

# Children and History in the Caribbean Novel: George Lamming's In the Castle of My Skin and Jamaica Kincaid's Annie John.



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## Children and History in the Caribbean George Lamming's In the Castle of My Skin and Jamaica Kincaid's Annie John

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### Abstract

In my own research and teaching of Commonwealth literature I have been  
conscious of a dilemma confronting those who would wrestle with the  
and yet remain committed to the cultural practices and literatures of  
the decentered margins of former Empire.<sup>1</sup> Contemporary theory, especially  
within academics of the 'developed' world, is then exported for its  
debasing, and re-inscribing subordinate positions for the subjects of  
literature from the so-called 'underdeveloped' world. Theorists question the  
canonicity of the very texts they claim to 'decenter', or use European  
language and textuality to re-colonize writing from newly independent  
regions of the world.<sup>2</sup> Once again, the 'underdeveloped' world provides  
materials for the careers and profits of more technologically advanced  
consumers who import the raw material (literature) and convert it into  
(theory). This unfortunate condition underwrites whatever it is that



essay such as this - with novels from the Caribbean.

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