

# The book of negroes analysis essay



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BUSTER**

This novel ultimately allows us to understand the life of Amanita, and how the damaging journey as a slave led to her “loss of identity”. Physically speaking Amanita shows her loss of identity through various situations where she could not defend herself and was abused. Secondly Amanita was mentally abused by her poor relationships throughout the novel, which brought down her self esteem and contributed to her loss of identity. From a social perspective Amanita was damaged through the humiliation and the way the Africans were looked down upon compared to the people of white descent (tubas).

Abuse is part of slavery and Amanita is a firsthand example.

Throughout the novel there are many situations where Amanita has no control over what is done to her. The cruelty is provided by different characters but a major factor of Amanita's abuse is her first plantation master Appleby, who she explained had said “who owns 161”) Appleby at this time is abusing Amanita physically taking control of her body, sexually assaulting her and having her reply with “master”. Appleby was not the only master that physically abused Amanita, although Lined treated her with more respect than the rest of the tubas.

When they encounter each other again Lingo's anger over the lack of indigo trade led him into reacting in an abusive way. “I tried to yank my wrist free but he held firmly.

With his other hand, he slapped me in the face. “(Hill 227) explained Amanita about the physical damage that Lined had done to her, once again she received this abuse that she could not do anything about. Amanita

experienced all types of abuse and each situation is a scarring one for her but one situation literally scarred her for life. Amanita went through a harsh moment, “ It’s the mark was branded with, out back in your own slave pen, when I was eleven years Old. He explained this to slave owner, William Armstrong. Amanita had burned initials written onto the flesh of her chest that took her own identity and branded her with the letters “ G.

O. “. Therefore it is successfully demonstrated that Amanita has gone through physical abuse, destructive momentous that led to her loss of identity. Amanita suffers dramatically during her journey of survival, having to endure pain in ways that some people cannot even imagine.

Abuse varies in many forms and a mental state of a person is fragile when going through the problems Amanita encounters throughout the novel.

African 161) the words now planted into the mind of Amanita, she had no domination over what happened. She avoids being beat by Appleby, gets assaulted sexually and then treated as if it was a choice of her own for the harassment to occur. Amanita shows concern over her husband as soon as he leaves her side. “ Clarion cleared his throat. ‘ The ship went down’ “(Hill 369) this information only makes Mantis’s situation more difficult.

She is a very hopeful person but receiving the news that Checker has most likely died on board destroys her in a major way.

Another instance where Amanita is retreated with mental abuse occurs when Appleby appears again in her life. “ Careful how you speak to the one who owns 306) Navaho 2 reminds her that she has no say or rights as a human

being, bringing back memories between the two that she did not want to be reminded of. Ultimately the mental state of Amanita has been destroyed with particular situations that are key to the destructive damage. Socially slaves were humiliated and disrespected in manners that they could not withstand, Amanita exemplifies the feelings of what the Africans went through.

In the beginning of the book, an example of social damage appeared, “ ‘ Mary’, I said softly, I pushed the word through my lips and told myself it would be the last time would ever say it, or his 72) as the white people(homelands) did not care for the names of the slaves and did not care to learn them. Amanita was forced to forget her given name at the moment and consider herself as “ Mary” like the rest of the slaves. Socially Africans were discriminated because of their skin color and Amanita had a hard time understanding that concept “ A big man took me by the arm and pulled me to the door. ‘ We don’t serve niggers,’ he said. As Amanita is cooking for information she tries to get answers from a local store and is told that because she is black she cannot be served, which socially abuses her and makes her feel less than everyone else that is being helped inside that store.

Force is usually looked upon as a form of physical abuse, but can also be looked at as socially damaging “ The tuba came forward, ripped the cloth away from my waist and motioned with his hands, he wanted me to spread my legs. ” a demonstration Of the aggressive humiliation that Amanita went through in front of many people, it ruins her as a person, taking her dignity but also her identity.

Social abuse is proven evidently by author, justifying the ways Amanita loses her identity through various conditions. Navaho 3 ultimately, it is evident that slavery destroys a person's character, through physical, mental and social abuse. Here Amanita reveals her journey and proves that those who undergo these types of abuse will encounter their “ loss of identity”.

Aggressiveness, harassment and humiliation all display a factor into the lives of each slave and more specifically Amanita. Therefore, Amanita allows us to understand the hardships that her and the rest of the slaves endured throughout this period of time.