

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the symbolism in *In the Tall Grass* is a masterful blend of human basic instincts and ordinary objects, crafted to evoke a profound sense of horror and dread. The characters' experiences serve as a metaphor for the challenges and terrors that people face in life, making the novella a compelling exploration of the human condition. The integration of these symbols with human basic instincts creates a complex narrative that explores the psychological and emotional states of the characters. The authors use ordinary objects as symbols to highlight common fear and the darker side of human life. This technique matched Sperber's idea that symbols gain their meaning from the application within particular cultural and social situations, and Lovecraft's belief that atmosphere and emotional impact are keys in creating horror. Furthermore, Lovecraft's theory about cosmic horror is when fear arises from the unknown, creating a sense of overpowering for the characters. It can be seen when tall grass becomes a basis for cosmic horror because it has caused fear from things beyond human reason.

The research can be connected to the broader themes and symbolisms analysed in Stephen King's works by several studies. Didukh (2019) finds various symbols used in King's work, for example, animals, colours, numbers, and graphical images. While *In the Tall Grass* does not explicitly use these symbols, the novella uses ordinary objects and nature as the main symbols to create a sense of fear and terror. Syarip and Hetami (2019) explores how human behaviour is shaped by their reaction toward fear and hope. In *In the Tall Grass*, the characters action and behaviour changes according to the kind of danger that they are facing. It shows that the previous study has similar aspects in analysing fear and hope as portraits in this study. Fonfárová and Trušník (2015) analyse the child characters who are used as an instrument of evil. The innocence lost of children is shaped by the failure of adults in protecting them and also their surrounding circumstances. As in *In the Tall Grass*, Tobin's character represents a child who becomes an instrument of evil when he loses his innocence due to natural forces and becomes an intermediary to lead others into believing in something malicious.

In the Tall Grass deserves more recognition because the novella contains many aspects that can be studied and discussed more deeply. Future research can

dig deeper into psychological and religious aspect of the story. Future research can explore more about nature as the main character in building horror. Moreover, future research can also analyse the characters' self-development after facing fear and danger. Since the novella has been adapted into a film, future research can make a comparative study between the novella and the film of *In the Tall Grass*.