**Conformed Identities**

The most tedious task is finding one’s identity and due to the adapting of the identity of others, identity is hardly ever present. The poets would agree that “Nothing of me is original. I am the combined effort of everyone I’ve ever known,” (Chuck Palahniuk) depicting how one’s identity is never truly theirs. Identity is extremely hard to discover, especially when society is constantly under the influence of those around them and must work tremendously hard to discover this selfhood. The authors of these quotes highlight the importance of not loosing oneself in a society of similar people. Identity is a social fingerprint, one that attracts some and repels others based on connections made. Identity is not constrained; it may always be expanded upon and influenced by others, however occasionally this is a cause of a decline in personal identity.

Identities can be moulded to reflect what we think other people want to see in us. Thoughts can completely engulf us; “A truth once seen by a single mind ends up by imposing itself on the totality of human consciousness.” This quote reflects how easily society is influenced, once a new thought is formed and released, the world adapts this thought as their own. This is because society as a whole is so focused and driven by the approval of others, once a thought is formed and adopted by some, it is adopted by all. Society becomes so consumed with what others believe that it morphs into our beliefs and in turn, slowly, we are losing our individuality and functioning as a unit. Around those we know and love, one may adapt their personality subconsciously. It is the social standard to follow the same religion as our families, however this can lead to a lack of character because one has yet to understand what they truly believe. In relation to this, H. Murakami asked the question: “Is it possible, in the final analysis, for one human being to achieve perfect understanding of another?” It is near unattainable to have an in depth understanding of oneself, and without an understanding of our character, one will never be able to understand another character. In order to read one’s identity, they must have a clear and precise understanding of themselves which in today’s society, is hard to find. To know yourself is to be comfortable, and nobody is ever truly comfortable in this world. It is a common societal issue that “Man only likes to count his troubles; he doesn't calculate his happiness.” (Dostoevsky) This quote depicts how the outlook one has on their own life can affect their identity. Society chooses to be defined by their failures because it is where they feel most at ease. Being able to fear for the future and regret the past gives no time to ponder on our character and the ones of those around us, and this in itself is a distinction of character. This trait shows how most are afraid think positively in a world full of negative and will indulge in any distractions from reality. A major part of identity is individuals’ beliefs, it’s important to note that “It’s one thing to enjoy a story, but it’s quite another to take it for the truth.” (Rothfuss) Stories have a tendency to push the envelop and tell rather far fetched and intense tales. It is easy to enjoy a story but believing has a whole new meaning. Believing a story directly relates to your own morals and beliefs and shows a new side of your individuality. As life goes on, we will take everything that resonates with us and the rest will be left behind, there may not be an apparent reason, but if it is important to the individual, it is crucial for their learning. We learn about our identities through others as well, “Closure is a greasy little word which, moreover, describes a nonexistent condition.” (King) Closure is something we make up; it is societies way of telling us we can let go of a situation we are not ready to let go of. Because diverse experiences affect each of us differently and because we depend on closure for serenity, it gives us the impression that we haven't lost our dignity and that we are unique, but based off how society reacts and interprets closure the same way, we must ask ourselves to what extent is that an individualistic experience.

There are many people nearby who share the same identity as the one they carry; thus, they are not the only one. By definition, an identity is a set of traits that are individualistic and unique to said person and no two people are alike. This has been proven through multiple quotes that this idea is false. Our identity is formed through those around us and is everchanging. Murakami uses the term “perfect understanding,” however there is no perfect understanding of anyone’s character, especially our own. True identity can be found through comfort, honesty, and peace.