

## Splintered Literacies Critical Response

Amanda Hayes in Splintered Literacies allows us to explore her experiences regarding her culture and how people in her life attempted to devalue her culture. Learning about her family's past and seeing how the modern education system or possibly just her teachers is mind blowing but also very relatable in my life. Our society isn't made to embrace other cultures although it is currently trying to change. I believe not enough changes have been made that every child and every person out there is not being embraced for their cultural differences, but they are being mistreated. I found it most interesting when she explained to us that oral cultures can be lost in the blink of an eye. Coming from a culture with a prominent portion of orally told history, I find it quite saddening that a culture and lifestyle can be lost so easily. The fact is that since I have become distanced from my culture while living in the United States, my culture seems as though it's being buried without my knowledge.

The various experiences I went through where a teacher, educator, or coach directed rude generalizations about me based on my non-white appearance, allow me to deeply understand these specific problems that Hayes discusses throughout her essay. The fact that I believe that what I experienced in my life is nothing in comparison to those who experience it frequently, just shows how there is something incredibly wrong with our educational system and the beliefs surrounding non-white individuals in America needs to be changed. I would say that a teacher hasn't bashed my culture or judged me for any language differences between them and my parents but sometimes I think that I'd rather hide the fact that it sometimes did happen. I have grown out of being embarrassed of my family's history but sometimes, I think a form of self-defense is showing people that I haven't been targeted. I once heard a teacher tell my own sister that she "knows your people like to work a lot" because my sister couldn't show up to a meeting, she was asking her to attend because of a job she had just gotten. I later ended up having that teacher myself and had to go to class everyday knowing that the woman teaching me Calculus and the one that my GPA depends upon, made an incredibly offensive stereotype towards my very own sister. I saw her continue to teach without any repercussions, every day I would see her waltzing around as if she was a perfect person and knew everything there was to know but there, I was in eleventh grade feeling so unworthy to even be in that class. "If she thinks this way about my sister then that's what she must think of me" that's the thought that goes through my head every day. Showing people that I have experienced many of the things that Hayes explains portrays me as weak or less than them because they never have or never will experience the things we did.

With the state our world is in and with the wonderful changes that are being made, we are in a perfect moment to create a way to keep tabs on educators and school systems to protect the children with differences and not allow teachers to go by unscathed when they treat a student differently based on a biased and racist belief. I believe that an educational system where teachers aren't being treated at the same level as the students and do not learn from their mistakes and our society is not a successful educational system. Not only should treating people with different cultures in an accepting manner be welcomed, but it should also be

demanding. Situations like these are the reasons that so many cultures are disintegrating before our eyes.

We see how our history departments talk about other regions' cultures and speak about them with respect but many times, that same respect is not delivered when the culture is right in front of their eyes in the very child sitting in the front row. We need educators to teach and treat children in the same respect, they need to show them that their differences are to be treasured and not hidden away. Seeing how teachers in my life have either treated my cultures differences with respect and in an endearing way, I know that there are good educators out there, but I also have experienced very stereotypical generalizations made not only about me but others that I have had to witness, others who like me did not know how to react and felt helpless and less than others. We need to show people that it is okay to have those differences and that they must embrace them. Educators must realize that their opinions cannot determine their treatment of students and that they decided to teach, and they should accept the fact that people of different backgrounds are going to be their students. They need to show them how important it is to highlight those differences because the world would be full of the same exact type of person if those different cultures did not exist