

## **Abstract**

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in exploring the unique experiences of marginalized communities and how their experiences are reflected in contemporary literature. This thesis analyses and focuses on young African American women and their environment, specifically how the environment that surrounds them becomes reflected in parts of their identities. The particular features analyzed in this bachelor thesis include the contemporary African American feminine identity, political views as an identity feature, and a sense of security, all concerning the concept of environment. These distinct elements are explored in three contemporary novels by young African American women writers: *Such a Fun Age* by Kiley Reid, *Nightcrawling* by Leila Mottley and *The Other Black Girl* by Zakiya Dalila Harris. The goal of this thesis is to show how much young African American women are affected by their surroundings and what it means to be a young black woman in contemporary American society. Most importantly, this thesis explores how vital of a role femininity, one's political views, safety and security play in one's life. One of the outputs of this work is a short comparison of several intense situations/events that the main characters of the three novels experience. This thesis also briefly introduces the various terms and concepts that play a role in this work. After establishing essential terminology, the focus of the discussion turns to the exploration of the three contemporary African American novels mentioned above. This An analysis of the main characters and themes is offered, the main characters being all young African American women living in modern-day America. Each chapter is dedicated to each novel. The terminology knowledge is used to bridge the concepts concerning the novels' characters and themes in each of the chapters. Respected secondary sources are employed as well. The work also investigates how these literary representations link with broader social, political and cultural challenges affecting African American women. In conclusion, this thesis helps us grasp young African American women's perspectives and experiences more deeply.

Shedding light on the intricate relationship between race, gender, politics and the environment in modern America, it examines the themes and character development in contemporary African American literature. Furthermore, this thesis emphasizes the need to focus on the experiences of young African American women while addressing social and political dilemmas in modern-day American society.

### **Key Words**

contemporary African American feminine identity, identity, young African American women, safe environment, political views, security, intersubjectivity, authenticity vs. success, social classes, racism, intersectional vs. white feminism