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Middleton, English 9H

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Annotated Bibliography: African Culture & Its Mythology

**G**illespie, Carmen. “Goddess Figures in Literature by African-American Women.” *Critical Companion to Toni Morrison*, Facts On File, 2007. *Bloom's Literature*, online.infobase.com /Auth/Index?aid=101033 &itemid=WE54&articleId=16084. Accessed 13 Jan. 2021.

**SUMMARY**

This literary criticism analyzes the role of African-American literary goddess figures from their social and “diasporic cultural roots.” **One key idea** of the source is that Afra American goddess figures teach that women should be valued for their creativity and sense of humanity (which also conveys that this is who women in this culture should rise to be). **Another key idea** that Gillespie argues is that the more contemporary goddess figures encourage African American women to overcome traditional stereotypes and recreate what it means to be a black woman in American society. **Further**, she says goddess figures emerge as a power force and “achieve self- hood in a racist, sexist, and classist society’’ by refusing to comply with oppression and .

**ASSESSMENT**

I found this source through Bloom’s Literature, so I feel confident in its credibility. As *a criticism,* ***it is biased***towards the author’s point of view, but I believe Gillespie makes strong points. The criticism is short, but the information is easy to understand. While it does not analyze, in depth, specific myths and their goddesses, it does point to some “goddesses” in contemporary literature. I would like more analysis of a story or a character. With that said, at the end of her criticism, she provided further resources to help grow the research.

**REFLECT**

The source proves useful as it conveys how African women are and have been defined through mythological goddesses, throughout their histories: they are to be valued in society because of their strengths, creativity, and humanity. This source helped me to see how important African women have been to society and their families in that past and in the contemporary. This source supports ideas from other sources I have viewed and brings it into the contemporary. It does not highlight specific monsters, but it does portray these goddesses as heroines, so that informs me how to characterize my hero - and whether to make it male or female! If I were writing a research paper, the phrasing and wording would provide me with many good framing statements and ideas.

CITATION #2 *starts here ON A NEW PAGE and keeps going until it is complete. You can copy the citation from NoodleTools or use the citation provided in the source.* ***Be sure to adjust the formatting to HANGING INDENT*** *Accessed 13 Jan. 2021.*

**¶1 Summarize**:What is **the point** of this book or article (to inform, to persuade, to entertain, etc)? What type of source is this (an academic article, encyclopedia article, media source, news article, timeline, etc)? What are the **main arguments (without detail)**? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of this annotation will be about one-third of a page. For more help see OWL’s handout on [paraphrasing and summarizing](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/quoting_paraphrasing_and_summarizing/index.html).

**¶2 Assess**: It is necessary to **evaluate your source. Use SIFT to determine the credibility of the source and to ARGUE its reliability and credibility.** **How does this source compare** with other sources in your bibliography (look at the text features, organization, ease of use)? Is this **source biased or objective**? Explain. For more help, see OWL’s handouts on [**evaluating resources**](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/conducting_research/evaluating_sources_of_information/where_to_begin.html). This annotation is the shortest of all the annotations.

**¶3 Reflect**: Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask **how it fits into your research journey.** **Was this source helpful** to you - **Did it support other sources or offer challenge to other ideas? What NEW information did it TEACH you**? How does it help shape your conclusions or argument about your research questions? How can you apply this information to write your own myth? **Has it changed how you think** about mythology and its role in a society’s development of culture and values? This will be the longest annotation and will tell me what you are learning.