

ABSTRACT

Anansi Educators: The Deployment Of African-Caribbean Folkloric
Characters In Primary Education

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Some significant aspects of Trinidad and Tobago's traditions, history and culture are centered upon folklore. Since folklore has proven to be a veritable warehouse of socio-cultural intentions, this thesis examined some of the meanings and values of folklore. This study also explored some of the goals and objectives of the Trinidad and Tobago's primary school system as they pertain to socio-cultural, morals and values and character education as possible reasons for the inclusion of the African-Caribbean folklore characters in the primary school education system.

The thesis presented a descriptive account of the origin and development of eight folkloric characters and also an analysis of the commonalities and differences of these characters. The study also focused on providing possible explanations on how the folkloric elements of story-telling inform the development and representation of the Anansi, the Douen, Papa Bois and the Soucouyant, characters found in the standards one, two and three primary school basal reading text entitled the *Trinidad and Tobago New Republic Readers* by Frank Porter.

To gather and present information for this thesis, mixed methodologies were employed, which used qualitative analysis supported by quantitative data. These included questionnaires, interviews, textual analysis and the double-entry journal which formed part of a subsequent class project.

Key words: Eduardo Anton Brewster: Folklore, Education, Primary School, African-Caribbean