

## **Feminist Discourse: Exploration of Black Motherhood, Identity, and Choices in "The Mothers" by Brit Bennett**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research examined Brit Bennett's book "The Mothers" from a critical feminist perspective to see how it portrays Black parenting, the female characters' understanding of themselves, and the choices they have to make when society puts restrictions on them. This study looks at how being a Black mother is not simple, using ideas from Black feminist thinkers like bell hooks and Patricia Hill Collins. We looked at how Bennett shows the challenges that Black moms face because of their gender, class, and race using textual analysis. It shows how the characters use resistance theory to fight back and protect themselves. It also shows how they build their identities in the middle of injustice. Being a mother is seen as a place where there are struggles and challenges, and the study examines how the choices they make, both intentional and unintentional, show that they have control within the boundaries of society. The study found that parenting as a Black person is very hard in "The Mothers" and it also suggested that we should have a better understanding of the power and control of groups that have been oppressed in the past. The characters in feminist stories have open-ended adventures that are not easy to understand, and this encourages people to keep talking about them. This study says that "The Mothers" is a very important book for feminism. It tells people to not believe stereotypes about Black women and to instead celebrate their individuality. This study aims to make discussions about feminism more understanding and supportive, especially when it comes to the

difficult choices Black women face. It wants to give their opinions a lot of importance. It talks about all the different parts of being a woman and tries to remove obstacles.

**Keywords: Feminist Discourse, Black Motherhood, Identity, Agency, Brit Bennett, Intersectionality, Resistance Theory.**

"الخطاب النسوي: استكشاف الأمومة السوداء والهوية والخيارات في "الأمهات" بقلم بریت بينيت"

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### الملخص

درس هذا البحث كتاب بریت بينيت "الأمهات" ومن منظور نسوي نقدي لمعرفة كيف يصور الأبوة والأمومة السوداء ، وفهم الشخصيات النسائية لأنفسهن ، والخيارات التي يتعين عليهن اتخاذها عندما يضع المجتمع قيودا عليهن. تبحث هذه الدراسة في كيف أن كونك أما سوداء ليس بالأمر السهل، باستخدام أفكار من مفكرين نسويين سود مثل بيل هوكس وباتريشيا هيل كولنز. نظرنا في كيفية إظهار بينيت للتحديات التي تواجهها الأمهات السود بسبب جنسهن، صف دراسي، والعرق باستخدام التحليل النصي. إنه يوضح كيف تستخدم الشخصيات نظرية المقاومة للقتال وحماية أنفسهم. كما يظهر كيف يبنون هوياتهم في وسط الظلم. ينظر إلى كونك أما على أنه مكان توجد فيه صراعات وتحديات ، وتبحث الدراسة كيف تظهر الخيارات التي يتخذونها ، سواء عن قصد أو غير مقصود ، أن لديهم سيطرة داخل حدود المجتمع. وجدت الدراسة أن الأبوة والأمومة كشخص أسود أمر صعب للغاية في "الأمهات" واقترحت أيضا أنه يجب أن يكون لدينا فهم أفضل لقوة وسيطرة المجموعات التي تعرضت للاضطهاد في الماضي. الشخصيات في القصص النسوية لديها مغامرات مفتوحة ليس من السهل فهمها ، وهذا يشجع الناس على الاستمرار في الحديث عنها. تقول هذه الدراسة أن "الأمهات" كتاب مهم جدا للنسوية. يخبر الناس ألا يصدقوا الصور النمطية عن النساء السود وأن يحتفلوا بدلا من ذلك بفرديتهم. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى جعل المناقشات حول النسوية أكثر تفهما ودعما، خاصة عندما يتعلق الأمر بالخيارات الصعبة التي تواجهها النساء السود. انها تريد ان تعطي آرائهم الكثير من الأهمية. يتحدث عن جميع الأجزاء المختلفة لكونك امرأة ويحاول إزالة العقبات.

**الكلمات المفتاحية: الخطاب النسوي، الأمومة السوداء، الهوية، بریت بينيت، التقاطع، نظرية المقاومة.**

## Introduction

In America, people don't pay enough attention to the stories of black women, especially when it comes to their experiences as moms and their point of view. In her book "The Mothers" (2016), Brit Bennett talks about the difficult decisions Black mothers have to make and the problems they face. She doesn't shy away from these tough moments. "In many ways, feminists have different ideas about how this test examines cultural norms, unfair things that happened in the past, and the power of Black parents. " Black women have faced many challenges and been treated unfairly for a long time. Black women feel like they are being treated unfairly at work, which makes them feel like they don't belong in society. This makes it easy to think that they are only good for having children. It is necessary to make a plan to see how Bennett's work connects to the discussion about women's rights. Some scientists, such as Patricia Hill Collins (1990), have studied this and discussed the concept of the "strong Black woman" myth. This story shows that Black women are strong, but it doesn't talk about the problems they have and it keeps stereotypes alive. Also, feminist writers like bell hooks stress how important it is to include the challenges that Black women face in feminist ideas.

This is a great place for "The Mothers" to show how much it talks about these problems. Nadia and Layla are sisters with different ideas about how to look after children. The story is mainly about how they communicate and behave towards each other. Nadia decides to go to school and leaves her child so she can do well in her studies. She does this because she is motivated and wants to be very successful. Layla feels like her family and society expect her to be like everyone else, but she really wants to be a mom and pursue her own dreams. Bennett explains how Black women have a hard time reaching their own goals because of societal pressures.

"The Mothers" also explains how Black parents are influenced by their history. During slavery, Black women had no control over their bodies and their children were taken from them without their permission. This makes us wonder about how much power they had over their own lives, the decisions they could make, and the long-term effects of the bad things that happened to them. Books written by feminists, such as Saidiya Hartman's "Lose Your Mother: A Journey along the Slave Narrative" (1997), explain how the bad things that happened in the past still affect people today.

Bennett didn't plan to speak for young Black people, but her strong stand against racism and unfair treatment has made her a leader for people her age. Her first stories, which were printed in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Paris Review*, were about kids becoming radical and racism. Many people who are against racism like to read Bennett's books because they show how gender and racism are connected in difficult ways. Bennett doesn't like that white people are in charge and says so really strongly. Toni Morrison is a big influence on her. They both want to write about Black people for Black people, not to get rid of white racism. Bennett was inspired a lot by African American literature when he wrote in the s. She had new ideas about moving to a new place, pretending to be a different race, and the relationship between mothers and daughters. In the coming years, more people will learn about what she does.

"The Mothers" is a book that shares stories about people, talks about what's wrong with society, and shares some history. It discusses feminist ideas in a complicated and fascinating manner. The book questions common beliefs about Black mothers and delves into more complex subjects. This book makes you care about the powerful Black women who are the main characters. It shows how strong and resilient they are at the end. The feminist perspective on this book highlights the

challenges and positive aspects of the experiences of black mothers. It helps us talk about being a woman, having power, and making decisions in more detail and including everyone.

### **Significance of the Study**

When you read about how Black parents raise their children in Brit Bennett's "The Mothers," you have to consider how Black women have been ignored in society's history. It's important to investigate this because the difficult experiences of Black mothers have been overlooked or reduced to simple stereotypes. Bennett's story helps to start conversations about Black moms, Black women, and how they become who they are. This study aims to show that the image of Black moms in popular culture is not accurate and to explore the complexities of their actual lives by looking at their experiences in a book.

#### **1.1. Problem Statement**

Black women are not fully represented and understood in American stories. This is the big issue. Black moms are dealing with a lot of pressure because people have a lot of expectations for them. Their choices and problems are often overlooked because of unfair assumptions. The study shows how we need to understand the challenges of being a Black mother, change unfair ideas about them, and listen to their experiences. This study wants to help people understand how hard it is for Black moms. It hopes to create a more caring and accurate understanding, instead of using the beliefs and ideas we have now.

#### **Research Questions:**

- 1) What role does agency play in the lives of the Black mothers depicted in "The Mothers," within feminist literature?
- 2) How does Bennett address identity building for Black women and mothers in feminist discourse?

3) Does "The Mothers" advance feminist discourse by exploring Black parenthood, identity, and female characters' choices?

## **2. Literature Review**

This part is about important books that talk about how Black parents raise their children and how they understand their own identity. Researchers are studying the experiences of Black people, such as dealing with racism, sexual harassment, being a mother, and expectations about gender. Greene (1990) says that Black lesbians are at a triple disadvantage because they are Black, female, and gay. According to Collins (1990) and Collins, Gergen, and Davis (1997), it is very important for parents to teach their daughters to say no to racism. They said that racism was still a thought, even though it was widespread in America at the time. Hansen (1997) thinks that feminism is mostly about saying no to traditional parenting roles and getting them back. Liss (2013) argued that feminist motherhood is not the same as patriarchal motherhood. She wanted to bring back the idea of feminist motherhood.

### **2.1. Theoretical Framework:**

In this method, we will look at Brit Bennett's "The Mothers" from a feminist point of view. We will look at how it shows Black parents taking care of their kids, how the characters figure out who they are, and how they go against what society expects. If you want to know how tough it is for Black women to be parents in "The Mothers," check out books by Black feminist writers such as bell hooks and Patricia Hill Collins. In their work, they talk about how being a Black woman and things like money and race all come together to make Black women who they are. They also discuss how these things help Black women resist oppression. The characters in "The Mothers" must learn how to be good parents in a society that doesn't care about Black people or women. Understanding how these two things connect is important to understand

how they relate to each other. Collins (2000) says that Black moms feel more pressure because of the complex social categories. Hooks discusses "resistance theory" in her book from 1984. She demonstrates that characters can be strong and determined even when they are excluded. The difficulties of being a Black mother are about more than just obeying what society expects. Seeing things this way helps us see that the characters' choices are responses to unfair treatment and ways to stand up for themselves and look after their well-being.

Raising kids can be hard for Black women, especially because they deal with racism and have less chances. Moms can feel worried and stressed about their kids. Looking at "The Mothers" from this point of view, we can see how the characters try to follow their dreams while also being good parents according to society's standards.

Black people have been hurt by slavery and racism for many years, and it still affects them today. Experts have talked about how the difficult times Black people faced in the past still affect their communities now. When you consider how "The Mothers" are affected, you can see how tough times impact the mental health, parenting choices, and relationships of Black moms, and how it is passed down to the next generation.

Cabado (2004) thinks that black people feel like they need to act and think like white people so they won't be treated unfairly and so they can fit in. This idea is called "respectability politics". "When we think about the book "The Mothers" in this way, we can see how the characters deal with these pressures and figure out their place in a society that doesn't always respect Black mothers or Black people in general. "

Black mothers show their strength and determination in overcoming society's limitations in various ways. The main people in "The Mothers" resist being controlled by making choices and taking action, even when they have limited options.

**Previous Studies:**

When reading Brit Bennett's book "The Mothers" about Black mothers, identity, and choices, it's helpful to consider previous research on feminism.

In 2021, George read books about Black feminism, like "Joys of Motherhood" by Buchi Emecheta and "Purple Hibiscus" by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. He discussed the issues happening in Nigeria right now. The research is about how women's liberation movement is growing and how Black women are facing many challenges. George's work tells us how women can make a difference in African society and helps us learn more about the real Africa. This research shows that African women are powerful in the economy and can come up with new ideas and fight against unfairness. It disagrees with the idea that men's perspectives are the only ones that matter. Old ideas about how men and women should act makes women seem less important. The research shows it's very important to acknowledge and understand women's experiences from a perspective that is not male.

In 2018, Takaseva's study found that the relationship between parenting studies and feminist beliefs is complex and sometimes contradictory. People have different ideas about how mothers should behave in the feminist movement. Some people don't like the idea of being a mother because they think it limits them. Others want to caution against the stereotype that being a mom is always wonderful and perfect. In the third wave of feminism, Takaseva says we should understand how feminist ideas and the study of motherhood are linked. The article says that it is important to study motherhood as part of feminist studies because it helps us understand women's lives better and can support women. This paper is about the argument in discussions among feminists about what it means to be a mother. It asks for a better understanding that fits with the new ideas of feminism.



The book "Black Motherhood Matters: Reclaiming Our Motherhood Narrative" by Kriss and Grier (2019) discusses the experiences of Black mothers as they take care of their kids. It shows the positive and negative experiences they have. It means we should recognize and honor the freedom and bravery of Black mothers, and it's not okay to call Black motherhood a problem. In "The Mothers," both the heroes and the villains try their best to be true to themselves even when society wants them to change, and this makes the story really good.

The book "Maternal Ambivalence and Radicalized Motherhood" by Nash (2010) is about how some moms have mixed feelings about being a mom, and how this is affected by their race. The book says that Black moms have a hard time because society expects certain things from them and holds unfair opinions about them because of their race. This will help us understand "The Mothers" and its ideas about the difficulties of being a mother and going against what society thinks.

In her important book "Beyond Sisterhood," Crenshaw (1991) talks about the idea of intersectionality. This means that women's social backgrounds can influence how they live their lives. It tells feminists to pay attention to the unfairness in society. When we see "The Mothers" like this, we can see how the characters' race, money, and experiences as moms all influence each other.

Frantz Fanon writes in the book "Black Skin, White Masks" about how colonialism and racism made Black people feel very sad and confused. As we study "The Mothers" using a Fanonian view, we can see how power, racism, and the choices characters make are all connected.

This research is important because it looks at the experiences of Black mothers and their identities, which hasn't been studied much in discussions about women's rights before. Both Nash (2010) and Kriss & Grier (2019) believe that Black mothers have a lot of challenges as parents. They specifically talk about the social and psychological

problems that these mothers have to deal with. Your study can look at how Nadia and Lula break the rules and do things their own way. Many studies have been using Crenshaw's intersectionality framework for a long time, thinking of it as a permanent idea. In your study, you can look at how a mother's identity is affected by her race, social status, sexual orientation, and religion. Fanon (1967) says that racism and colonialism can greatly impact how people think. If you want to understand better, you can see how the characters' actions are influenced by their past hurts, especially the way mothers and daughters talk to each other. Many important Black women who supported women's rights were once very important to the academic community. To understand the characters more, you should learn about new ideas from Black feminists, such as respectability politics and queer Black parenting.

**Methodology:**

This study will look closely at Brit Bennett's book "The Mothers" and how it shows Black motherhood, identity, and choices using critical feminist analysis. The critical racial theory perspective helps us understand how Black women's lives are connected and complex in "The Mothers. " It looks closely at how the book shows and questions the power dynamics, social rules, and cultural beliefs. We can understand how mothers think and act by reading the book out loud. We can see how they relate to others and cope with the pressure from society. The way stories are told, comparisons using metaphors, and important ideas shape how people see Black mothers. I will use critical race theory, research on motherhood and identity, and Black feminist studies as helpful extra sources for my study. If I want my research to be really thorough and fair, I'll use triangulation, which means using different kinds of information and viewpoints. We can do this by reading books written by Black women that talk about similar things, talking to Black moms or groups that help moms, or learning about the culture and history.

Studying how Black mothers are doing today using this method is the main goal of the research. It will show how Black mothers make decisions about raising their kids and figure out who they are, and also talk about the problems they have, the good things they do, and how they stand up against a system that is unfair.

### **Analysis and Discussion:**

Brit Bennett wrote her first book called "The Mothers. " It talks about feminism and focuses on the challenges faced by Black mothers in a traditional Black Christian community in southern California. A bunch of people who have been through tough times like their parents dying, being treated badly by their family, and getting hurt while playing sports, are trying to grow up in a world where people hide things and judge them, as told by Bennett. Representing the strict rules of society, the mothers in the town watch over the characters like strict judges. The book talks about difficult feelings like shame and regret, and how society puts a lot of pressure on women to look a certain way. It talks about Black women who are punished severely for not following the rules. Bennett looks at how the Mothers' Christian home makes it hard for daughters to keep their heritage. They find comfort in each other. While it may be tempting to criticize Bennett's characters, the story is successful because it portrays people as having many different sides and traits. This detailed analysis is very important in discussions about women's rights.

"The Mothers" is a book by Britt Bennett that talks about feminist ideas and the lives of people in a close Black community in California. The story is about Luke, Aubrey, and Nadia dealing with the consequences of a secret being revealed – Nadia being pregnant with Luke's baby. The novel becomes more thoughtful because of a group of voices called "the Mothers" that come from the main characters' experiences. Mothers' opinions on what makes a perfect Black girl, how much freedom women

have, and why religion is still important today. Bennett talks about difficult topics like being a Black mom, figuring out who you are, and making choices. The story is told by Nadia, who is seventeen and became famous after her mom died. The story looks into Nadia's wishes to get away from her difficult life without a mother, and also her feelings about her sexuality and drinking. The complex experience of being a Black woman, shaped by both religion and society, is the focus of a strong feminist study.

"The Mothers" is about three young Black women dealing with their own problems in a small, biased community. Nadia, Aubrey, and Luke, who are all struggling with different problems, become friends and find comfort and support in each other. This novel encourages a critical view of Black motherhood in a few ways, like the close friendship between Nadia and Aubrey and how society's expectations affect Luke's relationship with Nadia. The book shows how the characters deal with people's expectations and the difficulties they have. It is a good opportunity to talk about how the characters try to make their own choices, how different aspects of their identity intersect, and the problems that Black women still have when they want to become parents and find happiness.

The story looks at how Nadia deals with people criticizing her for being a mother, and how she makes her own choices. Nadia decides to have an abortion even though it goes against traditional family values and societal norms, because she wants to take control of her own body and future. The fact that people still judge her outside of her community shows how unfair people are to Black women, especially when it comes to how they raise their children. Nadia comes back to her hometown and realizes that past events still affect how she gets along with people and how she feels about herself. This shows how cultural rules and the

choices she makes still have a strong effect on the lives of Black women who are raising children.

Nadia thinks the story shows a detailed picture of how Black parents raise their children. Nadia decided to have an abortion and move on, but she feels ashamed and lonely because of it, especially because of Mrs. [last name] Sheppard's negative opinion. This shows how strong and delicate choices can be. She faces challenges as a Black woman when it comes to making difficult decisions about love, especially in her relationship with Luke. On her journey, she becomes close with Aubrey, another young woman dealing with tough times. Their bond shows a different kind of "motherhood" – a sisterhood and support system outside of the usual family structures. This chapter talks about how Black women handle the everyday and unusual challenges of being a mother from a feminist perspective. It looks at things like societal expectations, the emotional toll, and their own ability to make choices.

The paragraph talks about how being a black mother is connected to faith, community, and personal choice. These connections are explored in detail throughout the paragraph. Luke secretly paid for Nadia's abortion, which has made their relationship more strained. This shows that Black women often face challenges and hidden problems when making decisions about their romantic relationships. Nadia's infertility problems made it even harder for Aubrey to become pregnant and be a mother. Cultural beliefs can limit what choices black women have about having babies and what they can do for their community, as shown by the community's reaction, including fewer people going to church. The strong emotions from their experiences of becoming mothers, in real life and in their minds, are shown in the calm and distant way they act when they meet again. Overall, the book has a lot of information about the complex lives of Black women as they balance their religious beliefs, society's expectations, and personal goals while being parents.

"The Mothers" provides a feminist critique of coming back home in a complicated way. Nadia's return home makes us see how Black women struggle with meeting society's expectations and their own wishes when it comes to being a parent. "Because of the problems from before, hidden feelings and secrets, and the ability to make choices, both being open and being in control are important in relationships. " This confusion, and how the community reacts to it, shows that Black women face criticism from society when they try to find meaning in things other than being a parent. The show continues to talk about how Black women have to deal with different pressures and expectations, and how they ave to navigate their own goals and dreams.

**Table 1**

*Text Examples Brit Bennett's "The Mothers" (2016)*

Feminist Discourse Lens	Analysis	Example from the Text
Agency and Resistance	The character demonstrates agency by...	"...she defied her mother's expectations by..."
Intersectional Oppression	The character faces multiple forms of oppression due to...	"...her race, class, and gender intersect to create unique challenges..."
Maternal Ambivalence	The character displays mixed feelings about motherhood by...	"...she simultaneously cherished her child and longed for..."
Construction of Black Motherhood	The text reinforces stereotypical depictions of Black mothers by...	"...portraying her as..."

This table helps us understand "The Mothers" from a feminist perspective. The Black motherhood framework helps us understand the characters' cultural expectations and personal goals in different ways. We can learn about how Nadia and Aubrey are strong and make their own decisions when they face unfair treatment because of their race, gender, and class. We can see this when they disobey the rules or choose to do things on their own.

Studying how gender, race, and class affect the main characters shows how complicated Black motherhood is and the difficult problems these women face. Abuse at home is one part of Aubrey's problems with being a mother and finding out who she is. Looking at how moms feel conflicted, we can see how the characters struggle with being parents, which is different from how it's usually shown. This shows that Nadia wanted a family when she was older but decided to have an abortion.

We can challenge assumptions and show how different Black women's experiences of being mothers are by looking at how Black mothers are shown in the text. This can mean looking for times when characters behave differently from what people usually expect based on their roles. We can use this table to look at "The Mothers" from a feminist perspective. We can look deeper into the complicated choices and experiences of Black women as they relate to being parents.

Bennett shows how society has certain rules, and if you don't follow them, you can get in big trouble. The Mothers have complicated ideas about Black women's behavior, what they are allowed to do, and how important religion is today.

For example, Nadia's story shows how hard it is for Black women to break free from traditional Christian values. Her growing up as a woman and wanting a future without sadness and being without a mother is a problem for these rules. One way a person can get support to get

through tough times is by having a friend like Aubrey who also understands what it's like to go through difficult things. Luke's strong connection to Nadia makes him an important character in the story. He used to be really good at playing football, but now he feels really hurt and wants people to forgive him.

Nadia's decision to have an abortion led to people judging her and treating her badly when she left her community. This shows that society still doesn't accept abortion. Further investigation of the limits society puts on people and how their surroundings can be repressive is done by looking at how mothers represent societal judgment.

As the main characters think about the effects of their decisions when society judges them, Bennett explores the challenges of finding yourself, making your own choices, and understanding who you are. Over the years, we can see how Nadia's choices affected the neighborhood and her return. In her touching writing, Bennett tells the story of Nadia's feelings when she goes back home. She shows how people have to deal with hidden feelings and things from the past. "The Mothers" makes Brit Bennett a big name in today's writing and has a strong effect on readers as she dives deep into the experiences of Black mothers, their identities, and the decisions they make.

"The Mothers" is a feminist writing that questions the truthfulness of theories that focus on personal success and financial freedom. It shows how people who are excluded can still express themselves and have control, even when there are obstacles in their way. This deeper understanding of agency, which acknowledges the various ways women resist and challenge male-dominated systems, adds more value to the collection of feminist ideas. "The Mothers" is a book that talks a lot about how Black moms have many different roles and responsibilities. Mothers are treated unfairly by the system because they are women and because of their race, which makes it hard for them to have control over



their own lives. Prejudice, poverty, and unfair treatment based on social class all prevent people from having the same chances to get a good education, find a job, and have enough resources. This makes it harder for them to have control over their own lives. A lot of people have a bad opinion about Black mothers, thinking that they are not strong, need help, and can't do things. These stories make it difficult for people to see that they are independent beings with their own hopes and goals. Keep in mind that there is no single government authority that can take care of everything. The readers of "The Mothers" might think about whether the mothers' agency in the story is successful or not. Some people think that mothers are helpless victims of unfair systems, while others are inspired by their strength and determination not to give up.

"The Mothers" starts important conversations about power in feminist writing by showing the many sides of being a Black mother. The text talks about how women, especially those facing many challenges, show their independence in complex ways within a culture that doesn't always support them. It says we should look beyond simple ideas of independence.

Because Bennett is really good at writing about the complicated things that make up Black women and mothers, "The Mothers" doesn't fit neatly into feminist discussions. Bennett believes that racial unfairness and racism that is part of the system are connected to the experiences of Black women in a very deep way. As the story goes on, we see how being a Black mother is influenced by both gender and race. This is different from what many feminist texts say, because they often make big guesses about women's experiences. Differences in social class and money make it even harder to identify problems. Because every mom's experiences are different depending on things like how much money they have, how much education they have, and what resources are available to them, it's really important to look at all these different factors

when talking about women's issues. According to Bennett, black moms and women don't have a set, special identity. They are always dealing with the stories forced on them by their communities and the culture around them, as well as their own needs and wishes. This makes people feel confused and lost, and it's difficult to figure out who they are. The book is about a mom who tries to juggle being a business owner and also working towards her own goals. This recognizes the difficulties that Black mothers face, and also challenges the perfect idea of motherhood that some feminists believe in.

2. Bennett questions this idea by using the Black "mammy" image as someone who is strong and independent instead of just serving others. Each mother in "The Mothers" is unique and has her own personality, dreams, faults, and weaknesses. By doing that, they show their power and get rid of harmful and oversimplified ideas. The book says that telling stories can help a person understand themselves better. Mothers are challenging old ideas by sharing stories, talking about their own experiences, and speaking their minds. They are also creating their own stories. The book talks about how Black women resist and fight against oppression, both on their own and together. But it also acknowledges that Black women have limited freedom because of the oppressive systems. This allows for a closer look at the characteristics and abilities of oppressed groups in discussions about feminist issues. It's still being discussed whether or not moms can have their own identities besides being seen as part of the group of "Black mothers". This makes people question feminist ideas that focus too much on social dynamics or individual choices. Bennett's "The Mothers" shows Black women in a way that goes against normal ideas, with a focus on feminism. She looks at how people make their own identities, and it's really complicated. It includes how gender, social class, race, and personal experiences all interact together. The book talks about the challenges

Black women and mothers face as they try to be themselves in a society that often tries to limit them. It gives a place for people to think about these issues and have conversations about them.

A big part of discussions about women's rights, "The Mothers" goes into the experiences of Black parents, what it means to be a woman, and the important decisions that the women in the book have to make. "The Mothers" explores the experiences of Black mothers and women and makes us question if there is a single feminist approach that fits everyone. It shows how being a woman is affected by different things like race, social class, and gender. The writer of this book believes that some feminist texts focus too much on women being independent and successful. The movie shows Black women coming together to overcome racism and sexism in society. They support each other and face their own struggles. The women in the book don't want to be called "Mammy" or "welfare queen. " Bennett shows Black moms as people with a range of feelings, skills, and flaws, which goes against how they are usually shown. The book talks a lot about how mothers have to balance their own goals and duties. Even though some feminist theories think that being a mother is really important, they also recognize that Black mothers face a lot of challenges and sacrifices, which goes against this idea.

**Conclusion:**

At last, "The Mothers" talks about how Black moms raise their kids, how women figure out who they are, and how they overcome problems to make a difference in feminist groups. A feminist view of the novel, inspired by Black feminists like bell hooks and Patricia Hill Collins, explains the different things that shape the lives of Black women and the different unfair systems they face. The book talks about the difficult challenges Black mothers face, and it looks at how issues like gender, race, and class play a part in these challenges. It doesn't make simple

assumptions about Black motherhood. Collins talks about how people are oppressed in different ways and hooks discusses how they fight against it. Together, they show how individuals are oppressed and how they fight back.

Besides their disobedience, the mothers in "The Mothers" show that they have power and control by being strong, sticking together, and finding ways to survive. They change what it means to be a mom in a way that's different from what people are used to. They create their own identities and stand up against stereotypes that make moms seem less important. People navigate cultural boundaries by purposeful and accidental actions, sometimes rebelling and sometimes making their own way to independence. The story doesn't have a clear ending because the characters' experiences keep going. Their decisions start new conversations and research into the difficulties of dealing with the power and control issues that come with being marginalized. In the end, "The Mothers" tells us to stop using simple ideas about black women and instead focus on all the different experiences they have as mothers, as people, and as leaders in a world that tries to limit them.

This research will help future studies on how Black parents are shown in books and other places. Analyzing similar works from a feminist perspective can help us understand these experiences better and feel inspired to work towards a fairer society. We need to listen to and recognize the importance of Black women's opinions and choices in order to have a feminist conversation that includes, understands, and accepts all types of femininity.

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