

## Annotated Bibliography

Curb, Rosemary K. "Fragmented Selves in Adrienne Kennedy's "Funnyhouse of a Negro" and "The Owl Answers"" *Theatre Journal* 32.2 (1980): 180-95. 2016 Sept. 26. Database.

This source is a Theatre Journal describing Adrienne Kennedy in relation to the character's in her play, "Funnyhouse of a Negro." The source outlined the identity struggles that protagonist, Sarah, faced as an African American woman throughout the novel which reflected how Kennedy felt after assimilating into Ohio State University. Adrienne Kennedy grew up in a diverse neighborhood and attended schools where racism was at a minimum until entering college. Kennedy's first time facing discrimination and any hatred toward whites was at Ohio State University. The dorms were segregated thus she was forced to live in an all colored dorm, contrastingly supervised by a white woman whom Kennedy felt was racist. This instance was the first time that Kennedy faced extreme racism and felt any form of animosity toward a white woman. Likewise, Sarah feels trapped and isolated from any community as she often denies her black heritage and hopes to escape the powerless stereotype that comes with being a woman. Learning that the insights and multiple personalities of Sarah actually reflected a different perspective of Kennedy herself was significant background information to enhance my argument of repression and identity struggles.

Ramón, Emilio. "Funnyhouse of a Negro: Rejection of Womanness and Blackness as a "Melancholic" Cry for a True Diversity in American Society." *ES. Revista de Filología Inglesa* 32 (2011): 289-308. 2016 Sept. 28. Database.

This source is a criticism on *Funnyhouse of a Negro* that exposes the violence that took place in the African American community as well as the rejection to both, Blackness and femaleness. This criticism also further expands on the repression of women as well as the effects of one's skin color. Sarah feels trapped by her skin color and, likewise, isolated and powerless as a woman. This text also depicts the strong African Americans who attempted to follow their passion of becoming a writer despite the fact that they will most likely face much negative feedback. These women aimed to be seen as equal to men, but like Adrienne Kennedy, people were often offended by their work. By illustrating the struggles of African American women's attempt at becoming known in society, the accounts of female repression are further supported by this article. By showing the repression of many authors, Adrienne Kennedy's opinions on women's struggle are further supported aiming my project to delve deeper into these obstacles.

Brown, Lorraine A. "'For the Characters Are Myself': Adrienne Kennedy's *Funnyhouse of a Negro*." *Negro American Literature Forum* 9.3 (1975): 86-88. Database.

The title of this scholarly journal essentially informs the audience that the criticism will focus on the reflection of Kennedy, herself, in her characters. The scholarly journal also explains the significance of the setting. The story takes place in Sarah's room which represents her mind, thus the statue of Queen Victoria is a prominent alter-ego. *Funnyhouse of a Negro* is a complex play which provides a unique perspective on biracial heritage and minimizing the minority identity. Additionally, the significance of the characters and story in relation to Adrienne Kennedy is shown. This journal outlines the effects of the innate isolating factors that Kennedy discusses such as education, identifying as an African American and simply being a woman. The text further shows the fact that Adrienne Kennedy truly illustrates her own self, her beliefs and her means of coping with identity crises by revealing the strong sense of inferiority

felt by African American Women. This criticism further supports the immense identity struggle of uncontrollable traits providing an even stronger argument to support the basis of my exhibit.

"Race and Multiracial Americans in the U.S. Census." *Pew Research Center*. Pew Research Center, n.d. Web. 28 Sept. 2016. <<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2015/06/11/chapter-1-race-and-multiracial-americans-in-the-u-s-census/>>.

This source provided me with much background information on the demographics in the country over time. The article provided charts, analyses and examples of how the demographics of the country have immensely changed. The article also implicitly gave insight on some factors that allude to being a multiracial individual. In 1960, Americans were eligible to choose their own race in which they usually identified with the minority race. As Kennedy aims to present a unique, personal perspective of African American heritage, she does not identify with her minority identity but instead tries to mask it. From the 1960s to the present, the means of identifying one's race have incessantly become more specific to the extent that people can choose to identify as multiple races. This progression in the country is relevant to society today as well as Kennedy's accounts of biracial struggle throughout the novel.

Diamond, Elin. "Rethinking Identification: Kennedy, Freud, Brecht." *The Kenyon Review*. New Series/ Vol. 15, No. 2, Theater Issue, 1993 (pp. 86-99). JSTOR. 2016 Sept. 29. Database.

This source is a theater issue of an analysis on identity. The source begins by defining the difference of identity and identification. Although the two words share the same underlying meaning, and root, the implicit meaning and significance is completely different. Identity is solely who someone is defined to be, whereas, identification is how one chooses to portray themselves to others. The difference between identity and identification are shown throughout the play through Sarah's alter-egos. This source explores the characters and the means which Sarah forces an identity other than her own upon herself. For example, Sarah tries to embrace her white heritage and escape the powerlessness associated with being an African American woman. Within the source, Freud explores identity crises and it is conclusive that Sarah's character encompasses the traits, beliefs and desires of many disparate individual. This identification inevitably splits Sarah's identity leading to much confusion and conflict. As my project aims to explore the repression of African Americans, women and biracial individuals, this source provides me with much useful information regarding identity as a whole and the problems associated with it.