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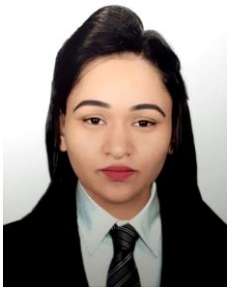
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REVELATION OF IDENTITY CONFLICT'S RESTORING DYSTOPIAN FICTION IN  
"MAURICE CARLOS RUFFIN: WE CAST A SHADOW"

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ABSTRACT

The existing paper centralizes on the idea of Identity Conflict and its three fundamental aspects associated with the novel "We Cast a Shadow". This article shows how a person since his birth was struggling to preserve his own black identity and the mode in which not only society, not only neighbors, relatives but his own father anguished him to change. In a corresponding form all over the novel it is asserted clearly how the person who has already accepted himself as he was born with a black birthmark, but the society and his own father refused to accept him as he was and appraise the person to go for the demelanization process. The conflict between the son and father reflected the Identity Conflict which is manifestly seen in the novel and the three utmost types of conflict bring a crystalline image of a person seeking hard to maintain his Identity or else a person trying tough to change another person Identity.

**Keywords:** Identity Conflict, Dystopian Fiction, We Cast A Shadow, Demelanization.

Introduction

We cast a shadow is a dystopian fiction novel written by American author Maurice Carlos Ruffin. This manuscript describes the Identity Conflict and its three major types and how a perfect blend of these three different Identity Conflict is situated into the characters named Nigel and his unnamed father and their varied situations in the novel. By merging the character's life circumstances with the three fundamental aspects of Identity Conflict it is reflected how a person has strived to change another person's identity or how a person has suffered not to change his/her own identity. What are the up's and down's faced by both the son Nigel and his father?

*"You can be beautiful, even more beautiful than before."*

Summary of "We Cast A Shadow"

This novel "We Cast a Shadow" is written by Maurice Carlos Ruffin. This book is a work of brilliant satire and even an intellectual blend of a bold provocative debut about a father's obsessive quest to protect his son - even if it means turning him white.

**Part - I of the Novel:** The storyline begins with an unnamed narrator, who is considered as the father of the protagonist of the novel. The scene opens up where there was a professional office party was going on, in which there were all the associates, employees, and shareholders were meeting with each other. A lady named Octavia

Whitmore was in the party who is one of the successful shareholders. The father was working under Octavia and that party was a fancy theme party in which the ones whose costumes will be up to the mark will get a promotion and somehow the father managed to make himself look unique just to get a promotion so that he might cover up the expenses of the demelanization procedure of his son. When the father came home from the party his wife Penelope (Penny), his son Nigel all the three were having their own family time. Nigel is a smart multi-talented boy, a boy who has a black birthmark since childhood on his face and has been raised with good concerned parenting. His father speaks up that he was worried whether he might get the promotion or not and he had been to office next day with a decision to leave the company but he was surprised to see that he got promoted as a New Diversity chair and head of the community in which the whole community is white only he was the black skin person. After a time Octavia called him for a meeting and at that present time he heard the news that his son Nigel met with an accident in the school. The father immediately went to the school and got to know that his son was locked in a closet. He was stuck inside the closet because he was applying the beauty cream on his birthmark given by his father. Somehow he made Nigel unstuck out of the closet. When Penny got to know about the beauty cream that his husband had given to his son she was extremely upset and had a peeved argument with his husband, she took a vow from her husband that he will never again give that beauty cream to his son. All the three had been to the plantation where Octavia had called him and in the way all the three were having a good time enjoying and singing in the car. They checked into a hotel room near the plantation site and the service boy of the hotel gave Nigel a strange and weird look seeing Nigel and he felt very uncomfortable the way the service boy gave him a look. Next morning when they were leaving for a visit to the plantation the father told Nigel to wear a cap that shows how conscious the father is about his own son. They meet the tour guide, Nathan and Marry all of them were then having a conversation related to slavery and the civil war that had been in America. When they all were indulged into conversation Nigel disappeared and they all found that the boy was swimming and enjoying his lonely time. Nigel was good in ball skills but his own father discouraged him, his father thought that America will not cheer someone else's brown boy down a field. They meet Octavia and she told them that Nigel's father is promoted. They are going to get clients from PHH plastic surgery hospital where Penny used to work earlier Octavia had her nose sharpened in PHH. Nigel's father was feeling pity on Armbruster, his colleague that he didn't get any promotion. Later all the people Armbruster, Octavia, Nigel all had a good-bye with each other.

**Part - II of the Novel:** Now Nigel his father and penny all had been to Nigel grandmother Chicken Coop shop they all were chit-chatting about the regular life stuff and some non-biological cousins that Nigel father is having. Nigel's father meets Jo Jo who is a professional film director as well as his old school friend. He meets Jo Jo so that he could help him to make an advertisement campaign related to the firm community and PHH hospital. Nigel, polaire and Nigel's father were all selling a shirt for the campaign. All had been in a city named Tiko to meet Supercargo who is the cousin brother of Nigel father. When polaire was taking good pictures for the advertisement in the meanwhile Uncle Tyrod father of Supercargo was sharing some life experiences about himself, and after doing their work done they left the city Tiko. Next morning Nigel's father got his new office on the 59th floor and Octavia office was on the 62nd floor. The advertisement made by Nigel father was approved by Octavia and it was put on the billboard. Nigel father and Octavia had been in a meeting with Eckstein who didn't like the deal proposal and rejected their deal. And then they went to the garage when they were in Garage Nigel's father met the celebrity Crooked Crown. She came near Nigel's father and told him that she had seen him somewhere, Nigel father gave him his card and told him that he is a lawyer. He asked for an autograph to Crooked Crown and she gave her an autograph on his jacket. In the next scene, Nigel father was seen giving sympathy to his son related to his birthmark, and he even mentioned that Nigel was having many other birth spots on other different parts of the body even his father used to note down every abusive comment in his journal that Nigel had been through. When Nigel's father had been to Musee city he bought a skin toning cream for his marks on the body. Firstly Nigel denied not to use it but after being convinced by his father he applied the cream. Nigel father had been to PHH hospital where he meets Dr Nzinga's to tell his intentions about the demelanization process which Nigel Father wants that his son should take up the demelanization procedure. With Nigel's father, Araminta, his school friend was also with them. Nigel's father had a conversation with the clerk related to the financial aid of the process. All the three has returned to the house where Nigel reminded

his father on the route that today is mommy's birthday and in their route, they buy a cake from a mall in which suddenly there was an ADZE terrorist community attack somehow all three managed to come out from the panic full crowd and when they had been to the house Penny was relaxed to see that all the three had arrived home safely. There were some neighborhood's in their house already when they reached the home, so then all of them celebrated the birthday of Penny and enjoyed the evening warningly. On the next sunny morning, Nigel father is going to present a speech for the whole BEG community in front of the national television. Penny was not in support of the BEG community then Nigel father explained to his wife that Supercargo had been a member of the community earlier but then he left the BEG. Nigel said in the house dad you are on T.V everyone from the 1st floor came on the ground floor to hear and see Nigel father on the Television. On that same night, Nigel father gets to know the fact that celebrity Crooked Crown is the daughter of the CEO named Eckstein of the PHH hospital. After some days Nigel took part in a school skit where he performed an act. When all were having their family time Penny unintentionally got her hands-on the journal that Nigel father used to write down plans related to Nigel demelanization process, collecting money, surviving and getting promotions, creating a BEG community. Penny ever since was against the demelanization thing and she burst out in a horrified manner, she thought to file a case against his husband and was thinking of taking custody of his own son. They had a verbal and physical fight inside and outside the house and during that fight, she was on the road and suddenly she hit up with an accident and died in that present moment. The neighbors Mr Kravits took Nigel to their house so that the child should not see the indifference in the thoughts of his own parents and the worst scenario that was happening between them.

**Part - III of the Novel:** Now the scenario changed and Nigel father had a company of Eckstein in the business work. Nigel and his father had been in the PHH hospital for the demelanization process and Octavia is taking care of the procedure fees. Nigel told his father that I am not sure that I am going to do the demelanization process, so Nigel father told him that son you had promised me to take up the process at that moment Nigel responded that I told you I will do the process but I had not promised to you that I am going to like the demelanization process. But after being convinced by his own father he was ready for the process. Nigel's father had been in a conversation with his mother. His father whom he used to call sir is in a prison and his mother told him to go and visit sir. Then Nigel father and his grandmother both decided to go and meet sir. When Nigel father saw his own father he was shocked and guilty to see that his father is a living body with no soul in it and Nigel father felt that he had lost his father twice again, he knows that his mother and sir were in contact with each other and they used to write letters to each other than when he came out of the prison his mother was standing out and he came and gave a close warm hug to his mother and said: "I am sorry Mama". Later he came home and searched for Nigel but he was not even at the baseball playground. Then he went to Araminta's house the girl first lied but then father got the smell of his son. The father and son had a quarrel going on for taking the pills that Nigel was prescribed during the process but he said no, in their quarrel Araminta came between Nigel and his father and she tried to crush the pills that were there on the floor somehow his father stopped the girl and then Nigel gave a player kick to his own father by this gesture of his son the father was aware to know that his son is in love. They came home Nigel went to sleep and his father felt the spirit of Penny saying to him: whatever you are doing for our son is taking him down only and then the spirit vanished away. After some time Nigel used to disappear a lot from the house when his father scolded him the boy behaved in a ridiculous manner. Days, after there had been a whole town celebration party, was going on in Tiko people were enjoying on the streets and they were having a fun time with family and friends. Suddenly Nigel and Araminta go backstage his father followed him and he saw that the girl and his son wore a mask of ADZE community and the father was shocked deep heartedly to see that his son belongs from a terrorist ADZE community, they shoot a gun in the open sky in the middle of the street whole crowd with dozens of people were panicked out. The scene changed and Octavia gave Nigel father a cheque with a massive amount that was more than his father had ever dreamt of. But Nigel's father is broken to see that his son is now a terrorist he had nothing to do in his life. Octavia consoled him that go search out for your son back and take some break for the job give some time to recharge yourself and then come back again with a positive attitude. Time passed and things had taken drastic change Nigel disappeared years ago. His father sold the house and became a shareholder Nigel grandmother went to Canada with Aunty Shirin and Nigel texted him once a week through Email. His father got to track him

down by using the email address and when he saw him he was with a pregnant girl and it was none other than Araminta. Now Nigel birthmark was as dark as his skin after so many years his father was still thinking that it's not too late for Nigel now also to do the demelanization process like this act of his father showed that Nigel father was seriously insane and had a different identity for skin colour he even mentioned that in his younger age he had been through the demelanization process. Later all the three decided to return home. His father told him that he had sold the house because it had been too big for him. There is a condo. Later Nigel and his father sat to talk with each other in which Nigel said sorry to leave the house without informing him then he opened up his heart to his father and told him that whatever you told me to do I did everything but no one ever understood me except Araminta. Mom used to cry for the things that you used to do with me. "Remember the day you rubbed that max-strength bleach on me? It may as well have been battery acid the way the stuff burned". She felt helpless too. In the back of my head, even I kept thinking you might change. He even mentioned that I and Mom even tried to leave you and escape from you but you never understood both of us and kept doing your own thing. Nigel told him that I forgave you a long time ago. You are my father. But that doesn't mean you're worthy of holding that kind of power over me. Let me tell you on your face that I control my life. Nigel dad said I'm letting you stay here, Nigel said I'm not living with you. This is where I belong, and I love who I am. After some minutes Araminta was there and her water broke and then there was no time left to take her to the hospital so the delivery was done in the front yard area of the Condon. It's a girl, she was very dark, nearly Araminta's colour Nigel asked: "Tell me something, Dad". "Do you honestly think you would ever be able to accept her looking the way she does?" "We don't want you in our lives. "At least you're really thinking about it. I appreciate that. But we don't need that in our lives. Go home. Enjoy what you've done to yourself. But don't haunt us anymore". Nigel father says that a part of me believes that I wronged for Nigel by interfering with his so-called natural development. But the truth of the matter is that I was no normal father, Nigel was no normal son, and America was no normal nation. Lastly, he realized that the past is a shipwreck he says to be kind to your Minty. It took me too long to realize what a shining soul she is. Show my granddaughter some love from me.

And if I could ask one small thing of you, dear one, it would be that you occasionally think of your father- even after my body has returned to stardust, and I am nothing but the ghost of an angel in mossy chains, haunting endless grasslands in search of a spear tip sharp enough to finally cut this knot.

### What Is Conflict In Literature?

In literature, a conflict is a literary device characterized by a struggle between two opposing forces. Conflict provides crucial tension in any story and is used to drive the narrative forward. It is often used to reveal deeper meaning in a narrative while highlighting characters' motivations, values, and weaknesses.<sup>(i)</sup>

Or else in literature, conflict is the result of competing desires or the presence of obstacles that need to be overcome. Conflict is necessary to propel a narrative forward; the absence of conflict amounts to the absence of story<sup>(ii)</sup>

### Three Fundamental Types of Conflict:

- I. **Man Versus Self:** These are internal battles that characters wage within themselves; these are internal issues that affect their actions, motivations and interactions with other characters. The conflict can be a recurring theme throughout the story or at a particular point in time. For e.g. In Julius Caesar, Brutus constantly struggles with his feelings towards his friend Caesar and his country.
- II. **Man Versus Society:** These are conflicts where your characters' firm beliefs are against norms that the entire society as a whole endorses. It could be social evils or discrimination practiced by society that is opposed by a minority.
- III. **Man Versus Man:** These sorts of conflicts are the most common. Your characters will be opposed by or will oppose the actions, reactions, motivations of another character or characters. As a writer you can choose to use this sort of conflict to provide comic relief to your narrative (iii)

IV. **Man Versus Self Circumstances Mirrors Out In the Novel:** Nigel sat on the examination table in Dr. Nzinga's office, wearing a gray hospital gown. The nurse had already drawn blood and taken his vitals. I was to get Nigel signed up for demelanization. She would cover the consultation fees. She said I was a good father for working so hard to improve my son's life. The nurse placed a hand over her heart. "Aw. It'll get better," she said. "You just have to move on, sweetie". Nigel asked me how long this take would. Not very long, I said, Dr. Nzinga had already explained the process to me. It was a six month procedure, similar in some ways to the cancer treatments they used to give. The plan would play out in stages. A few weeks of primer treatments, various markers and agents added to the body to prepare it for complete demelanization. That was where the real work began. That was where the actual retoning of the skin occurred, among other changes to the hair and visible membranes like the gums, etc. Of course Nigel procedure would leave his nose, lips, and other features untouched. The changes would focus on getting out that damned spot.

"Let's play a game," Nigel said. I was startled when he spoke. He had been on his device, flipping from screen to screen. But now he held a pair of dice. "Double or nothing, if I win, we leave. If you win, I'll do it and never complain again."

"That's not necessary. You already promised."

"But I didn't promise to like it."

"How do we play?" I asked. Nigel tossed the dice into the air and caught one--and then the other.

I always found the game uncouth; the men who gathered in semicircles on the streets of the Tiko were invariably societies. But the few times someone convinced me to roll, I had a lucky hand. In fact, I often found favor in games of chance.

Nigel climbed off the examination table. I refastened the tie on the back of his hospital gown. He tossed the dice, and a good number rolled up. I tossed and a bad number rolled up. We agreed to best five out of seven, but he won the first three. Then five out of six.

"Let me see those," I said. He gave the dice to me. I eyed them and shifted them in my palm. I actually had no idea what rigged dice looked or felt like, but I had the feeling that maybe I could learn. I held one to light.

Nigel took them from me. "They're fake, Dad."

"What?" I asked.

"Loaded".

I was astonished. My son was brilliant and Wily, of course, but only a child. I never imagined him using his intelligence against me.

"Why did you tell me?" I asked.

Nigel turned the dice over in his hand and threw them into the wastebasket. He shrugged.

"I don't know," he said.

Dr. Nzinga entered. "Ah," she said. "Very well to see the happy family. Are we ready to start?"

Nigel glanced at me. "Yes, ma'am".

**(Page No. 222,223,224)**

- I. **Man versus Self:** These are internal battles that characters wage within themselves; these are internal issues that affect their actions, motivations and interactions with other characters. The conflict can be a recurring theme throughout the story or at a particular point in time. For egg. In Julius Caesar, Brutus constantly struggles with his feelings towards his friend Caesar and his country.

**Let's See How Man Versus Self First Fundamental Conflict Perfectly Merges In the Circumstances of The Novel: "We Cast A Shadow".**

The scenario where Nigel and his father both arrived at PHH hospital and their case was handled by Dr. Nzinga. Nigel father was talking with Dr. Nzinga about the demelanization process and all the procedure of the process in detail that Nigel is going to have. But before the starting of the demelanization process the son told his father that lets play a game of dice dad. Double or nothing if I win we will go home and if you win we'll do the process. His father was astonished hearing that and he told Nigel that you promised you are going to take up the process but Nigel said that I didn't promise you that I am going to like the demelanization process. His father's luck had always been bad in the dice play. But still the father tried then Nigel said leave it dad it was loaded the son was playing with his father's mind and his father has been dither when Nigel said that If I win we'll go home. Later when the doctor came and asked Nigel are you ready so that we can start the first process. Nigel gave glanced to his father and said yes to Dr.Nzinga.

Here what **Man Versus Self** states that there is an internal battle that the character Nigel wage within himself? He has an internal issue his soul never wanted to do the demelanization process he has earlier accepted his black birthmark identity he was just approving to do it for his father's sake because his father has his own view for his child which even Nigel had not denied. Even before the process was about to start he uttered in front of his dad that lets do dice play If I win I'll leave his wish has clearly shown the Internal Conflict of himself within oneself that he for a moment had a thought not to take up the process because he himself never wanted to do it. His conflict was within his soul and the commitment that he has given to his father just for his father's satisfaction. The process which his father eagerly wanted his son to take up. This Man Versus Self Internal Conflict was affecting his mind, actions, and the interactions that he was having with his father as well as the people surrounding him.

## II. Man Versus Society Circumstances Mirrors Out In the Novel:

The bell boy gave Nigel a strange look. In such situations, I had to figure out what the person found unsettling: Nigel face, my marital relationship, or the offspring of our union. These shadows followed us wherever we went. Sometimes I felt like we all had birthmarks. The bellboy shook his head. I realized from the way his eyes swept over each of us that it was likely a combination of all three reasons. Penny didn't notice. She was opening the curtains to let some daylight in. Nigel furrowed his brow. I sent him to his room. I was no stranger to such audacity.

"This place is cool", he said.

"It is, isn't it?" I said,

Nigel glanced at me, then averted his eyes back to the book. I closed it. He lowered his chin.

"That man. "Nigel said." "I don't like being looked at that way".

"Some people lack all refinement," I said.

I had come to the Musee with a simple plan: Join up with BEG.

"Y'all know we have been working a long time for the dream. We are trying to bring our community together in a new, permanent way." some people nodded. "It's been a long time coming, but I can feel that we are turning a corner. Our protests at the hospital have been making a difference. People are paying attention and hear our message."

Somehow the audience took this as a cause to clap harder. I didn't want to argue in favor of the protests at PHH. I liked the work PHH did. After all, I would be sending Nigel there soon enough. And how could the BEG be anti-demelanization when at least three people other than the streetcar driver and janitor had obviously undergone procedures?

Eckstein wouldn't be able to say we had no commitment to the black community. We would be the community.

"Brothers and sisters," I said, "there is a black cloud over our city. A wave of darkness that threatens to wipe away our identity. We've all seen the nefarious work being carried out at the shadowy clinic. The thinning of lips. The whittling down of noses. The whitening of skin." (Page No.45, 46,122,125,126)

**II. Man Versus Society:** These are conflicts where your characters' firm beliefs are against norms that the entire society as a whole endorses. It could be social evils or discrimination practiced by society that is opposed by a minority.

**Let's See How Man Versus Society Second Fundamental Conflict Perfectly Merges In the Circumstances of The Novel: "We Cast A Shadow".**

This scene starts when Nigel, his father and his mother had gone to the hotel where the bell boy saw Nigel in a very bizarre way which Nigel didn't like at all and then the father had sympathized with his son with a positive vibe whereas the belly boy was an native American. Nigel father with his job mates and with the help of his boss Octavia had created a black community called BEG, a community that supports the black people and will help them out related to their any sort of issues.

What **Man Versus Society** wants to say is that Nigel father firm beliefs are against the norms of American's the way the bell boy had treated his son by giving him a look the son's mood goes down and even his self-esteem was zero. As it clearly shows how only giving a look to Nigel had made him feel that he is not a normal person and is a weird one. Well it is seen very clearly the bell boy gave that weird look to Nigel because of his black skin colour including the strange birthmark that Nigel had on his face. His father wanted at least blacks must have the strength to put up their opinion and fight for their demands. He created Black community in which various sorts of people who are black can discuss their issues and can have a firm conclusion on it. His father wanted an identity for the black's which he had created in his city Tiko by Creating a Black community named BEG.

**III. Man Versus Man Circumstances Mirrors out In the Novel:**

Nigel.

It wasn't too late. Yes, he was dark-skinned. And the mark--it had darkened and spread beneath that beard. Where did it go, and where did it stop? The overall blackening of his skin made the mark almost unnoticeable... almost. But then again, his whole body was basically a mark now.

I would get him back to the city for treatment. It wasn't too late as long as we were on this side of the void. Dr. Nzinga stood ready to help. And if not her, then one of the other clinics that had popped up across the nation. She'd licensed her techniques, and they were being used from sea to shining sea.

"I'm sorry I didn't tell you where I went," Nigel said. "That wasn't fair. But I needed to protect myself."

Nigel looked me in the eye. "You were my hero. I thought you were good. Whatever you said, I stopped it with a biscuit. 'Wear a stupid hat for your own good, Nigel'. 'I know the needle hurts, but I would never hurt you, Nigel.' 'I love you, Nigel, so grin and bear it, Nigel.'" He imitated my voice so well that I was afraid to open my mouth, afraid of what might come out. He pulled off his faded yellow cap and tousled his hair. "That's why I still keep this thing". Everything you did to me, I really believed was for the best, even the way you convinced me to lie to Mom about what you were doing.

Remember the day you rubbed that max-strength bleach on me? It may as well have been battery acid the way the stuff burned." Nigel leaned forward. "You left. But I didn't tell Mom about it because I couldn't. She always knew you were up to something, but she would have been too hurt if she knew about that. I mean, she might have left you with a frying pan. Or way worse. She might have fussed for a while, cooled off, and forgot about it like she did with everything else' cause she felt helpless, too. I mean, in the back of my head, even though I kept thinking might change. And I knew better. Both of us did!"

"You can't understand, can you? A little while ago you said that you thought I hate you. But that's not right. I forgave you a long time ago because, you're right, you'll always be my father. But that doesn't mean you're worthy of holding that kind of power over me. I never realized how much I needed to tell you to your face, to show you that I control my life. Araminta Nigel wife has a daughter.

"Tell me something, Dad." Nigel took his daughter's chubby hand.

"Anything".

"Do you honestly think you would ever be able to accept her looking the way she does?"

"At least you're really thinking about it. I appreciate that. But we don't need that in our lives. Go home. Enjoy what you've done to yourself. But don't haunt us anymore.

A part of me believes that I wronged Nigel by interfering with his so-called natural development.

But the truth of the matter is that I was no normal father, Nigel was no normal son, and America was no normal nation.

**(Page No. 298,307,309,312,315,319)**

**III. Man Versus Man:** These sorts of conflicts are the most common. Your characters will be opposed by or will oppose the actions, reactions, motivations of another character or characters. As a writer you can choose to use this sort of conflict to provide comic relief to your narrative.

**Let's See How Man Versus Man Third Fundamental Conflict Perfectly Merges In the Circumstances of The Novel: "We Cast A Shadow".**

This situation poops up when Nigel's father meets him years later. During that time also when he saw Nigel after so long, his father was thinking that even now also there is nothing wrong in taking up the demelanization process. Later Nigel said sorry to his father for leaving him and the house without informing him. Whatever pent up feelings and thoughts Nigel was having in his mind related to his father he spoke up to him. He mentioned to him every act that he did to Nigel relating to the beauty cream- rubbing it on the back, hiding things from mom, and telling him that I and mom decided to leave you, in correct words we were planning an escape from you. Whatever you did to me I had forgiven you years before but I am not going to stay here with you I just came here to meet you. Mom and I always thought at the back of our minds that you would change, but you never did. Then after some time Araminta, who is Nigel's wife at that present time, delivered a baby girl. Nigel dad mentioned the baby girl was very dark. Nigel told his dad that are you going to accept all three of us, then Nigel said I like the fact that you are actually thinking about it. But we don't want you in our life. We all three are happy with our identity and we accept it. You please go home and enjoy your own life, but please don't haunt all three of us anymore.

Later Nigel father thought within himself that whatever he had done with Nigel since the day he was born was somewhere is wrong for the child. But he also accepts the fact that living in America is not a normal nation for people like Nigel who is a black and has a birthmark on his face and I am no normal father to this act.

Here what **Man versus Man** states is that this is one of the most common traits? Which Nigel and his father both had. Now the character Nigel and the other character his father both were opposing their ideas with each other. As it was clearly seen that Nigel father from the beginning of the novel or since the birth of Nigel he wanted his son to do the demelanization process. Because his father was not accepting his son's identity that he is black and has a birthmark on his face. Which the son had already accepted. Although when the son was a child he did some sort of things which his father told him to do like applying the beauty cream etc. but he has a denial for his father thoughts and ideas in his heart since childhood only. And it is perfectly mentioned when Nigel and his mother were planning an escape from his father's deeds. Nigel left his father house when he was an adult and had been away from his father for many years because he was fed-up by his father who wanted Nigel to change his identity. And when Nigel's father meets him after so many years, he wants his son that there's still time left and he can do the demelanization process. At that time the son told him that he was in a denial with him ever since as a child and he never wanted to do the demelanization process. You are not allowed to make decisions for my life, I never gave you that power. You are not supposed to change my identity which I had already accepted. So the Man versus Man conflict shows that how ever since as a child the character Nigel was opposing the actions, motivations, and reactions of the other character who was his father.



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**Conclusion**

As the contemporary paper exhibits us how there has been an Identity Conflict and how it had played a considerable role in the novel "We Cast a Shadow". It clearly affirm that how the three fundamental forms of conflict which were **Man Versus Self**, **Man Versus Society**, and **Man Versus Man** represents the emotional, mental, spiritually, and physical conflict that was going on not only between the son and father, but also son within his own self, father with his Wife, his Son and the whole society. Somewhere what the father wanted for his son was not acceptable, but as a father he wanted an Identity for his son that the people of the nation would accept. Although even the son was somehow right on his own place because he himself has acquired his own black birthmark identity with which he was born in this world.

So the character of the father and the son both were right with their deeds and actions in the novel. Which very transparently presents us that the three forms of the Identity Conflict has been possessed in the novel "We Cast a Shadow" by Maurice Carlos Ruffin.

**Notes**

- (i) "What Is Conflict in Literature? 6 Different Types of Literary ...." 16 Aug. 2019, <https://www.masterclass.com/articles/what-is-conflict-in-literature-6-different-types-of-literary-conflict-and-how-to-create-conflict-in-writing>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2020.
- (ii) "Conflict Examples and Definition - Literary Devices." <http://www.literarydevices.com/conflict/>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2020.
- (iii) "5 types of conflict in literature with examples - Book Soarus." 24 Aug. 2013, <http://www.booksoarus.com/types-of-conflict-literature-examples/>. Accessed 31 Jan. 2020.

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