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ENGL 333

5 December 2018

African American and Critical Race Theory Sandbox Essay

In the story *Girl* by Jamaica Kincaid, the ‘girl’ in the story is clearly of African American decent even though it is not explicitly expressed. The ‘girl’ in the story is racialized, gendred, and classed by her own mother. Even though the intention of her mother may be to “protect” the morality and virtue of her child, and it is clear that they are condemned by elitism. The ‘girl’ has to live and exist in a world that is conceptualized, unwelcoming, and uninhibiting. ‘Girl’s’ blackness makes her an “other” within her own living environment. The ‘girl’s’ very existence subversively disrupts the status quo enforced by the Western world. The protagonist is there only to perform her allowed role in society. Whiteness inherently defines this role for her even though she reaps no real benefits from complying to these standards. Black women in the short story are forced to be one dimensional and passive. The Western white man is the quintessential human being, like Jesus the Christ, and diverse versions of human beings are simply aspiring to be in their likeness. It's also a prose poem that shows the lack of freedom the Caribbean ‘girl’ has to become a strong individual while living with the neo-colonial, patriarchal values of her mother. *Girl* is mostly a surplus of commands a mother gives to her daughter. ‘Girl’s’ mother is actually really not building her daughter's self-esteem, and you've got a daughter who's pretty silent.