

# KIKO'S ANXIETY IN AKEMI DAWN BOWMAN'S STARFISH

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# KIKO'S ANXIETY IN AKEMI DAWN BOWMAN'S *STARFISH*

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## ABSTRACT

This study aims to discuss the issue of anxiety in Akemi Dawn Bowman's *Starfish*. The objective of this study is to find the causes, effects, and types of anxiety experienced by the main character in the story. This study uses psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud to analyze Kiko's anxiety. The research method applied in this study is qualitative, with a psychology of literature approach. From the results of the analysis, there are four causes of the anxiety experience by Kiko. The first is an experience that happens to Kiko in the past, caused by her uncle. The second is the conflict between Kiko and her mother. The third is Kiko's environment, and the last is frustration. The effects of Kiko's anxiety is an emotional effect and social anxiety. This can be seen from her feelings of anger because of the dispute that occurs between Kiko and her mother. Therefore, it can be concluded that Kiko's anxiety is categorized as neurotic and realistic anxiety. Neurotic anxiety comes from the id, which is an unconscious feeling, so that it often loses its emotions such as sadness, anger, panic, and so on. Realistic anxiety occurs when there is a sense of fear of approaching danger.

**Keywords:** *Anxiety, causes, effects, types*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this life, humans are not free from problems. These problems include problems of interaction with the environment, with others, and with ourselves. These problems sometimes have different impacts on the mentality of someone who experiences them. Anxiety is the complete human response to a threat or danger. Each anxiety experience includes a sense of impending danger, thoughts of harm, and a psychological alert and activation process (Moss, 2014: 1). Anxiety deals with mental problems experienced by people, especially teenagers or young adults. According to World Health Organization (2021) in this age group, anxiety disorders are most widespread, and older adolescents are more likely to experience them than younger adolescents. Anxiety disorders are thought to affect 3.6% of 10 to 14-year-olds and 4.6% of 15 to 19-year-olds.

Anxiety can occur in a variety of situations. Sometimes anxiety appears mild and occurs quickly, but sometimes it can last longer and become so severe that it disrupts the body and mental condition. In the medical industry, patients are more likely to experience anxiety as a result of their illness, which occasionally affects the effectiveness of their therapy (Xi, 2020: 9). People often live with anxiety disorders for years before they are diagnosed and treated (Rector et al., 2016: 1-2).

Human response to fear or danger appears in anxiety. Each anxiety experienced includes a sense of impending danger, thoughts of harm, and a psychological alert and activation process. Fear and anxiety are universal human experiences that come and go throughout life. An anxiety disorder involves a crippling and lingering process that disrupts the normal course of life (Moss, 2002: 1-2).

According to Freud in *Collected Papers* (Vol.1), anxiety is "something felt," a particular unpleasant emotional state or condition that includes tension, worry, and physiological arousal (Spielberger & Reheiser, 2009: 273). Freud divides anxiety into three types, realistic or objective anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety (Corey, 2009: 61). Freud states that neurotic anxiety arises because of a feeling of danger from instinct. This anxiety occurs when feelings of fear arise, and the outgoing id instincts take over the ego, and this causes the ego to make mistakes and be afraid of possible punishments. Intense, unreasonable fear is another prominent manifestation of neurotic anxiety. Additionally, bad thoughts or a panic attack might be used to identify neurotic anxiety. Realistic or objective anxiety occurs when there is a sense of fear when danger approaches in the real world, and the intensity of that sensation is inversely correlated with the severity of the actual threat. Realistic anxiety is also a painful emotion brought on by the perception of risk in the outside world. Moral anxiety is a fear that comes from conscience. People with a good conscience tend to feel guilty when they do something contrary to or not following moral standards.

The anxiety problem can be read in the novel *Starfish*, written by Akemi Dawn Bowman and published in 2017. *Starfish* tells the story of a half-Japanese teen named Kiko Himura who experiences an anxiety disorder. Kiko lives with her two brothers and mother, who only cares about herself and belittles everything Japanese. It causes a dispute between Kiko and her mother. Kiko dreams of entering an art school, Prism, which is her ticket to being free from her suffocating life. Then Kiko does not enter Prism, and at the same time, Kiko's mother allows Uncle Max to move back into their house and live with them, even though she knows that her brother abuses Kiko as a child. When she receives an invitation from her childhood friend to leave her small town and visit an art school on the west coast, Kiko jumps at the opportunity to escape the anxiety and fear holding her back.

There are several previous studies that discuss anxiety. The difference between the previous and current studies is the source of data. In the previous study, the data source was taken from the novels *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell, *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, and *School of Fear: The Final Exam* by Gitty Daneshvari, while the current study uses *Starfish* by Akemi Dawn Bowman as the data source. Apart from that, another difference lies in the second previous study, where the approach used was both extrinsic and psychological, while in the current study, the writer only used a psychology of literature approach. In contrast to previous studies, this study directly addresses the causes of anxiety experienced by Kiko in the novel without including symptoms, and there is no treatment for anxiety experienced by Kiko, whereas in other studies there is treatment for anxiety by applying the theory of defense mechanisms.

This novel is interesting to discuss because there are deep problems in the mental aspect, namely anxiety, which affects the lives of the characters in the novel. This study tries to reveal the anxiety

disorders contained in the novel, starting with the causes, effects, and types of anxiety. The writer analyzes anxiety through Kiko, the main character of this novel using Sigmund Freud's theory.

Based on the discussion above, the problems that the writer will analyze are: 1) What causes Kiko's anxiety in Akemi Dawn Bowman's *Starfish*? 2) What are the effects of Kiko's anxiety in *Starfish*?, and 3) What types of anxiety are reflected in the character of Kiko in the novel?

## 2. METHOD

This study is qualitative research. Qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena, which means that this research aims to help us understand the social world in which we live and why things happen. It is concerned with the social aspect of life, including people's behavior, opinions, attitudes, and social activity (Hancock, B. 2006: 7). Furthermore, according to Creswell (2009: 3), qualitative studies employ research plans and procedures to gather and analyze specific data. The purpose of choosing a qualitative approach is that the writer will describe the data taken from Akemi Dawn Bowman's novel *Starfish* that contains 340 pages with 60 chapters and published in 2017. In addition, secondary data sources are taken from journals, research, and books related to research topics. The data from this study is taken from several narrations and dialogues in the novel that describes Kiko's character's anxiety.

In this study, the writer used a psychology of literature approach. The psychology of literature studies the types and principles of psychology applied to literary works. It means that this study looks at how topics and cases in psychology are applied to the characters of literary works. The instrument of this research is the writer herself because the writer reads and understands the story from the novel *Starfish* and collects and analyzes data by herself without using equipment such as questionnaires, recordings, or other devices. In collecting the data, the writer uses reading and note-taking techniques using several procedures, as follows: 1) Reading each chapter carefully, 2) Specifying the character to be analyzed, 3) Finding the right problem and theory, 4) Identifying incidents and dialogues that indicate anxiety and 5) Gathering some resources to support the study from other references related to the topic. After collecting the data, the writer analysis the data in several steps. First, the writer reads and reviews the data that has been collected. Next, the writer analyzes the data that has been selected based on the cause, effect, and type of anxiety experienced by Kiko. In the last step, the writer provides conclusions from the analysis results.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This part discusses Kiko's anxiety consisting of the causes, the effects, and the types of her anxiety

### 3.1 The Cause of Kiko's Anxiety

Kiko is the main character who experiences anxiety in *Starfish*. In the novel *Starfish*, there are three important factors that play a big role in causing Kiko's anxiety, negative experiences in the past, conflict, the environment, and frustration.

### 3.1.1 Kiko's Negative Experience in the Past

Negative experiences in the past give rise to unpleasant feelings about the past that may be repeated in the future. Kiko's bad experiences in the past are caused by her uncle, her mother's brother. When Kiko is seven years old, she experiences bad treatment from her uncle, Kiko is used as a sexual stimulus. Kiko, who is still very young, does not understand this. She only feels that what her uncle does is confusing and embarrassing. She pretends to be asleep so her uncle will not know that Kiko is watching him. After doing that to Kiko, her uncle watched her for a while and then left. Kiko explains that the harassment that has occurred to her by her uncle has occurred repeatedly. This indicates that Kiko has not taken any action to respond to this, such as reporting her uncle to her parents. Like victims of sexual abuse in general, Kiko, who is still underage, allows this to happen due to psychological barriers such as fear, shame, and Kiko's lack of knowledge about it. Therefore, whenever that happens again, Kiko only pretends to be asleep. However, along with trauma, Kiko realizes it is not true, especially since her uncle did it. This incident makes Kiko traumatize and trigger her anxiety whenever she is near her uncle. Her bad experiences in the past gives a bad emotional response to Kiko. This incident triggers anxiety to appear every time she is near someone who reminds her of her experience.

"Uncle Max is coming over tonight."

The first thing I think of is my stuffed rabbit. The second is the feeling that something heavy and painful in the pit of my stomach is making me want to vomit.

"Oh." My hands fall into my lap. "What time?"

Shoji shrugs. I'm not sure if he knows why I don't like being around Uncle Max, but he's not stupid. Neither is Taro, even though he acts like it sometimes. When Uncle Max and I are in the same room together, the tension is suffocating. (Bowman, 2017: 17)

The quote above shows how Kiko does not like her uncle coming to her house. "The first thing I think of is my stuffed rabbit" this quote shows that after hearing the upcoming uncle max, Kiko immediately remembers her past. Her stuffed bunny becomes one of the reminders of what Uncle Max has done to her. The presence of her uncle seems to burden Kiko much. She feels pain and further she reacts badly through her expression that "she want to vomit". Kiko feels uncomfortable whenever she is around her uncle. Kiko's anxiety arises when she finds out that everyone in her house knows about her uncle's arrival except herself. Furthermore, Kiko's anxiety shows strong. It can be read as follows:

My heart starts to race. My head throbs. I feel like I can't breathe. If Shoji knew Uncle Max was coming over, it means Mom did too. Why wouldn't she tell me herself? I get out of the car because I feel like it's eighty thousand degrees and I need the fresh air to stop my head from spinning. (Bowman, 2017: 17)

The quotation above explains that Kiko is experiencing anxiety. It has been explained that anxiety is a negative emotional state marked by foreboding and somatic signs of tension, such as racing heart, sweating, and often difficulty breathing. It is clear that Kiko is experiencing anxiety, which is characterized by her racing heart, throbbing head, and difficulty breathing, indicating how uncomfortable she is with the coming of her uncle. In addition, bad experiences in the past can lead to feelings of discomfort. Kiko also experiences a change in emotion, "because I feel like it's eighty thousand degrees," eighty thousand degrees describes the atmosphere that Kiko feels at that time

that Kiko feels an extraordinary heat indicating that she is so angry at her mother for not telling her about Uncle Max who wants to come to their house.

Kiko experiences unpleasant things when Uncle Max moves into their house. While she is asleep, Uncle Max comes into her room and reaches out to where Kiko is sleeping. It causes Kiko's anxiety to appear. Kiko's fear arises because she feels that her uncle will do bad things to her, like what happened to her in the past.

The footsteps pad away, and the door closes silently. Beneath the door, I watch as the light vanishes and the house goes still.

Alone, I sit up, choking on my own fear. I don't think—I grab my bag, my phone, and my keys and slip through the house, and before I know it, I'm driving down the road with panic in my throat and no idea where I'm going. (Bowman, 2017: 141).

From the quotation above, it can also be seen that Kiko's fear and panic make her feel anxious. Kiko is panick after Uncle Max comes out of her room. This panic takes her out of her house without her knowing it. In her panic, she drives to the house of her best friend and the person she loves, Jamie. Kiko can not explain what happens to her because she is not injured and just has a panic attack. Kiko's panic gradually subsided after Jamie spreads her out in his house and calmed her down. It can be concluded that Koki's mental state is mixed. She immediately feels scared, panicked, and worried simultaneously, which triggers her anxiety.

### 3.1.2 Kiko's Conflict with Her Mother

Apart from the negative experiences that have happened to Kiko in the past, her anxiety is also caused by the conflict between Kiko and her mother. Kiko's mother is a selfish person and never cares about the feelings of her children, which causes a bad relationship between Kiko and her mother. Kiko feels that it is "like swimming in poison", to be around her mother. It hurts and even kill her "slowly bit by bit" (Bowman, 2017: 130).

Kiko's mother knows that Kiko does not like Uncle Max, but she does not care about that and allows Uncle Max to live with them. Problems arise when Kiko loses her money and finds out that it is Uncle Max who has entered her room and stolen her money. The illustrations can be seen below:

"Can't you see I'm trying to have a conversation about somebody stealing my money?" I feel like a vein is going to burst from my neck. It's not easy for me to say what I'm thinking, but I'm trying anyway because it's important. I need her to know how uncomfortable I am with Uncle Max being in my room. I need her to understand. Why can't she see that? Why doesn't she care?

"God, Kiko!" Mom marches to the living room and shoves her hand into her oversized purse. She comes back with her wallet. "Here." She flings a twenty-dollar bill at me, which I ignore and let fall to the floor.

"I don't want your money." I dig my hands into my ribs.

"What is it you want from me, then?" Her voice is shrill and sharp. (Bowman, 2017: 133-134).

The quote above shows a serious dispute or argument. As stated by Freud, conflict causes emotional tension and disputes between individuals or groups. Kiko wants her mother to put a lock on her room door, but her mother does not approve of it, "I feel like a vein is going to burst from my neck" the quote shows Kiko feels very angry, and "Her voice is shrill and sharp" which indicates the

emergence of emotional tension. Kiko is disappointed with her mother's decision and her indifference about her feelings. This conflict triggers Kiko's anxiety. This anxiety occurs because of emotional feelings towards her own family.

### 3.1.3 Kiko's Environment

Apart from the two causes above, environmental factors are also a factor in Kiko's anxiety. The environment can affect how a person behaves in their life. Anxiety can be caused by unpleasant experiences that individuals have with friends, family, or co-workers. This novel shows that the main character experiences anxiety because of her closest environment. Kiko, who was born biracial (half white, half Japanese), grew up in a small-town environment and experienced racist acts. The quotation below shows it:

We weren't fitting in at school because we were consistently one of the token minority kids. It was something the teachers seemed to appreciate when casting pilgrims and Native Americans in the school Thanksgiving plays, but it came in a lot less handy when we were trying to make friends. We thought we were just like all the other white kids, but how a person feels on the inside apparently has nothing to do with how they look on the outside. (Bowman, 2017: 15).

The quote above explains that since childhood, Kiko feels that she does not fit in at school because she is one of the minority children, and she also has difficulty making friends. Kiko feels that she will not look attractive to the people around her because she is Asian. Kiko grows into a teenager who lacks self-confidence, which makes it difficult for her to socialize.

### 3.1.4 Kiko's Frustration

Another cause of kiko's anxiety is frustration. Every human being lives to fulfill desires. The desire can be a good desire or a bad desire. Satisfaction will be felt when someone can have what they want. Conversely, when these desires are not fulfilled, a feeling of disappointment and sadness will arise. This sadness can lead to frustration.

Kiko enrolls herself in Prism, an art school that had been her dream for a long time. Kiko is feeling anxious, which is marked by her pounding heart, when she gets an envelope from Prism containing a statement stating whether she is accepted or not at the school. It can be seen in the quotation below:

My heart thuds. And thuds. And thuds.  
Oh my God. Oh my God. I look back at the envelope. It's so thin. How can it be so thin if it's a "yes"?  
I start to pull the letter out. I need to see the words. I need to—  
"You didn't get in," Mom blurts out before I get the chance to read anything at all.  
My heart implodes inside my chest.  
She stands up, her arms folded in front of her. "I'm sorry, Kiko. But you didn't get in. I know you really wanted it, and even though I'm still very upset with you, I do mean it. I'm sorry."  
I don't even realize I'm crying until Mom turns into a blurry pink and peach blob. (Bowman, 2017: 77)

The quote above explains a change in Kiko's mood from initially exciting to sad after her mother, who has already read the letter, tells Kiko that she is not accepted at Prism. Kiko's anxiety is

mark by Kiko's feelings. The quote "My heart implodes inside my chest" which means Kiko feels so anxious that he feels like his heart is exploding.

What am I going to do now?

I have no backup school. I have a mom who has been encouraging me for more than a year to stay at home and go to community college—which, quite frankly, sounds only a tiny bit better than bathing in acid and letting a coyote eat my legs off. I don't have anything against community college; I just can't imagine spending another year living at home with Mom.

And Uncle Max.

I feel terrified. I feel completely lost.

Oh my God, what am I going to do now? (Bowman, 2017: 81-82)

The quote above considers anxiety from frustration. Kiko feels disappointed because she can not enter the Prism after everything she has done. Kiko feels afraid when she thinks of herself not accept at her dream school and having to live with her mother and Uncle Max. Kiko feels frustration because she thinks that entering Prism can be a way for her to get out of her toxic life. The quote above considers anxiety from frustration.

### 3.2 The Effects of Kiko's Anxiety

Anxiety has effects that can affect almost anyone. Sometimes it can damage the mind and also affect the body. In this case, the writer will describe the effects of Kiko's anxiety on the various events that happened to her.

#### 3.2.1 Emotional Effect

One of the effects of Kiko's anxiety is emotional. It is shown that Kiko experiences uncontrollable emotions, which are characterized by feelings of anger.

I stand up, my whole body convulsing with anger. "You care more about Uncle Max than me. The only reason you don't want me to leave is because people might ask questions and then you'll look like a bad mom." (Bowman, 2017: 155)

The quotation above shows that Kiko, who is at odds with her mother, becomes very angry when her mother places more importance on Uncle Max as the person who abused her child than her own child. Kiko expresses the resentment she harbors against her mother. She keeps it to herself because she does not want her mother to be angry with her, but she feels that she needs to tell her mother what she is thinking.

#### 3.2.1 Kiko's Social Anxiety

Another effect of anxiety experienced by Kiko is social anxiety. Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD) is a fear of social situations because it avoids negative judgment from others. People with SAD may show symptoms under certain conditions, such as performing in front of an audience or in any social setting (Alomari et al., 2022).

Kiko, who is an Asian-American woman who lives in a small town environment that is racist, grows up to be a woman who lacks confidence. As previously explained, environmental factors affect a person's anxiety because the environment affects a person's growth. Kiko always finds it difficult when she is in a social situation, having difficulty adjusting to a new environment and communicating

with other people. Kiko is described as a character who has social anxiety by Bowman in the novel *Starfish*.

<sup>6</sup> "I'll be right back," she says, and as soon as she disappears into the next room, I feel like someone has yanked my social crutch out from under my arm. I'm floundering. All I can think about is Emery coming back so I can have someone to hide behind. (Bowman, 2017: 25)

From the quotation above, it can be explained that when Kiko is invited to a party, she attends the party with her close friend Emery, who always helps her when she is in a social environment. Emery helps reduce her social anxiety. However, Kiko's anxiety arises when Emery left her alone. She needs Emery to hide from her social anxiety. Kiko also wants to be like other people who socialize, but she does not understand how Kiko feels she does not deserve to be at the party.

<sup>29</sup> Still, I'm having so much fun I'm starting to get a headache. I'm not used to being around so many people. I'm not used to laughing so much. I'm not used to being so happy. (Bowman, 2017: 107)

In addition, her social anxiety resurfaces when she and her best friend Jamie are at a carnival. The quote above shows that even though Kiko feels that being at a carnival with Jamie makes her happy. She still cannot cover up her social anxiety. Kiko's anxiety appears to be marked by this quote "I'm starting to get a headache", this indicates that being in a social environment gives a bad reaction to Kiko's body.

### 3.3 Types of Kiko's Anxiety

Based on the causes of anxiety in the previous discussion, the writer finds there are two types of anxiety that Kiko's experience, namely neurotic anxiety and realistic anxiety.

#### 3.3.1 Neurotic Anxiety

As stated by Freud (in Corey, 2009: 61), neurotic anxiety is anxiety that arises because of an instinctive sense of danger. This anxiety arises when feelings of fear arise and id instincts that come out take over the ego, and this causes the ego to make mistakes and fear punishment. Bad thoughts or panic attacks can be used to identify this anxiety.

"Uncle Max is coming over tonight."

The first thing I think of is my stuffed rabbit. The second is the feeling that something heavy and painful in the pit of my stomach is making me want to vomit.

"Oh." My hands fall into my lap. "What time?"

Shoji shrugs. I'm not sure if he knows why I don't like being around Uncle Max, but he's not stupid. Neither is Taro, even though he acts like it sometimes. When Uncle Max and I are in the same room together, the tension is suffocating. (Bowman, 2017: 17)

The quotation above is included in the type of neurotic anxiety. This anxiety occurs due to being influenced by Id, where Kiko's thoughts are about the possibility that her uncle will abuse her again every time she sees his face. Id triggers a feeling of fear which is marked by "painful in the pit of my stomach" and avoidance of being around Uncle Max.

I feel my heart start to race. My eyes count the people in front of me, assessing how much time is left before I have to speak to a complete stranger. "Is this going to be awkward? It feels like it's going to be awkward." (Bowman, 2017: 270)

The quotation above reflects a neurotic anxiety. Neurotic anxiety is a term used to describe anxious and uncomfortable feelings that arise when a person does not feel in control of themselves or their circumstances. Neurotic anxiety often leads to defensiveness and rigid patterns of behavior while resolving inner conflicts and restoring a sense of control. Neurotic anxiety is defined as apprehension about an unknown danger. In neurotic anxiety, the ego depends on the id because it can only produce anxiety. Kiko experiences neurotic anxiety, which is caused by her social anxiety that arises due to feelings of fear of something whose cause is unknown. In this quote, Kiko feels anxious when she is in a social environment. Id works when she is going to meet a famous artist and makes her feel that this will make her awkward and that thought triggers his ego to feel anxious which is marked by "I feel my heart start to race".

### 3.3.2 Realistic or Objective Anxiety

Another anxiety experience by Kiko is Realistic anxiety. This anxiety occurs when there is a sense of fear when danger approaches in the real world. It is also a painful emotion brought on by the perception of risk in the outside world.

I can hear him. I can hear Uncle Max.

Fear replaces my blood. It's everywhere, all through my body, and it's taking away my ability to move. I can't roll over. I'm not sure I want to. Because if I see him, everything will be real.

I wish I could turn to dust and disintegrate into the dark air like I don't exist at all. It would be easier that way.

If he touches me, I'll scream. If he comes any closer, I'll force myself out of the bed. But right now I don't move an inch. (Bowman, 2017: 141)

The quote above is a realistic anxiety. Realistic anxiety is a state that occurs in humans when they perceive themselves to be in real danger. The outside world drives the ego into realistic anxiety. Realistic anxiety is closely related to fear but, they are different. In realistic anxiety, the object does not involve a specific object. It was just an unpleasant feeling involving possible danger. Kiko's anxiety arises from feelings of anxious about her past that might repeat itself. Kiko feels she is in danger when the perpetrator of her sexual abuse approaches her again. In the quote "Fear replaces my blood" is Kiko's anxiety which is characterize by Kiko's unpleasant feelings, namely extraordinary fear.

## 4. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, the writer can conclude the results of the analysis of anxiety experience by Kiko. First, the writer discovers that there are four causes of anxiety experienced by Kiko in *Starfish*, such as negative experiences in the past, Kiko's conflict with her mother, Kiko's environment, and her frustration. A negative experience in the past is one of the most influential cause of Kiko's anxiety. The act of sexual abuse committed by her uncle has made Kiko feels negative emotions marked by foreboding and somatic signs of tension, such as a racing heart, sweating, and often difficulty breathing, this always happen to her when she is near her uncle. The second cause is the conflict between Kiko and her mother. Kiko's mother never cares about her children and always defends Uncle Max even though she already knows that Uncle Max has abused Kiko. This conflict causes emotional tension which triggers Kiko's anxiety. The third is the environment. Kiko, who is born half-Asian, experienced racist acts in her small town, which causes her anxiety to arise whenever she is in a social

environment. The fourth is her frustration. Kiko cannot get into her dream art school, which causes her to become anxious, which triggers her anxiety.

From these causes, Kiko experiences several effects such as emotional effects and social anxiety. The emotional effect experienced by Kiko is uncontrollable emotion, which is feeling angry. The next effect is that Kiko experiences social anxiety disorder, anxiety will appear whenever she is in a social situation. It makes her difficult to interact with other people. Finally, from the analysis, it is found that Kiko's anxiety is included in the type of Neurotic anxiety where Kiko's Id triggers her ego to feel anxious. Apart from that, Kiko's Id also makes her feel afraid of something that could harm her. Besides neurotic anxiety, Kiko's anxiety is also included in realistic anxiety. This realistic anxiety appears when there is a sense of fear when danger approaches in the real world. Kiko feels threatened every time her uncle approaches her.

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# KIKO'S ANXIETY IN AKEMI DAWN BOWMAN'S STARFISH

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