

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.¹ Contemporary theory, especially
within academics of the 'developed' world, is then exported for its
debasement, and re-inscribing subordinate positions for the subject 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.² 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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