

Objective

Kennedy outlines her own personal experiences and struggles of being an African American woman in society. Although extremely disparate, to be African American and to be a woman were both seen as inferior during the 1960s. The 1960s were a time of great inequality, discrimination and activism. This time period consisted of much segregation and racism but, also progressed to be a tremendously, influential period. Many African Americans questioned their identity to the point where young children were questioning the origin of the word “nigger” and asking why individuals of different skin colors are so mean to each other. Prior to the start of the 1960s, a courageous, African American woman, known as Rosa Parks, risked her personal future to relieve the discrimination in relation to seating arrangements. Rosa Parks refused to get up from her seat for a white man causing her to go to jail, but also beginning the Montgomery Bus Boycott making a huge difference in the world today. Martin Luther King JR. also chose to utilize peaceful means of action and protest to alleviate this discrimination. These individuals, along with many others, selflessly fought for justice to benefit society as a whole.

To be African American or a woman was seen as inferior, but to be biracial held a more confusing stigma. With the great divide throughout the country, how could an individual identify as both African American and White? Throughout time, the means of oneself identifying with a certain race have become more lenient and it has become more common to identify with multiple races. Kennedy illustrates these struggles by providing insight on her protagonist, Sarah’s, dreams and alter-egos. Despite the change of physical setting, the entirety of the novel delves into Sarah’s mind. Contrary to most, Sarah wishes to identify with her White heritage as opposed to her minority culture. Her inner selves represent her desire to isolate herself from society, conflict

and trauma. These forms of immense racial injustice have been decreased due to strong individuals, such as Dr. King and Rosa Parks, fighting for what they believe despite the consequence. To be biracial and a woman is now embraced as opposed to oppressed due to the increased commonality of such identities. It is interesting to explore the progression of women from their previously passive stereotypical characteristics to increased number of impactful women including the recognition of a woman as a presidential candidate. Likewise, to be biracial is considered the norm and is hardly questioned. Society will benefit from recognizing this unique perspective of internal struggle through Sarah's struggles relating it to society today.