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ELECT

Self, Other, and Jump Rope Community: The Triumphs of African American Women

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Abstract

Using Critical Race Theory, Critical Literacy, Black Feminist theoretical framework and Oral History as research methods, four young African American women are explored as they navigate the insular surroundings, Jump Rope Communities, to seek power and registers of language in all-White, all-girl, elite schools in the late 1960s and early 1970s. In capturing the memories and lived experiences of these women over thirty years later, the study explored--divergent language codes, cultural, and economic stratifications, and divergent linguistic behaviors, and dispositions. The study focused on the reasons for prompted attendance at All-White, all-girl, private schools and success within culturally segregated Jump Rope Communities of spirit necessary to continue to move the race forward. The African American female is also explored. The research looks into the benefits of and challenges of segregation, desegregation, and the impact of the Civil Rights Movement on the continuance of Jump Rope Communities. Through a personal experience, the researcher took an inside look into the process of the establishment of a unifying goal, and synergy that exist within Jump Rope community members. Various forms of literacy such as family literacy, community literacy, music literacy, artistic literacy, and oral literacy were explored. In exploring the research, the researcher calls for a recognition of cultural self, cultural identity and an on-going effort to build a cultural community of cultural and linguistic heritage. INDEX WORDS: Black Feminist, Critical Race Theory, Oral History, African American Female, Segregation, Desegregation, Civil Rights, Literacy, Critical Cultural Identity, Minority Community

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