

Developing Self-Confidence and Positive Character through Digital Literature by *Loni Teti Umarih's Dream*

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Abstract. Self-confidence, curiosity, and a willingness to grow are essential aspects of positive character development in children. This study aims to critically analyze the mechanisms and methods through which the character Loni faces her challenges and experiences personal growth. Using a qualitative descriptive approach with content analysis, this study examined the digital text, illustrations, and interactive elements of "Loni's Dream." Data were collected through close reading, character analysis, and thematic coding, focusing on Loni's internal conflicts, problem-solving strategies, and ultimate transformation. These findings suggest that "Loni's Dream" serves as an exemplary model for fostering self-confidence and positive character in young readers. "Loni's Dream" is a valuable resource in character education. Its narrative and embedded methods offer concrete and relatable examples for children to learn about self-acceptance, resilience, and the power of intrinsic motivation.

Keywords: Character Development, Digital Storybooks, Self-Confidence

INTRODUCTION

A good education and a supportive environment are crucial for early childhood development. Child development is influenced by many interrelated aspects, such as education, social interactions, and the environment. All of these aspects significantly influence a child's development over time. The quality of education a child receives during their studies significantly impacts their development. (Rasyid, 2025) Curiosity is the behavior of wanting to know and continue to explore a problem. Curiosity is a way of thinking, attitude, and behavior that reflects a sense of wonder and curiosity about everything seen, heard, and studied in greater depth (Ministry of National Education, 2010:10). Meanwhile, self-confidence can be instilled through daily learning and learning processes and fostering the habit of being brave in socializing both inside and outside the classroom or in the school environment. Therefore, self-confidence is a personal trait that students must have. (Ryan, 2017)(Bilfadawi, 2017)

Through stories, children can learn about kindness, honesty, and cooperation, all of which are important aspects of character development. Children's literature plays a crucial role in fostering children's reading habits from an early age. Children's literature packaged in small or thin books, accompanied by various striking images and colors, can capture children's attention before reading the story. Among the various works of children's literature in circulation, the digital storybook (Putri, 2025) (Juanda, 2012) "**Dream Loni**" by **Teti Umarih** stands out as a work that explicitly addresses the themes of overcoming lack of self-confidence and the importance of curiosity. The story uses the character Loni to represent the psychological challenges commonly faced by children, followed by a transformative process toward self-acceptance and growth. Although this book has received attention as an example of empowering narratives, there is still a lack of academic research that deeply analyzes the narrative mechanisms and character development methods contained within it, especially in digital book format.

Previous research has focused on the effectiveness of digital media in general (e.g., *digital storytelling*), but not much has examined the *specific content* of digital literary works and how they *structurally* support character education. Based on this gap, this study aims to analyze in depth how the character Loni faces the challenge of low self-confidence, develops curiosity, and practices the process of self-development in the story "Loni's Dream." Specifically, this study seeks to answer the question: *How do the story elements (characterization, conflict, and resolution) in "Loni's Dream" serve as effective models for instilling self-confidence and positive character in children?*

To achieve these objectives, this study uses a qualitative approach with *content analysis methods* on text, illustrations, and storylines. The findings of this study are expected to make a significant contribution to the development of children's digital literacy curriculum and serve as a reference for parents and educators in selecting appropriate media for character education. The remainder of this paper will be structured as follows: The second section outlines a literature review related to self-confidence, digital children's literature, and character education; the third section explains the research methodology; the fourth section presents the results of the analysis and thematic discussions; and the fifth section summarizes the conclusions and practical implications of the findings.

RESEARCH METHODS

1.1 Types and Approaches of Research

This study uses a qualitative approach with a content analysis method. This qualitative approach was chosen because this study focuses on understanding the meaning contained in the narrative text, rather than on numerical or statistical measurements.

A content analysis method was used to in-depth examine the narrative elements in Teti Umarih's digital book "Mimpi Loni," including characterization, conflict, plot, illustrations, and moral message. Through this method, researchers were able to discover how these elements shape the character education message, particularly in fostering self-confidence and curiosity in early childhood.

1.2 Research Object

The object of this research is a digital children's storybook titled "Mimpi Loni" by Teti Umarih. The main focus of the research is directed at analyzing the narrative structure and the character values that emerge, including:

1.2.1 Characterization of Loni and supporting characters,

1.2.2 The conflict and resolution of the story, and

1.2.3 Character values related to self-confidence and curiosity. (Umarih, 2022)

1.3 Data source

1.3.1 Primary data source: Text and illustrations contained in the digital book "Loni's Dream".

1.3.2 Secondary data sources: Relevant literature such as journals, books, and previous research results that discuss children's literature, character education, and early childhood digital literacy.

1.4 Data Collection Techniques

Data is collected through the following steps:

1.4.1 Documentation, namely collecting and reading in depth the contents of the digital book "Loni's Dream".

1.4.2 Annotate and code, by identifying words, sentences, dialogue, illustrations, or events in the story that reflect confidence and curiosity.

1.4.3 Data classification, namely grouping data based on themes and categories of character values that appear.

1.5 Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was carried out using qualitative content analysis consisting of three stages (adapting the Miles & Huberman model):

1.5.1 Data reduction, namely selecting and simplifying data according to the research focus, such as the part of the story that shows Loni's character development.

1.5.2 Data presentation, namely arranging the coding results in the form of tables or narrative descriptions so that they can be easily analyzed.

1.5.3 Drawing conclusions, namely interpreting the meaning of the results of the analysis to answer research questions about how story elements play a role in forming a confident and curious character.

1.6 Data Validity

To ensure data validity, this study uses theory and source triangulation.

- 1.6.1 Theoretical triangulation was carried out by comparing the results of the analysis with children's literature theory, character education theory, and early childhood development theory.
- 1.6.2 Source triangulation is done by reviewing references from several experts or previous research on similar topics, to ensure that the interpretation of the data is consistent and valid.

1.7 Research Procedures

Preparation stage: determining the research focus and collecting literature materials.

- 1.7.1 Data collection stages: reading, recording, and classifying narrative elements in the digital book "Loni's Dream".
- 1.7.2 Analysis stage: interpreting data based on the themes of self-confidence and curiosity.
- 1.7.3 Conclusion stage: compiling the findings into a narrative that answers the research questions.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

RESULTS

1.1 Stories in Books

This book tells the story of Loni, a chameleon with many advantages, such as a long tongue for hunting food and the ability to change body color to hide from predators. However, Loni often feels jealous of other animals she thinks are cooler. She wants to be like another animal in the park, but she doesn't realize that each animal has its own advantages. This book teaches children to appreciate themselves and be grateful for their strengths and weaknesses.

1.2 Main Characters

Loni, the main character in the book "Loni's Dreams," is described as a chameleon with a jealous and dissatisfied nature. She wishes she were another animal she saw around her, like a bird or a cat, or something else because she thought they were cooler.

However, as the story progresses, Loni learns to appreciate herself and her strengths. She realizes that every animal has its own strengths and that being herself is the most important thing. Therefore, Loni's character can be described as:

- 1.2.1 Lack of self-confidence: Loni is jealous of other animals and wants to be like them.
- 1.2.2 Curious: Loni is curious about the lives of other animals and wants to try to be like them.
- 1.2.3 Learning and growing: Loni learns to value herself and the strengths she possesses.

Loni's character can be a good example for children to learn about the importance of accepting themselves and appreciating their strengths.

1.3 Why This Book Is Interesting

The book "Loni's Dream" published by the Language Development and Promotion Agency, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, offers many interesting topics to discuss, such as:

- 1.3.1 Self-confidence and self-esteem: How Loni learned to value herself and the strengths she possesses.
- 1.3.2 Envy and social comparison: How Loni feels jealous of other animals and wants to be like them.
- 1.3.3 Independence and self-awareness: How Loni learned to accept herself and discover her strengths.
- 1.3.4 Relationships with others: How Loni interacts with other animals around her and learns from them.
- 1.3.5 Life lessons: What we can learn from Loni's experience and how we can apply it in our daily lives.

1.4 Things to Learn

- 1.4.1 The importance of self-introspection: Loni learns to reflect on herself and discovers the strengths she possesses.
- 1.4.2 Developing empathy: Loni learns to understand the feelings and needs of other animals around her.
- 1.4.3 Overcoming dissatisfaction: Loni learns to accept herself and find happiness in her life.
- 1.4.4 Develop critical thinking skills: Children can learn to analyze situations and find appropriate solutions.
- 1.4.5 Develop empathy skills: Children can learn to understand the feelings and needs of others.
- 1.4.6 Develop self-confidence: Children can learn to accept themselves and develop self-confidence.

ANALYSIS

Based on the content analysis of the digital book "Loni's Dream," it was found that the story contains two key character values highly relevant to early childhood: self-confidence and curiosity. These values emerge through the storyline, characterization, and conflict experienced by the main character, Loni.

1.1 Self-Confidence Theme

The theme of self-confidence is reflected in Loni's inner journey, initially confronted with self-doubt. She frequently compares herself to other animals, such as birds that can fly and cats that appear agile. This attitude reflects a common phenomenon in young children who are still learning to understand their identity and strengths.

However, as the story progresses, Loni eventually realizes that every creature has unique strengths and roles. This realization marks a turning point in Loni's character development, moving from feelings of inferiority to self-acceptance. This moral message aligns with the goals of early childhood character education, which emphasizes the importance of fostering self-confidence, courage, and positive self-acceptance.

For children, this theme teaches that they don't have to be like everyone else to feel valued. Teachers and parents can use this part of the story as a topic for discussion or simple reflection, for example by asking, "What are your strengths like Loni's?" to help children recognize their potential.

1.2 Curiosity Theme

The value of curiosity stems from Loni's desire to learn what it's like to be another animal. She's curious about their abilities and lives, demonstrating a strong exploratory drive—a natural characteristic of early childhood.

In the context of learning, Loni's behavior reflects experiential learning, where children learn through observation and direct experience. It is through this curiosity that children's critical thinking begins to develop.

This story teaches that curiosity shouldn't be suppressed, but rather should be wisely guided. With the guidance of teachers and parents, children can transform their curiosity into a fun, safe, and meaningful learning experience.

1.3 Relationship with Early Childhood Character Education

Overall, "Loni's Dream" is not only entertaining but also educational. The story contains moral messages that align with the core values of character education for early childhood, including:

- 1.3.1 Self-confidence and responsibility for oneself.
- 1.3.2 Curiosity and passion for learning.
- 1.3.3 Empathy and respect for diversity.

These digital books also offer a more interactive reading experience through engaging images, colors, and digital formats. This combination of text and visuals helps children more easily

understand the story's content and moral message. Thus, "Loni's Dream" can be used as a character-based digital literacy medium, which not only introduces children to the world of reading but also fosters positive attitudes and reflective thinking habits from an early age. Furthermore, education is a basic right that every citizen should receive (rasyid, 2015).

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and discussion of the digital book "Loni's Dream" by Teti Umarih, it can be concluded that this book contains character education values that are highly relevant for early childhood, especially in fostering self-confidence and curiosity. Through the main character, Loni — a chameleon who initially feels insecure and often compares herself to other animals — the story depicts a process of meaningful change and learning to be independent. Loni eventually realizes that every creature has its own strengths and weaknesses, and being yourself is the most important thing. Narratively, this book teaches children to recognize their strengths, overcome dissatisfaction, and develop curiosity about their surroundings. These values align with the goals of early childhood education, which emphasizes positive character development through fun and contextual literacy activities.

Furthermore, as a digital book, "Mimpi Loni" provides an engaging and interactive learning experience, helping children understand moral messages through easy-to-understand visuals and text. Therefore, this book can be used as a digital literacy-based character education tool, both in schools and at home, with the support of teachers and parents.

1.1 Practical Implications

1.2 For Early Childhood Education Teachers

The digital book "Loni's Dream" can be used as a thematic literacy tool to instill the character values of self-confidence and curiosity in children. Teachers can use it in shared reading, moral value discussions, or creative projects such as drawing a child's "best version of themselves."

1.3 For Parents

This book can be used as supplementary reading material at home. Parents can engage their children in dialogue about the story, for example by asking, "If you were Loni, how would you feel?" This will help them learn to understand themselves and build self-confidence.

1.3.1 For Early Childhood Education Institutions

The results of this study can serve as a reference for developing character-based digital literacy programs, emphasizing the importance of children's books that are not only visually appealing but also have educational and moral values.

1.3.2 For Educational Media Developers

The story of "Loni's Dream" can be an inspiration to create other interactive digital books that highlight the themes of positive character and local wisdom, thereby enriching learning resources for early childhood in Indonesia .

SUGGESTION

1.1 Further research is expected to expand the research by involving children's responses directly, for example through observation or interviews with children after reading digital books.

1.2 There is a need for more local children's digital books that feature character values, so that Indonesian children can learn from stories that are close to their culture and everyday lives.

1.3 Teachers and parents are expected to actively accompany children when reading digital books, so that the moral messages contained can be understood and applied in real behavior.

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