

Book reading reflection

Literature



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Book Reading Reflection Book Reading Reflection Alexis De Veaux, in her book *Yabo*, tries to capture the delicate essence of the different worlds most people are forced to live in because of what society demands of them. In her book, it is clear that there are conflicting worlds in which some of the characters fear dealing with some issues because they appear too complex to handle, or are afraid because of what people might say or think. As the main characters are introduced in the book, it is clear from their mannerism that their lifestyle and social existence is influenced by their current environment. The author brings this truth to light through some of the aspects of language that the central characters choose to use, and at the same time, provides an insight into the daily lives of the characters. This paper will examine the book, and relate some of its material to the changing world being witnessed today.

The progression of the book makes it clear to the reader that most of what the author is describing or trying to relate to is freedom; an aspect of life that most people do not get to enjoy. The parents being described are bound by different fears about their child, their social status, and their overall wellbeing (Alexis, 2014). The author is keen on bringing this out by describing the situation the parents are in especially with regards to their work, their lifestyle, and the operation the father had to prevent them from ever getting another child. All these aspects describe the lives of most people in the world presently, who either battle with insecurities based on their gender, sexual orientation, or even their social status. The use of poetry to bring this out is seen as one form of expression where the author can attract the attention of the reader, and at the same time, prove the power of change that poetry possesses in terms of change.

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Personally, I believe that in this fast-changing world, literature can be used as an eye-opener in terms of socio-political change. In a world that is suddenly becoming aware of the rights and equality of more than just the minority groups that exist, the book *Yabo* acts as a revelation that a revolution, through works of art, is always a possibility; one which individuals must accept and use in order to achieve their objectives. Through their well-structured verses and conceptualized resonance, works of art that tend to delve into the mythical and traditional boundaries set by society are working to change all perspectives, hence; bring forth different viewpoints altogether (Alexis, 2014). In a bid to transgress all laws, both political and social, literary works such as *Yabo* need to be present. They are tools for change; change that most people desperately need.

After reading this book, it became clear to me that as the world changes, the thoughts and perceptions of most people also change. However, there are those elements that tend to be resistant to change. This is depending on their socio-political background, even as they struggle to find footing in a world that could easily destroy even the toughest of individuals. The mutability of time and gender classification in this book makes it a surprise read for anyone interested in trying to connect or break the lines of tradition. This is while trying to find a new perspective or viewpoint on issues and matters relating to the socio-political environment most people are a part of in everyday life.

In conclusion, trying to separate art and politics may be a misguided concept or task. The two are always at loggerheads; they confront each other in terms of their revolutionary aspects, thus; bringing the best out of each other. Artistic intellectuals such as Alexis De Veaux cannot be separated

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from current events. The addition of new flavors comes as a result of the presence of such intellectuals, and through their works. Yabo tries to engage with tradition on some levels, and at the same time, breaks with it on countless other occasions (Alexis, 2014). The author, and in turn the book, acts as a gear to the wheel of change that is taking place in the world, and will continue to act as a tool for revolution in the social and political scene.

Reference

Alexis, De Veaux. (2014). Yabo. Washington, DC: Redbone Press.