

Abstract

West Indian fiction has been examined from the point of view of race, colour and class. Recent West Indian fiction however, with its full and sensitive portrayals of female characters, allows for sex as the determinant for an analysis. That is, the selected texts are examined by focussing on the portrayal and function of the female characters. Of central importance to this study then, is the woman's relationship with others - other women, men and her society in general. The treatment of specific female experiences, rituals and mysteries that reflect the complexity of her character as well as what writers, especially male writers achieve by the creation of major female characters is explored. One expects that this approach to the text will reveal a different perspective, one that offers more insight into its emotional truth.