1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Literature is a body of written and valued as works of art. Literature may be classified according to a variety of systems, including language, national origin, historical period, genre and subject matter. Rees (1997:9) says that Literature is writing which express and communicates through feelings and attitude towards life.

Roberts and Jacobs in book Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing (1995:2) Literature are refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas. Before the invention of writing, literary works, were necessarily spoken or sung and were detained only as long as living people performed them. Literature may be classified into four categories or genres: (1) prose fiction, (2) poetry, (3) drama, and (4) nonfiction prose. From the various types of imaginative literature, my choose falls on nonfiction prose, exactly on novel, which is a nonfiction prose narrative of considerable length and complexity, portraying characters and presenting an organized sequence of events and scenes.

Peck and Coyle (1988:102) say, “The novel reflects a move away from an essentially religious view of life towards a new interest in the complexities of everyday experience. Most novels are concerned with ordinary people and their problems in the societies in which they find themselves”. Rees (1973:106) says, “Novel is an immensely challenging task, as used in a broad sense, the term
nonfictional prose literature here designates writing intended to instruct, to persuade, to convert or to convey experience.

Novel is human literature creations. Novel does not, however, present a documentary picture of life. Kennedy (1991:203) says that novel is a book length story in prose, whose author try to create sense while we read, we experience actual life. The novel is a picture of real life and manner time when it was written. Some of them are fiction (unreal) and some of nonfiction (real). In nonfiction novel, the author’s present actual people and events. In fiction novel, the readers will know about characters are categorized as a main character and peripheral characters. Character makes the story become real and interesting. We can understand about the way of story in a novel. Without character, the novel is nothing. The readers can get meaning and many messages of life from the character in a story. To understand a novel, we must be able to know the elements of prose, such as setting, plot, theme, characterization etc. And we need the ability to identify the element of novel if we want to analyze a novel.

The writer chooses “Just One Day” novel written by Gayle Forman in 2013 because the Writer is interested in that. She is one of wonderful author of the New York Times bestsellers If I Stay and Where She Went. Most people in all over the world have read it, or heard a radio version of it. The author is really creative in composing the novel so that messages of the story can be sent to the readers. This novel tells about love, friendship and the travel. The writer would like to describe The Characters in Gayle Forman Novel: Just One Day, because the writer really interested in this novel.
1.2 Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the analysis, the problem of the study may be recognized as follows, **how are the characters depicted in the novel?**

1.3 The scope of Writing

There are many aspects can be discussed in this novel, nevertheless the writer is focus on The Main Characters in *Just One Day* by Gayle Forman. Based on the problem, this study is focused on the main characters in the novel.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

In this paper, the purpose of the study is to describe about the Character depicted in the Gayle Forman’s novel “*Just One Day*”.

1.5 Method of the Study

In this paper, the writer uses the work of the library method. Wellek and Warren (1994:24) which is the approach taken the data from text itself and also use library method (*Library Research*) that is by collecting data from books in the library and also search the information from internet, such as data are collected, sorted, and summarized.

1.6 Reason for Choosing the Topic

The writer has chosen Gayle Forman’s novel *Just One Day* as the subject of this paper, because the writer is interested in the main characters in this novel, especially the main character of Allyson Healey who is interested in character.