

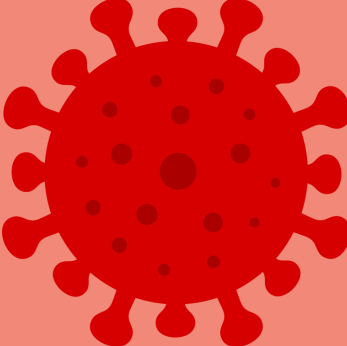
IGNITE PRESENTATION

IS THIS YOUR DAY
TO JOIN THE
REVOLUTION?

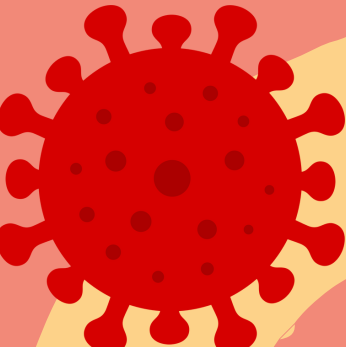
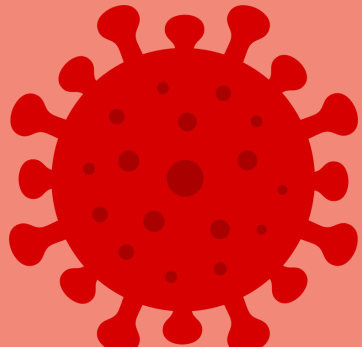
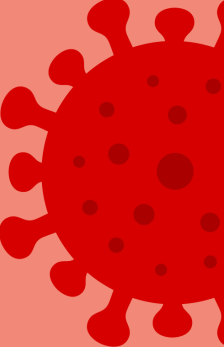
BY: ALEXANDRA + GEMMA



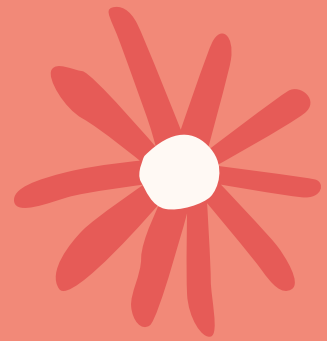
SHORT STORY SUMMARY



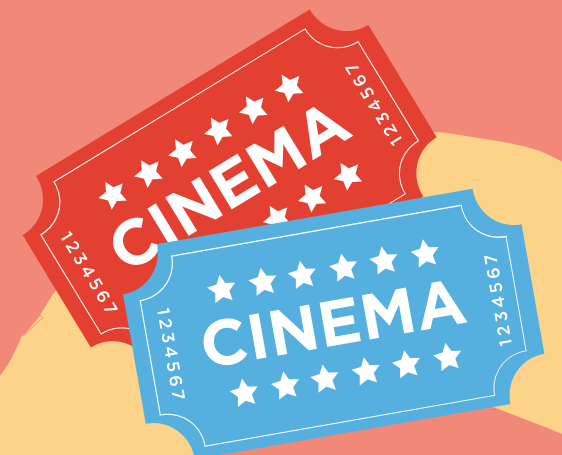
This short story depicts a society that is heavily run by a totalitarian government that forces people into relationships through matching. For example, the main characters Liz and Greg are in a relationship with one another due to this system, even though Greg is gay and they're clearly not in love. Within all of this, the citizens are also being told that there is a deadly disease spreading around that every single individual must take medications and other precautions for.



SHORT STORY SUMMARY

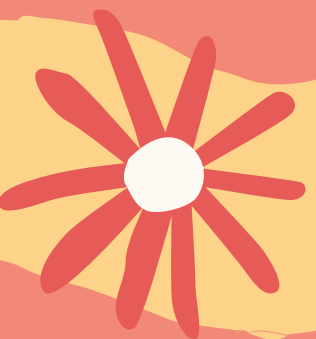
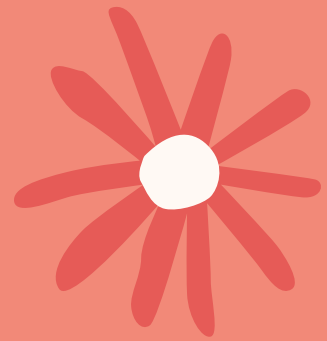


Greg and Liz end up attending a musical and during the end of it, the screen displays a message saying "There is no pathogens" (Valentine 3) and "You are being lied to" (Valentine 3). These messages imply that the whole deadly disease situation was actually a hoax that the government may have come up with to further control its citizens.

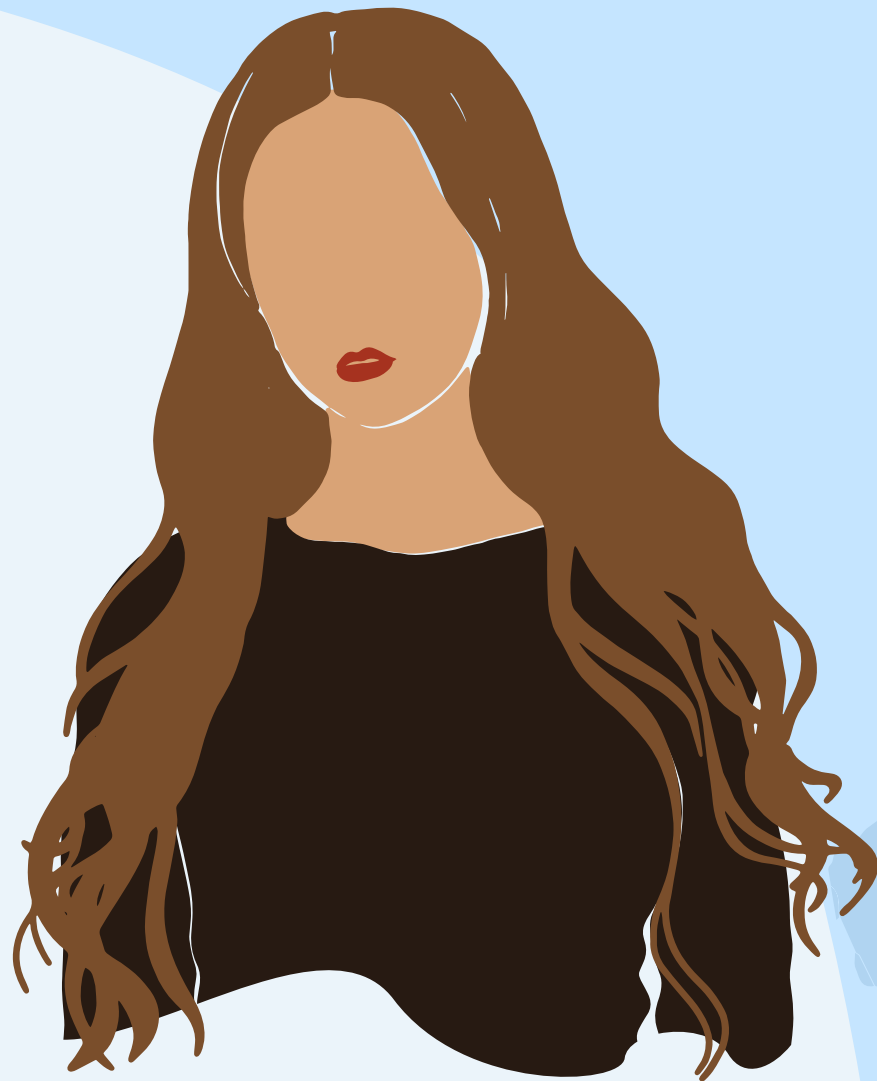


SHORT STORY SUMMARY

Afterwards, they leave the movie theatre and are confronted by a revolutionist. This individual at the end pressures Liz to help him showcase the truth about the fake disease that the government came up with. She doesn't join him and later gets confronted with a government agent that tells her that her encounter with that John Doe was used to test her loyalty to the government. Since she didn't help the guy, she ultimately passed their test.



CHARACTER FOCUS



Liz

Liz (Elizabeth) is the protagonist in this short story. She is a flat and static character, since she doesn't change and often tries not to further question the government's actions. Her morals and values stay the same, plus she seems to vastly follow the crowd to avoid taking any unnecessary risks.

BEGINNING: SUPEREGO

At the beginning, when her boss is saying that Greg is a lucky man and that he wishes he had been matched with her first, "Liz chuckled, because a District Manager's jokes were always funny" (Valentine 1). This shows that her superego is dominant in the beginning, being her idea of what is morally right which is to be polite to the District Manager.



BEGINNING: SUPEREGO/EGO

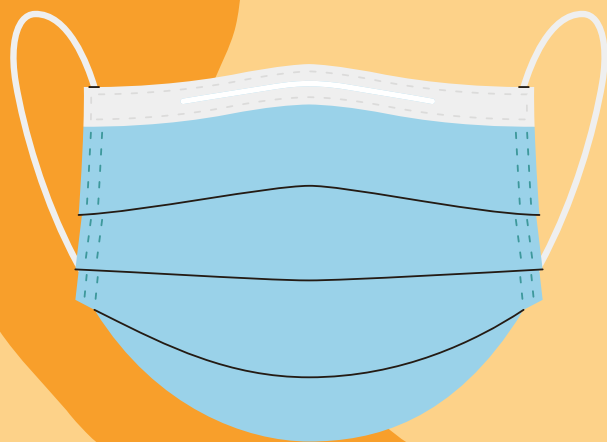


Also it seems to be that her natural instincts are suppressed entirely by her superego. So, her ego mediates easily without thought and chooses the superego. At this point, Liz hasn't started thinking critically about the society that she is living in, and her psychological state is stable.



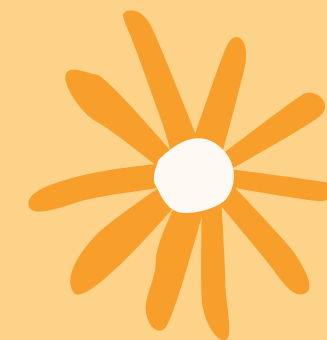
BEGINNING: SUPEREGO

Liz has some doubts in her mind about the government when she says: "I just don't understand the delay - we've been wearing the masks for weeks already, they should have delivered a new movie by now" (Valentine 2). This is her id questioning the government's actions, but it's quickly overtaken by her superego because instead of discussing this concern more, she moves past it and brushes it off as that "the government wasn't above a little mistake" (Valentine 2).

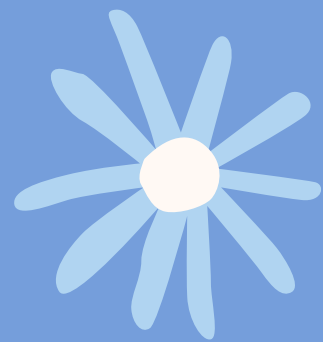




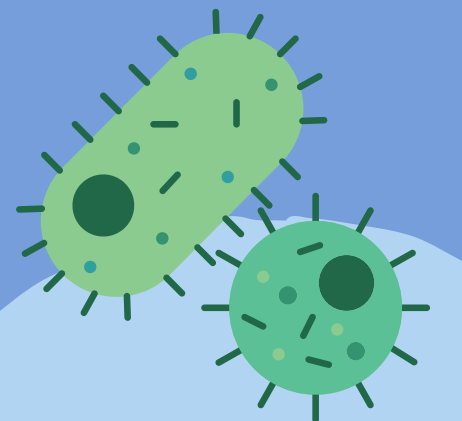
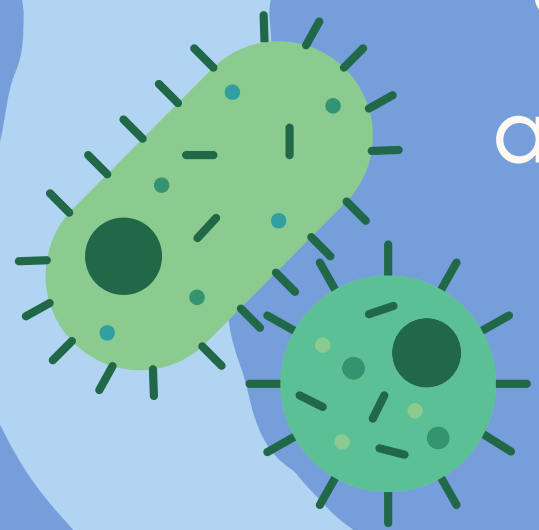
Through this interaction at the beginning, we can see that at this point, Liz's instincts or id are telling her that something is wrong, but her moral conscience or superego is to follow the rules like everyone else, which she does without difficulty at the beginning since her ego shuts down her id easily.



MIDDLE: ID



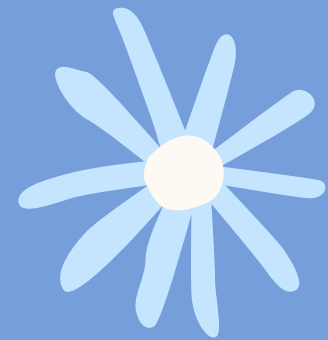
After the initiating event when the musical/movie is hacked to display messages saying that the disease doesn't exist and the government is lying, Liz's psychological state shifts because she is now less sure about who to believe. Her unsureness can be seen with the quote: "Liz hoped this kid was lying" (Valentine 3). The beginning of her reflection and serious doubt can be portrayed when "she thought, annoyed, about the stupid paper mask she wore three days a week when the Pathogen Alert was high" (Valentine 3).



The annoyance that Liz shows in this moment is the first sign of her id or natural instincts showing through, which are to question and criticize what the government is making them do. By the middle of the story because of the messages that John Doe displayed on the screen, Liz begins to actually think about whether or not it makes sense. Her psychological state is therefore weakened because she is now faced with conflict.



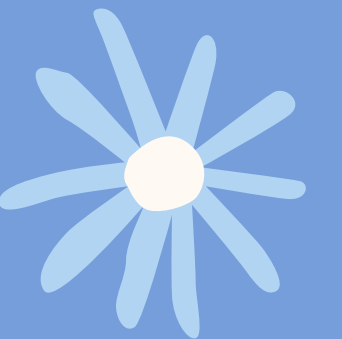
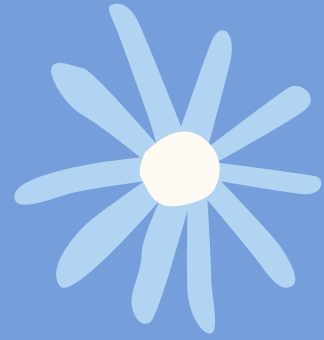
MIDDLE: EGO



In the middle of the story, Liz sees a video which said: "It's easy to be a good citizen!" and "We need what you know" (Valentine 6). Although her superego would tell her that it's the right thing to be a good citizen and report him, the desire of her id tells her to help John Doe.

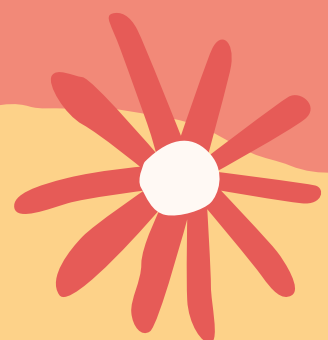
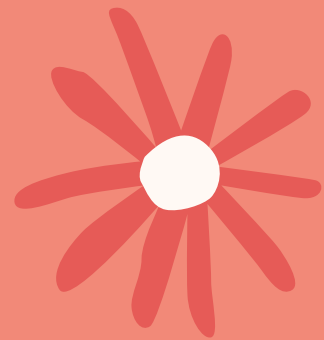


Overall, she decides not to tell the authorities about John Doe, which is a decision from her ego because it is a compromise between helping his cause like she would want to, and turning him in which is what she sees as the morally responsible thing to do.



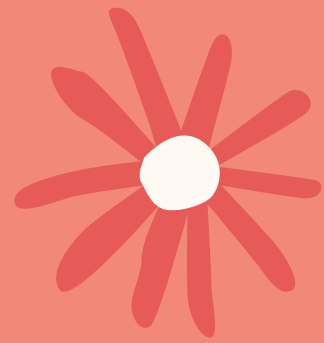
END: SUPEREGO

Liz encounters John Doe again as a Disease Control agent and he mentions to her that he was going to showcase the true intentions of the government to the whole entire country. He also asks her to join him but right away her superego takes full control as she hesitates to join him to spread that message. Despite the fact that she was being pressured by him: "How can you be such a coward?" (Valentine 7). She sticks to her superego and doesn't change her mind to revolt, since she wants to stay truthful to the government.



END: SUPEREGO

At the end of the short story, we continue to see the strong influence Liz's superego has on her. This psychosexual development has essentially been created due to the harsh control the government has on her and every other citizens in that society. If she were to follow through with her id thoughts, then the consequences wouldn't be in her favour. Despite the fact she probably doesn't want to marry Greg due to him being gay, she doesn't want to risk it so she asks him to marry her: "Want to get married?" (Valentine 9). He says yes and they quickly get married that same day.



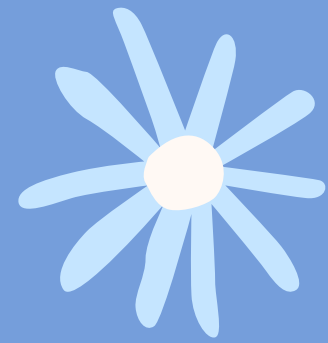
EGO



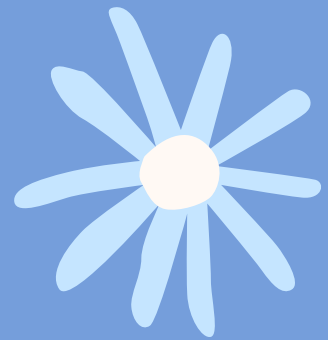
Liz's ego was mostly overshadowed by her superego, but through the progression of the story, she was able to make the decision not to tell the authorities that she had encountered John Doe, using her ego. This isn't Liz taking action against the government as it's more general compassion, so it still shows that they have manipulated and controlled her to the point where she will not get involved herself.



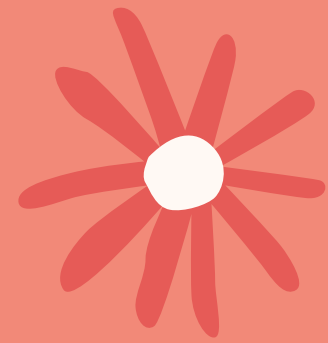
SUPEREGO



Despite the fact that Liz has the desire to rebel against the government and even has her id question some of their motives. All throughout the short story, her superego stops her from betraying the government or acting on her id. This shows how much control the government has on its citizens. It also demonstrates that the superego instinct may or may not be a good choice because in this case nothing changed in that society and all of the citizens are still suffering immensely by the controlling environment in the end.



ID



Liz's id, or natural instincts in the story are to rebel against the government and help John Doe. This reveals that the story is about a dystopian society that has manipulated citizens into pushing these thoughts out of their minds, but the fact that Liz's id is negative towards the government is very telling about the true nature being sinister since that is what she is feeling naturally.



CHARACTER'S CONFLICTS



Person vs. society: The id, ego, and superego reveal that the manipulation from the corrupt society and government is what is causing Liz to mainly follow her superego. Her id being negative thoughts about what they are doing shows that it is a harmful environment that is making people upset, but also making them feel threatened enough to develop a superego that favours the government. Overall, her superego had the most influence on her actions followed by her id and then her ego.



WORKS CITED

1. Genevieve, Valentine. "Is This Your Day To Join the Revolution." 2009. Retrieved June 1, 2021 from <http://myriverside.sd43.bc.ca/pbarrington/english-11-honours/english-11-honours-short-stories-unit/>