

Gloria Naylor's Linden Hills: A Fine Description of Burdens and Misguided Notions of the Middle Black Community

Authors : Kalluru Maheswaramma, Putta Padma

Abstract : This study makes an attempt to demonstrate the wondrous world of the upwardly middle black community in Gloria Naylor's Linden Hills. Gloria Naylor's first novel The Women of Brewster Place is about the working class and Linden Hills about middle-class Black America. Naylor believes their serenity that is lost in the middle or working class black people as they move into the upper patriarchal society. Naylor challenges the different forms of superiority, homophobia, and chauvinism, interracial bias, and the like, which plague a community so significantly trying to be acceptable in the larger white community. In an ironic twist, Naylor creates characters that recognize their desire for a solid black community but who in reality ignore blackness and negate any emergent sign of its development. Linden Hills is an expose of the wealthy and spiritually dissolute upper class. Linden Hills is an examination of an upper-middle-class African American community in which women are largely exploited or invisible and in which men have, in the course of upward mobility, sacrificed their racial identity and their essence. Linden Hills is a social world, which includes firm stratification, false values, and an immobilizing impact on its residents. Touching a brief note upon the origin and development of African American Literature as well a note on the chosen writer and her works, the paper proceeds to depict the middle-class black community of Linden Hills.

Keywords : gloria naylor, linden hills, African American community, the middle black community

Conference Title : ICEAS 2015 : International Conference on English and American Studies

Conference Location : Chicago, United States

Conference Dates : October 08-09, 2015