The machine in my uncle’s pub,” he said. “Only I’m out and I? Want some more.” He put the empty packet lovingly back into the pocket. “If I can get past them,”—he jerked his head towards the nurses’ station— “then maybe I could get someone downstraits to buy me some. You know, tell them my last dying wish on earth is for a cigarette.” He grinned at me, daring me to say something. (Nicholls 33-34)

In this situation, Sam saw Felix with a face that still looks like a spy. Felix claims to be looking for an opportunity for a mission to go to the store but Felix can not got past the nurses in front of the corridor. At that moment, Felix opened his hand and it was a pack of cigarettes. With his whiny accent, Felix wishes that he wants to buy a new pack of cigarettes before he died. Then, from here Sam already to like Felix.
After passing through some conversations with Felix, Sam finally helps Felix to bought the cigarettes for Felix. Then they decided to go outside. They assume that this situation was like a game. The nurses in the corridor were just enemies for them, whereas Felix and Sam were resistant forces. In their journey, they met some people in the corridor of the hospital. Then they asked help to some people in there. Firstly, Sam and Felix were difficult to get the helping from people in the corridor of hospital. However with Felix’s braveness, Sam and Felix got cigarettes. With such a childish style, Sam is feeling happy so much to help Felix in this mission. As like the quote, *We had great fun trying to get people to buy Felix cigarettes* (Nicholls 35). From there it can be identified that Sam starts to believe and finds his comfort zone with Felix. Sam thought that Felix was a boy who brave to get risks, funny and also encourage boy to do anything which doesn’t make sense. As the reaction from the whole of story when Sam met Felix in the first time.

Then the researchers found the indication of benefit to one another from Sam and Felix in the situation above. As Aristotle said that one characteristic of friendship which is based on goodness is benefit to one another (220). In this case is portrayal through Sam’s efforts and times to help Felix to find a cigarette. In other way, Sam also got the energy and motivations to do something new and also he can express his happiness from Felix in one time. Although, it was seem so childish. So, from there it was indicated that Felix Stranger will be the role to give more actions to change a quite and imaginary boy like Sam.
McQueen. It was because Felix was a boy who more loves with actions than the imagination.

2) Felix to Sam

The function of Companionship also was described when Felix helped Sam realized the wish to be a teenager. In this part was started when Sam came to Felix’s house. In this situation, Sam told Felix that he was very confused and hesitated to wrote a list of his wishes. Sam just thought that to be a teenager was stupid thing to put in his diary. He thought that it was something impossible to do. However, Felix said that being a teenager is not impossible for Sam. With his style, Felix tried to convince Sam that he will help Sam to make Sam’s list to be real. As in the quotation below;

“What?” said Felix. He was watching me. “Nothing,” I said. Then, “I was just thinking about my list. ‘Be a teenager’,” I hesitated. “It was a stupid one to put.” “Cheer up! The most important bit is doing the things, really, isn’t it? Go drinking and smoking and have a girlfriend.” He fumbled in the pocket on his chair and began pulling things out. A mobile phone, a fistful of Starburst wrappers and a map of Newcastle (Nicholls 82).

In this part, it looks that Felix has tried to give the spirit for helping Sam believe that he can be a normal teenager. Felix showed his position as a friend who give spirit for his friend. Then, it is indicated that the function of Ego Support is also applied in their friendship. As like Gottman and Parker (131) said that Sometimes someone will feel stressed, down, or not excited when faced with a problem that is quite heavy. It is as if his expertise does not mean anything when facing the problem. Therefore, friendship provides ego's attention and support to a
person. What a person faces is also felt, thought, and borne by others (his best friend). With that attention, finally and usually, a person has the moral strength and spirit of life to be able to solve the problem as well as possible. But, it can be said that Felix’s ways are very naughty to do by children. Those are the things what a teenager usually does like: smoking cigarettes, invited Sam to go pub, and asked Sam to kiss a girl.

“What are you doing?” I said suspiciously.
“Making all your wishes come true,” said Felix. He found a crumpled and pulled one out.
“Here.”
I took the cigarette from him and held it between my first two fingers, the way smokers. I hesitated, then put it to my mouth and sucked. It tasted of hot and bitter and smoke.
“Like?” he said.
“It’s all right,” I said workdardly. I was going to say smoking gives you cancer, then I realized what a stupid thing it was to say (Nicholls 82-83).

In the situation above Felix began influence Sam to do things that Sam did not like. That was smoking. Where in the conversation above, Sam has different thought with Felix. Felix thought that it was a fun thing to do for children. Instead, Sam thought that smoking was not good for human’s health. But in fact, Sam received the cigarette provided by Felix and smoked a cigarette like a teenager. Felix also invited Sam to go the pub. This pub belongs to Felix’s uncle. When they arrived in there, Felix and Sam meet up with Felix’s cousin. she is Kayleigh. Directly, Felix went to the pub and told Kayleigh to prepare alcohol for himself and Sam. As in the conversation below;
“Sam wants to know what it’s like going out drinking. Haven’t you
got anything interesting we could have?”
“We’ve got lost of things,” she said. “There are loads of bottles Dad
never uses all along the top shelf. D’you want one of them?”
“Depends what it is,” I said cautiously. “Creme de menthe...that’s
mint...creme de cacao...that’s coffee, I think, or chocolate... cherry
brandy...”
“That’s cherry, “ said Felix unhelpfully. “That’s nice –have some of
that one.”
I would never go into someone else’s pub and start serving them
drinks, but Kayleigh was as fearless as Felix. “Go on, then,” said
Felix, reaching up for his cherry brandy.I took the shot glass and
sniffed at it. then it was gone.”Well?” said Felix.
“Yeah,” I said. (Nicholls 86-87)

Here, Felix and his cousin are described as fearless people. The conversation
above indicated that Felix tried to change Sam’s character who was fear with the
sensitive thing like drinking alcohol becomes fearless to try it. Felix more shows
his position as a good friend for Sam. In the last, Felix tried to help Sam for
realizing the last wish for being a teenager. That is kissing a girl.

“That’s two teenage things down,” said Felix. He looked up at
Keyligh.. “And one to go.”
I knew exactly what he was thinking.
“No!” I said.
“What?”
“No way!”
“Oh, shut up,” Felix leaned forward in his chair. “Hey, Kayleigh.”
“Yes sir.”
“If I dared you to do something, would you do it?”
“It depends what is it.”
“You’ve got to kiss Sam. Properly. On the mouth.”
“Felix!”
Kayleigh started giggling.
“This is nothing to do with me,” I told her. “It’s all his idea.”
“Shut up. Will you do it, Kayleigh?”
“No! I mean, no! Not with you watching!”
Kayleigh and I stood there, not looking at each other. I wondered if
she was expecting me to do something and, if so, what it was. I moved
forward. She looked up then and smiled. She came right up to me, and kissed me, awkwardly.
On the mouth. (Nicholls 87-88)

In the conversations above, Felix has the role to persuade his cousin to kiss Sam. Because of Felix’s persistence, finally he already persuade Sam and Kayleigh become together and kissing. For Felix it was the most important part to make Sam’s wishes to become a teenager perfectly. It refers to the Aristotle (220) which said that one characteristic of friendship based on goodness is benefit to one another, Felix has gave benefit as a good friend. It was proved by his times and energy, he already success to make Sam’s dreams to be teenager becomes real. It also indicated that the friendship of Sam and Felix are described based on the function of Companionship. As a friend, someone should give and sacrifice their life in aspect of time, energy, and even the voluntary cost to common good (Gottman and Parker 130).

1.2.2 Pleasant to One Another

During friendship, Sam and Felix were learning together in home school. Usually, it was conducted in Sam’s house. One day, Sam and Felix got the duty from their teacher, Mrs. Willis. She asked Sam and Felix to make a list what the things that Sam and Felix want. In this part, the characteristic of pleasant to one another (Aristotle 220) was described when they tried to do some crazy things from Sam’s list. Sam and Felix please one another by having their togetherness. This situation indicated that Felix started his role to give the stimulus for Sam’s
potential in social situations. It means that from their friendship, Sam got the important information to develop his talent and interest (Gottman and Parker 130).

Felix said that many fun things can be realized by Sam. One of them to make the amazing records in order it can show to the world. as following the paragraph below;

“All are you going to actually do this?” he said.
“I dunno, probably not. Why?” I said.
“Well, we could. Couldn’t we?” He looked across at me, daring me to argue.
“They aren’t things to do really,” I explained. “They’re more like... wishes. No real things.”
Felix leaned forward. He likes an argument. “So? We could do a world record.” he said.
“You don’t just do world records.” (Nicholls 21-22).

In that situation, Sam and Felix looked very enjoy with their togetherness. They do the crazy things from Sam’s list. In the paragraph above, it indicated that Felix has the role to push Sam harder. Felix thought nothing impossible in his life included this action. As the quotation of;

“He had a lot of ideas,” I said. “And he made up lots of games. He never thought anything was impossible.” (Nicholls 139).

In their imagination, they will get to be famous in the world. Sam also looked very enthusiastic to realized it becomes real together with Felix. There are some various things which they will do. One of them is making smallest nightclub in the world. Then they prepared some tools that they need for making nightclub such as; CD player and lighting. They thought that they will use Sam’s wardrobe as the place of their nightclub. They have done all of the things perfectly. In there,
they were acting like the people who often go to the club. they were very happy with their craziness. It can be seen in the conversation below;

I dumped the CD player in the wardrobe and turned it on. *Don’t Stop Me Now* started playing. Felix groaned. I laughed. “No wonder we don’t have any customers!” “Who cares?” said Felix. “Look we’ve got music. We’ve got lighting.” He turned on the torch and swirled it vaguely into the wardrobe. “Hey – we’ve even got a moving dance floor.” He spotlighted my old skateboard, propped up against the back of the wardrobe. “World record. What more do you want?” I laughed. Felix always make me laugh. (Nicholls 24)

In their conversation above, Sam and Felix looked very happy. It also indicated that their friendship always colorful with the actions of Felix Stranger. Felix always has many ways to make Sam laugh. Felix also make all of the things that Sam wish becomes special. Sam can express himself without doubt. At least, some little jokes from Felix can remove Sam’s bad feelings of many situations. Here, it indicated that the friendship between Sam and Felix has the role to give stimulus for Sam’s character.

**1.2.3 Care to One Another Unconditionally**

One characteristic of the friendship which is based on Goodness is the person care to another unconditionally (Aristotle 220). Sam and Felix care to one another without any qualification. This characteristic has been described when Sam feels so worried with Felix’s bad condition and had to be rushed to the hospital. At the time Sam was studying with Mrs. Willis as usual. However, Felix did not attend home school at that time in Sam’s house. Suddenly, Sam saw his
Mum was calling Felix’s mother to talk about Felix in anxious tone. Then, Sam follows his mother and asks about his friend’s condition curiously. As quoted in the conversation below;

“Why?” I said.

“An infection, Gillian said. She’s up there now.” Gillian is Felix’s mum.

“He’ll be all right,” I said.

Mum didn’t say anything.

“He’ll be fine,” I said.

I will staring. I didn’t expect this to happen, it was like a small pit had opened in my stomach. I mean, I knew Felix was pretty ill, like me, but I didn’t expect him to actually get ill.

(Nicholls 95-96)

This bad news really made Sam very surprised. Because Felix was the only one who is able to make Sam feeling happy, despite the fact that Sam lives with leukemia. Felix becomes a meaningful friend for Sam’s life. Sam’s care feeling toward Felix was visible when Sam was very hopeful that his best friend will recover soon. Sam only thought about how he can go to the hospital to meet Felix soon. He wants to know how the condition of his best friend. It indicated that Felix was very fond of Felix Stranger. It was evidenced by the reaction of Sam to force himself go to the hospital, whereas his condition also not good. In that time, his family also wouldn’t want Sam to catch the virus which can make his condition worse. As the following conversation below;
I said, “What about me? I’m worried. At least he’s there. Can’t we go see him?”

Mum said, “No.” She said, “He’s very poorly, Sam. He wouldn’t want you there. And we wouldn’t want you catching anything, would we?” (Nicholls 99-100)

Based on the situation above, it also indicated that the friendship between Sam and Felix has the function for Intimacy or affection. Where this function talk about the true sign of friendship is the sincerity, warmth, and intimacy of one another as like as Sam did (Gottman and Parker 130).

1.3 The Effects of Friendship Between Sam and Felix on Sam’s Character

Sam’s character was developed by his friendship relation. By passing shaping process, human can be the certain character who has certain behavior. As Skinner said that behavior is a primary characteristic of living things. We almost identify it with life itself. Anything which moves is likely to be called alive, especially when the movement has direction or acts to alter the environment (45).

From the description of friendship between Sam McQueen and Felix Stranger, the researcher found some effects from their friendship toward the character of Sam. In this story, Sam always spends his time with Felix. So, Felix is considered as a dominant stimulus for Sam’s life. Here, Felix gave some positives and negatives effects to Sam. Those effects can be explained as follows.
1.3.1 Sam Becomes Cheerful

Based on the characteristic of benefit to one another, the researcher has found the indication that Felix has made Sam become a cheerful boy. Precisely, it happened on 1st January, when they went home from the pub and said goodbye to Kayleigh. They bought refresher bars then they eat them and sat in the park. Here, Sam and Felix talked about to be a teenager in the pub. Sam felt very happy and he can laugh freely. Felix has succeeded to fulfill Sam’s dream to be a common teenager. Moreover, Felix has promised that he will fulfill the other list of Sam’s dreams. This situation can be found on the conversation below;


I started swinging, as high as I could. I was tired, but I hadn’t felt as happy as this in ages. “We’re going to the Moon!” I shouted. (Nicholls 91-92)

Based on that conversation above, the researcher has concluded that by changing Sam’s silent character, Felix has made Sam becomes a cheerful boy and full of happiness successfully.

1.3.2 Sam Becomes Brave

As long as getting a friendship, Felix gave the stimulus for Sam to face of his limited life. It can be seen when Felix gave the spirit that Sam can make all of Sam’s wishes comes true. One of them is going up down up-escalators. It also becomes a stupid last wish for Sam. Basically, Sam was a fearful child. He
thought that going up down up-escalators by him is something fearful and opposite to his condition. Although, he has wrote this wish in his diary book, he is still afraid to do it. As the quotation of “... since I wrote my list and each time I’ve thought I’ll do it and then chickened out ...(Nicholls 56).” But in the end he has managed to fight his fear. It can be found by the quotation below;

Felix is right. There’s no point having wishes if you don’t at least try to do them. The possible ones anyway. Going up down-escalators . . . it’s not exactly hard, is it? Doing a world record is hard. And we did that. (Nicholls 56)

This situation indicate that Felix has made Sam becomes a brave child. It happened when Sam went to the shopping centre together with his Mum and Ella. In there Sam still thought how to accomplish his idea to going up down up-escalators. He just looked at those escalators. Consciously, he thought about what Felix talks. It was about how something impossible can be accomplished by Sam, if he want to try. Sam considers that going up down up-escalators was an easy thing for him. Especially, after compared it to some of the great record he has did with Felix. It was also included as a stimulus for Sam’s life to keep trying to do something. Although he is not with Felix at that time.

1.3.3 Sam Becomes Impolite

The next effect of friendship between Sam and Felix has made Sam becomes impolite boy. It can be seen on the quotation below;

... You could wave at all the people stuck in traffic jams and laugh at them. If you saw someone you didn’t like – like Craig Tood from
school or my old teacher, Mr Cryfield – you could spit out on them – splat! Or drop tomatoes on their head and they couldn’t do anything about it. (Nicholls 79-80)

The quotation above describes the situation when Sam began to do something crazy. He wrote it as one of his dream lists. Even it is called as an impolite thing. In that situation, Sam tried to do something foolish and disturbing the others. Generally, a good student is impossible to do the impolite thing to his/her teacher and his/her friend. Although there is a teacher he/she doesn’t like, they will still stay in the politeness rules. But, in this story Sam did not do it. He hates one of his friend and his teacher at school. So he considered to spit out on them or drop their heads with tomatoes, when he climbed on the air balloon. It was also indicated by following Felix’s attitude that everything can be the real bravely. Sam got the effect to become an impolite child toward the others.

1.3.4 Sam Becomes Angry

It happened when Felix died on 9th February. Sam felt this situation was not fear for his life. He felt so lost and empty without his best friend, Felix. It was included as the climax on Sam’s life journey. The effects of Felix’s death made Same become an anger child. He closed himself from the crowded place, especially from his Mum. Moreover, Mum didn’t give permission to Sam to go to Felix’s funeral. Thus, it pressed his psychology hardly. As the conversation below:

“Sam? Are you all right, love” Mum said
“I’m fine!” I said, into my pillow.
“Did that hurt?”
“No!” I said.
She touched my shoulder. I cried out.
“Leave me alone!” I shouted. And then, because I knew she was going
to argue, “I want to go and see Felix.”
“I know you do. But . . . it can be quite upsetting, seeing someone
who’s dead. And you’re really not very well. Wouldn’t it be better just
to remember him like he was?”
“No!” I turned my head away. “You have to do what I say,” I said,
furious. “Everyone has to. Because I’m going to die and then you’ll be
sorry.” (Nicholls 122-123)

Based on the conversation above, Sam’s attitude does not controllable. He
has talked about the thing which he want to do at that time. He only rebelled to his
Mum, in order to get permission to go funeral. In that situation Sam looked very
angry. He only thought about Felix’s condition without care with his bad
condition. It can be found in the quotation below;

I was very tired. I thought about Felix. Felix, locked in a box and
dropped down a hole. I closed my eyes. I just felt miserable. And
angry. And lonely. (Nicholls 121)

For Sam, Felix is a very valuable best friend. It happened because Felix has
changed Sam’s life becomes more valuable. The quotation above indicates that
lost of Felix, means lost a half of Sam’s life to survive.

1.3.5 Sam Becomes Quitter

The last effect from the friendship condition has made Sam become quitter.
Since the death of his best friend, Sam felt so depressed and lonely. He thought
that there is no spirit in his life anymore. Those all gave the effect to Sam’s
condition become worse. Then, Sam looked down at that time. His mum and
dad knew about his condition tried to help him to become a substitute of Felix. Mum and Dad did some different ways to make his son smile happily. Someday, Sam want to play skatebord. however, in that time is fall snow and Sam’s father does not give the premission to Sam. But his mum permit Sam and Ella go to park to play skateboard. As like the quotation below;

I couldn’t believe she was actually letting me go down the hill. Normally she’d be all worried about me hurting myself or something. But I didn’t argue. Me and Ella have got our own plastic sledge each. We both sat down on them together. (Nicholls 146)

In that condition, His mother give the things which he want. However her ways are not good toward Sam’s condition in that time. Sam’s mum only want to make his son happy. Than Sam’s father make Sam happy with accompany his son to sleep and tell funny stories to Sam. In addition, he also helps Sam to fulfill Sam’s last dream to ride airship. It can be seen on the conversation below;

“Aren’t I allowed to spend some time with my son?” He put on a serious face.
“Of course you are!” I said. I hugged him. He looked surprised, but pleased. He hugged me back “What do you want to do?” he said. “I’ve done nearly all of them,” I told him all about it. he didn’t get upset. He just sat and listened. “So there’s just airships and spaceships left?” he said. “Ok, then sleep well,” he said. I did. I slept all afternoon. Except one I woke up and thought I heard Dad talking on the phone. “Yes, a short flight . . . No . . . No, really? Washing powder? . . . Well, it’s worth a try. . . Yes . . . Yes, thank you.”

“Oh.” Dad looked startled. “Didn’t I say?” From an airship, of course.”
“From an airship?” I nearly fell out of bed. “Dad!”
“I couldn’t believe it. Was it some sort joke?” below;
scrambled out of the bed and into the hall. “It’s even better than that,” I said. (Nicholls 157-163)

After his father can fulfill his last dream list, Sam really feels surprised and his happiness becomes overload. Finally, Sam can smile and laugh, that was not hold out in a long time after Felix’s death. However, it happened only one day. In fact, Sam still face the bad fact that his best friend has died.

Until one day, he decided to give up toward his condition. Day by day, he only felt weak and tired. He could not anything again. Then he said that he should to stop his medicine and cemotherapy. This is the bad climax of Sam McQueen to become a quitter. It can be seen in the quotation below;

...I thought about it all, all the pills and needles and hospital waiting rooms, that didn’t make me better. They were such stupid things to spend my time worrying about. “I want to stop,” I said.

“Are you sure?” Annie said.

“Yes,” I said. I was. “It’s my life. I don’t want to spend it taking stupid things that don’t do anything.”

(Nicholls 173-174)

From the quotation above, Sam has considered everything. He only felt that all of the efforts don’t give best impact for his condition. It was happened after his friend who has give the spirit has died. There is no the things which he want to do. Although his mum and dad have helped himself to survive, Sam only felt there is no spirit again in his life. As the quotation of; “There isn’t anything else I want.” I told. It was true. Nothing Mum or dad could give me anyway.”(Nicholls 175).
The climax of this condition made Sam’s health worse. Finally Sam face of the last time in his life. It was indicated that Sam and Felix is the friendship who cannot separated each other. That’s why Felix is more giving the influence toward Sam’s character.