Chapter – V

Conclusion

*Bildungsroman* thrived in the nineteenth century as it very well suited the civilizing projects of its time. Since the “development” and “maturation” of the protagonist implied all the successful social integration whereby the genre came to be associated with the processes of assimilation, conformity and acculturation. But all through the twentieth century the so called “novel of education” had been challenged on all fronts. Though many critics had debated about the neritic value of the genre. Its conceptual boundaries along with its political function and its allegiance to the hegemonic identities besmirched and denigrated at once for its ambivalence. Its ideological closure the *Bildungsroman* also inspired regenerated interest critics set it in conversation with literary models and also challenged its traditional formal and thematic conversations challenging all its traditional thematic and formal conversations. It is the study of core of genre in an aim to challenge the very boundary formation processes. Indigenous women writers problematize the American “coming of age” prescription and its accompanying myths. It also examines the ethnic protagonists within familiar cultural narratives engulfing the American Dream, their mobility, freedom and individuality which as a whole draws on the tropes and themes of the *Bildungsroman*. It also reveals a kind of resistant or defiant transaction which defines the state of the protagonist which is at cross road on deciding whether it means to be or become an American.
The genre does have an instability overview at the same time sticks to the traditionally conservative bent. The hybrid space of the *Bildungsroman* offers an appropriate layout for the negotiation of a number of enduring and contentious tensions in the works of American writers. It further goes on to multiply and reframe the locus of tensions between the constant conflict of the individual battling between one’s individual desire and the demands of socialization. The work involves a study of the theoretical issues concerning Formation, Cultivation, Uniqueness, Individualism Autobiographical element, ancestry, full realization of the self and finally maturation of the protagonist. Each chapter introduces a theoretical or conceptual framework, then continues to organize discussions around the key tropes and themes, trauma and individuation, autobiographical to full realization. The advantages and the well-endowed life that Janie had compared to her lesser fortunate counterpart Maya who did not have the privilege of a safe and secure childhood. In the point of view of the protagonists portrays the unsettling of the *Bildungsroman* which gives voice to other ways of imagining the self, and the ultimate process of becoming. The enduring versatility, viability and socio-political function at this cultural moment mark a path in American literary history. All these factors gain more importance at a time when “being American” more aptly involves building walls, when borders are being closed and policing the bodies of others also have gained prominence.
A genre that evolved during the German enlightenment and presented the moral of the sociological shaping of an individual and the psychological aspect of the protagonist it’s known as the Bildungsroman. The parameters of the protagonist is always a young man who grows from adolescence to adulthood. It is also known as the “Educational novel” or the “Apprentice ship Novel” which explores the young adulthood of a protagonist who rummages in search of the meaning of life and in a loftier wisdom tries to comprehend the nature of the world. This concept of all round development of the individual in the panorama of the Black American perspective is dealt with in this thesis. It was during the Harlem Renaissance period that writers emerged to write about their struggle and their path to success or glory.

This kind of interest was kindled in Black heritage coinciding with efforts to define the American culture which was distinct from that of Europe, as an aspect which could be characterized by ethnic pluralism African American women’s literature had gained immense popularity and a lot of critical attention in the past century. It so happens that a considerable contribution of African American writers since 1975 have been from female Black writers. Two such renowned writers Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou are the topics of my study. Their works Their Eyes were watching God and I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings falls aptly into the genre of Bildungsroman.
Hurston uses the life and trials of her protagonist Janie to demonstrate the ability and the resilience of African American women in order to transform much of what others utilize to oppress and destroy their own strengths like gender, race, poverty and education, but this author uses it as a positive energy to gain extra power and empowerment. Reflecting the ideas and concepts of the author Janie is initially a naïve young woman who is initially forced to accommodate to the whims and fancies of all those she was made to live with. As time grew she realized her potential and transforms into a confident bold woman. Who would unapologetically go on to take absolute control over her circumstances which particularly was represented in her evolving hair style. Her self-assured portrayal of her body and her manner of dressing where well displayed.

On similar strings Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* Marguerite develops from a small child who is very self-conscious of her dark shin and timid, from which she grows up into a young lady who discovers the unique significance and the vitality of her Blackness. The young girl goes on to turn all three attributes like her hair, skin and body which others often view unfavorably into that of an asset. Both Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou convey powerful relation between the personal appearance and clothes throughout their works as associations between those aspects that are directly or indirectly associated to their personal understandings of moving from bondage to freedom.
The works of both the writers are related on various levels to that of their own lives, another important aspect of Bildungsroman being, an autobiographical element. Hurston’s dynamic and independent character is very much evident in the self-assured state of Janie right in the beginning of the novel. As she herself was a very dynamic writer who sprung from the Harlem Renaissance and was also instrumental in inspiring fellow authors to encourage them to write about the eccentric ways and unconventional methods. Hurston’s Zany character with prolific writing skills, outgoing personality and her rich experience from Harlem helped her to incorporate the autobiographical element wisely into her works and present it neatly.

Angelou on the other side shares the trials she faced a young Black child who was unceremoniously shipped between family members living across the country. Right from her unstable family life to the rape which she had to suffer at a tender age of eight. The fanciful flirtations with alcohol drugs and prostitution which lead her to her teenage pregnancy are specs of the few representations of adversity which could have marred her success and withheld her from reaching greater heights. Angelou was triumphant not only over these personal issues but was also able to come out victorious over the bitter strings of racism and segregation. She in fact had to climb mountainous hazards and finally achieve prominence in her literary and art career. Each of these authors led distinct lives, with varying hurdles and personal trials and all the shared components of themselves in their works. This thesis thematises the journeys of the protagonists and their purpose to enrich academic with a deeper
understanding of the significance of the self in formulating a distinctly African American stable self.

A concept by researching the aspects of these elements as related to the Black female identity is the development of the protagonists. Janie Crawford and Marguerite examining the significance of various outward elements of appearance in relation to female identity in both the novels reveal meaningful insight into the struggles and finally the potential triumphs of African American women’s image. As a proper understanding of a woman protagonist of a *Bildungsroman* novel this thesis provides a basis for comprehending the African American female’s relation to herself and the whole domain around her, a working characterization and description of the term and its general significance to African American critical theory is provided.

This dissertation evaluates and interprets how African American women writers transform the Euro American *Bildungsroman* into a favorable vehicle to express their aspirations and experiences undergone by Black Girls. Writers like Zora Neale Hurston, Toni Morrison, Gwendolyn Brooks, Gayl Jones, Maya Angelou, Sapphire, Ntozakeshange, Thulani Davis and Jacqueline Woodoon use African American cultural references and young women’s issues. Above all they use their oratory to create contemporary African American female *Bildungsroman* which accurately depict the lives of Black girls. In the process, these writers reveal how “gender”, “race”, and class as they exist in a racist society further more complicates the maturation process of the Black pubescent’s.
Chapter One presents the rising development history of the *Bildungsroman* highlights about what a *Bildungsroman* is and how it evolved and in detail about what is Harlem and their necessity to write. As the title goes about formation evolving or finding the self it fits like a glove into the Black American way of life. Double Marginalization of the Black women writers is the single major aspect of the *Bildungsroman*. It talks about the literatures explores certain issues which are very essential to the lives of Black young girls. They are confronted with sexual violence and silencing, with western standards of beauty along with integration into that of a unwelcoming “white space”.

The dissertation and this chapter further highlights and moves on to explore Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou works and how it portrays how *Bildungsroman* is a medium is as follows:

- Formation, cultivation, education and shaping of the single major character
- Individualism, Uniqueness, primary of his or her private life and as a representative of an age on culture.
- Biological element – which involves a sense of reality – A.mixture of fact and fiction.
- Psychological element.
- Full realization of the human potential as the goal of life.
➢ Ancestry of the Protagonist. This is what sets the scene.

➢ The education of the main character

  o That is maturation & preparation for impending adolescence and adulthood.

  o The striking part of a child’s home life.

The representation of the self through various manners strictly follows empirical issues in terms of “gender” and “race” and all the more prominent with reference to the women of African American tradition. The theme of “quest” which is the basic theme of this thesis has been discussed by the African American women writers who resist the conventional form created by the “ideals” and values of the Western World. The works of Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou were taken up for analyzing the life narratives. It aims to devise strategies in order to subvert the dominant ways of presentation of the self. The two works encompass a wider canvas that merely recount all their individual experiences. In recounting the traces the course of success rooted in the public world both these are the factors differentiate themselves to form distinct individual identities through their writing of the self. It is through their penetrating works where in both the writers had managed to produce veiled narratives of resistance at the same time successfully display social and historical context. These woman writers underscore the enormous odds which are passed against them by their respective milieu which ultimately make their work political.
“Ideologies can be held by a person or a group or a culture. No doubt a personal ideology is a result of life experiences and education. But even though personal ideologies grow out of experiences, they are not entirely private, experiences and our memories of them, are influenced by prevailing cultural attitudes about ethnicity, gender, class, appearance ability and occupation among other things.” (TFB 70).

“When resistance is the chief preoccupation of a country (or a race), the aesthetic must become political” (TFB 90). According to Selwyn Codjoe, in charting of their quest for the self, the two major epistemological issues which pertain both to the empirical and theoretical categories are wonderfully taken into account by African Americans the first always plagued by the empirical issues like that of gender, race and class as a result of which the life narratives of these are design and pre supposed to reflect all these issues. The second addresses the theoretical part which included the major within self-life – writing that is the theory which is clearly categorized into your divisions which are historical and narration to oneself. Objecting oneself and finally ideologising oneself.

The Second Chapter these are the varied aspects where the divisions which helps in separating the strands of the self which is represented to throw light on the self that is represented. The life writer applies the theory of study and the presentation of culture to their life writing which makes it distinct from the other canons. The life and times of these two writers were dictated heavily
by the empirical issues of gender and colour. Their writers’ works were centered on this theme of which they were a part of and also the proud intellectual members of the great Harlem Renaissance. The contributions of these authors revolve around the intimate knowledge one gains on the subject matter, which is their culture, and the text’s complex articulation along with its innovativeness. Unlike where the theoretical and also the empirical perspectives or the voices are presented most often separately or in an intertwined way.

The Third Chapter talks about Janie and her love for freedom and search for identity, her search for ecstasy and peace is portrayed as a journey where her destination is picturised as ideals about love and how to live one’s life. The highlighting factors is the novel is the author pictures’ the good in her life and captures how she undergoes many changes all through her journey. It does not keep brooding about the adversities of the suppressed classes. But the imagery in her life always conjures positive ideas in the mind of the reader. It recognizes that there are problems to the human conditions the ones like the need to possess, the fear of the unknown and also of the resulting stagnation. Zora Neale Hurston portrays racial wholeness in fact portrays the African American as being racially healthy. Hurston was discarded by the Black writing movement of the 30’s and 40’s for picturising the African American as a whole instead of portraying as an oppressed group or a downtrodden lot she was no militant to prove any theory. She successfully captures the essence of the Black womanhood which was more important to her than just social
criticism. She goes on to only trace the journey of the young protagonist. It is not chance that the three main characters who travel as co-passengers along with Janie happen to be men. But her voice shows a very strong self-determination which is more recognizable as Janie’s voice. She grows in conjunction with her author’s voice. The stronger her third person narrative is the more it resembles between the speakers text and Janie’s inner consciousness.

The uniqueness and individualism, the biographical element, the psychological factor and realization of the human potential as a good soul is very well portrayed in each and every aspect of *Bildungsroman*. The justification of how the novel fulfills all the parameters of the *Bildungsroman* is discussed in detail. The protagonist has already planned out most of her life in detail. Whenever she is governed by the laws of the cause and effect, each and every one of her actions has a reaction. It is in her quest to find herself she happens to make some decisions on her own. As we read we can figure out that Janie does not have free will. Her actions are mainly determined for her by people, events and other things out of her control. It is because of her character and personality that the reader comes to know that she does not have the complete power to take her life into her hands. Janie being an African American woman which is enough to determine a heavy amount of her future for her. The author tries to give Janie a chance to think for herself, but most often Janie does not have the power to take on those situations. The plan for her future begins with her huge loss of not having her real parents.
The author builds up a foundation for Janie that is bound to fall like a Roman Empire. Nanny takes the place as Janie’s guardian. The problem begins when her Nanny starts taking the position and in the process spoils her and makes her life’s choices for her. Her motives are lofty and out of the books ideals. All of her life, Janie was taken care of by people who believed that she was vulnerable and not capable of taking care of herself. Initially it was her Nanny then taken over by Logan kellicks, and then by Joe starks who are all instrumental in making up her mind for her. Janie would have had the experience to handle her problems all by herself and become a stronger person. It so happened that according to the concept of Bildungsroman the protagonist was in the dark and was not sure what she wanted for herself.

This strait turned out to be a weakness in her personality which allowed others to make decisions for her. But like all the central characters of the “Bildungsroman” she becomes a stronger personality as the story progresses though for most part she is weak and helpless to be able to take care of herself. The major tragic flaw in her is that she constantly chooses those men who promises to take care of her, but in the end it is her personality and her weakness which allows all of them to get the best out of her. Her life is governed by the flaw in her and the people that she must latch onto for support. The individualism, uniqueness and psychological aspects are very well portrayed in the novel. She grows into a successful protagonist who from nativity to intelligence is gained going through those marriages, triumphs and various other obstacles. Learning from her experiences on whom to be with she
learned to stand up for herself and speak her mind. Without those encounters with three different men of different personalities she would never be where she was at the end of the story. Learning different things and different aspects of her life teaches her how to live and learn as an independent woman. A woman with goodness and truth to herself.

All human kind loves inertia, as the fear for the unknown and a craving for stability in life. The need for this buoyancy in life leads to the concept of possessing things, as possession is a measurable and definite idea that all society had agreed up. When people begin to rely on what is the truth their progress stops they simply stand still. The novel does not just present the nihilistic helplessness of certain writers, but shows progress and how the protagonist evolves into understanding the basic human aspect that causes the fear of emptiness. Janie sets out on a quest to make sense of her inner void and comes out unscathed and unscarred. Though her loss alone at the end of the novel, she realizes that she is no longer filled with nothingness. Her destination becomes herself.

The Fourth Chapter deals with the plight of Maya a diagonally different character from that of Janie. A character who did not have the privileges of the previous character Maya was a lesser fortunate brethren. Beautiful looks and powerful guardians were the advantage Janie had. On the contrary though there were people who was ready to even kill as a revenge that was meted out to their child, she did not have a Nanny figure to hold her hands and walk the path for her unlike Janie. Though she had hurdles is her path to
enlightenment and her parents not there she had Nanny as a strong forte protecting and guarding her like a hawk.

The childhood of Maya did not have the basic prerequisites that a child need. The pre-requisites are preservation, nurturance, cultural bearing and healing which are all the comportment expected of a mother or a grandmother playing the role of a guardian. Providing shelter in the name of home place is one of the basic prerogatives of a mother, a secure place to grow up. Because the childhood stage is the only stage where a kid leads a hassle free, tensionless life. It is a place where a girl child is protected from the deadly predators. A home is a place which provides an innocuous abode place for her children, as it heals many of the worlds inflicted by racist dominations. It caters or fits in well into the concept of *Bildungsroman* the protagonist right from her childhood, undergoes a sense of loneliness and reclusiveness to fulfill her life’s mission. At a tender age she is separated from her mother and being dislocated and made to move from one place to another, it is not a surprising factor about the huge loss of the child. It is a mother who will teach the little daughter about African American ancient properties and funk. But though the child was deprived of the motherly care, she had the God motherly figure which is also an important factor of the *Bildungsroman*.

The grandmother does explain about racial prejudices and also helped her by showing how American consumerism is absurd and that she has to stick to her cultural properties as to sewing, cooking and cleaning. She also thought her how it was mandatory to completely forget the false assumptions on white
American dream. The first revelation of the *Bildungsroman* aspect for Maya is understanding her locus standi and the privileges that she does not possess. The grand mother and her uncle teach her that beauty is only for the whites and the child is taught how to be self-satisfied and understand her uniqueness and her own individuality and stay to herself complimenting her own culture and sticking to ancient properties.

**The Fifth Chapter** Hurston and Angelou share a unique agenda in respect to the presentation of their culture be it in their self-representational work or fiction. They on to dispel the myths imposed upon them in an alien ethos. Having the advantage of being a fourth and fifth generation African Americans they give it all they can to re interpret and to negotiate the identities that were imposed upon them. The woman writers also embark on a long journey in order to unravel both the “African American” as well as the “Female” both of this *Bildungsroman*’s deals with the issues of freedom, identity and the determination to stand up to the political and social oppression that had beleaguered their very human existence being women writers from the south they celebrate their strength, bonding and vitality echoing their Southern African American community when they go on to describe about their life in the south. The struggles, happiness, fears and closeness of the community are vividly mirror imaged in all their portrayals.

Maya Angelou realistically places the race problem as the crux of the African American existence. The author borrows the folk. Preacher’s voice and goes on to use formal devices such as anaphora, rhetoric and rhyme in order to
make her work memorable and made a mark not only in excellent poetry but also in varied genres for she represented a cultural tradition that never had a voice in poetry. But Zora Neale Hurston on the other hand mostly preferred to take up the folk lore and folk takes along with the customs and rituals within the community as the connecting force that integrated the society. By the process of blending the folklore into that of her personal account she beautifully narrates not only about her community but in the process dispels several myths that were stuck to her race. Amidst catering to all the parameters the elements of fixing and unfixing both these life writes give it all they can to present their feed back into everyday through understandings of how “extraordinary lives” and “common lives” have be recognized and differentiated. These women’s personal acts using a multi layered theoretical framework elucidates the scholarship of using both folk lore and folk preachers discourse as protest, or as a tool for fostering community building and also as a site for engaging in subversive Black rhetorical practices.

Both Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou after walking the path of their life, by gaining hands on experiences of what life is along with its trials and tribulations revealing how they have blossomed into full grown women, packed with the experiences. Black Americans choose the “Bildungsroman” as a powerful medium to communicate to the world the episodically and step by step presentation. Most of the works right from James Baldwin. W.E.B. Du Bois, Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, Toni Morrison along with the chosen authors Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou have made indelible marks in
the Genre of “Bildungsroman”. There is usually pain and a lot of suffering all along the way as growing up is not all that easy similarly Janie and Maya also trace their growth and however, though the narrative direction aims that the protagonist grows from his experiences and an the way some where loses his childhood innocence which aids him steer him or her towards adulthood.

Janie’s childhood us as safe and secured under the guarding eyes of her Nanny who went all out to protect the child she valued and owed all her life’s blessing to be settled with in the safe confines of a happy married life. She believed that power and money if a man possesses there is nothing more or less to ask for and to be married to one such alone will give the social status and security to a woman and elevate her to a better position on life later on. Though Maya had a grandmother and a calibred mother the child was made to shuttle from one home to another whereby the coziest and the security of a happy and safe childhood is totally corroded as a result of the mental abasement or abuse. Hence the child staggers back from the deep trench and tries to come to terms with reality and she stands tall with standing all the currents and debris and floats above the currents as a lily or lotus does.

The novels of both the women follow all the four stages of Bildungsroman systematically aligning. The first stage us known as “the call”. Just like “the call” in a Heroic Journey the call in the Genre Bildungsroman spans the characters on to their journey enabling them to embark on a spiritual or psychological growth. As the character is most often unhappy with something in their current life, therefore it pushes them to go search for
answers as a remedy for the distortion in their life. The same kind of call comes for both Janie and Maya but at different stages in life. The three important factors of the call are

➢ The Central character usually ails from a small village or town and their expedition is always towards a larger city expecting larger prospect offing for a complex realms

➢ The Central character most often separates from the family seeking to find or gain on identity that makes them unique and distinct from the rest of the family.

  o The second stage in life is “The Apprenticeship”

  o It is the growth process where the character has to go through the process in order reach maturescence and to gain a moral and incorruptible change. This is one of the most important stage where the protagonist undergoes an education process which draws them away from their antecents with a mission to learn or to master what his or her place in society is

➢ The Central character is often disappointed by the world that they are made to live in, as it does not live up to their expectations.

➢ Education is very crucial to the progress into maturity of the protagonist’s life.
➢ The Central Character finds their education in the disappointment of a compatible new world and this world allows them to gain their identity and successfully nature.

- Both Janie and Maya go through this most important and critical phase which bring them out victorious and makes them not only a victor but also a sane Ralf sustained woman who has not only conquered the outside world but the “self” within her. She has walked the path of fine in pursuit of her identity. Bathed in the flames of the trials and tribulations of life she surfaces like a phoenix and shams the world as to who she is rising among the millions of specs that were created on the surface of the world.

Janie sailing through the four men and finally emerging as the most confident self-made individual marches into her home town as a nightingale or a demi goddess, the same town from which she fled a few years back as a frightened chicken. Similarly Maya who was as scared and confused and insignificant like a rodent in the huge family who were living at different places and she was shuttled to the whims and fancies of them had the courage to become apparent souring high above the rest to attain the ecclesiastic position or bearing in life.

The third stage is the stage of Maturity. It is not easily won it is the stage which is very long and arduous. As the process involves events with many tests, mistakes and a lot of internal obstacles. It is in this stage that they walk
away into new horizons with a new found sense of themselves. It is a phase where they come to terms with reality that they are actually different from people.

➢ The protagonist only with great difficulty and untinting efforts achieves there maturity. This very success allows them a sense of pride in having obtained it the hard way, through the trials and tribulations they had to go through

➢ The readers as well as the protagonist accept that they are not superior characters. They are flawed, but they are fundamentally good.

➢ The central experiences moral, psychological and spiritual growth.

Yes both Janie and Maya are heroic or hyper endowed characters. They are the simple, lesser fortunate sisters who made it as big as possible, so that they are visible worldwide. From being insignificant the two women undergo psychological, moral and spiritual growth. Janie with her strenuous journey with all her three husbands finally reach the new horizon where she has found herself in full bloom and starts rivaling and taking pride in her new found self. Maya on the other hand is so distorted and mangled that she has to stumble and stagger to stand up to fall into another pit. But again she too is victorious in finding who she is and what her capabilities and her strengths are she too identifies her true self, the stage of Maturation or enlightenment, is fulfilled for both the woman protagonists.
The final stage is the stage of Acceptance and Remedy. This is the stage where the protagonist will return to their place of origin and not only that they also use their new found knowledge to help others. In some cases, the character might not return home but they will go all out to try and find a remedy for a situation or a problem by using the knowledge and wisdom that they had gained on their journey.

➢ The central character most often returns to the place they originally left.

➢ It is very much evident to the readers to be able to see the contrast between the protagonists who was a victim and naive at the beginning of the novel and finally the person they have become once they return to the place they left.

➢ Not only returning to the roots but also is able to help others in the locality and their race with the new found wisdom and maturity.

Adhering aptly to the concept of Bildungsroman Janie returns to the home town boldly marching with pride into her property along with her childhood friend Phoeby. And spread her success story throughout the town, which will definitely instill confidence and boost up the guts in each and every woman in the locality to stand up at least for her own cause. She had to flee at a point of time when surviving was becoming unbearable. Maya on the other hand had to come to terms with accept her distorted problem overcome it and move on to live a credible life and not fret and fume over what has happened and spoil the rest of her life. She emerging out of the galloons and standing tall
among her sphere itself is more than a living example for the world. She has
boldly and squarely put forward the message loud and clear to the world, that
all adversities that was dumped on her is not the end all of the world. It is only
a gruesome impediment in the course of her life and not a total catastrophe for
which she has to succumb and give up in life.

Two novels engulfing the life and search for a distinct identity and
novels of education, initiated in the unsatisfactory social goals envisioned by
the older generation for the younger generation is presented in this thesis deals
with. It is a race consciousness thermalized rendering of two women writers
and their women protagonist which was taken up and discussed rather dissected
in detail and explained explicitly what a Bildungsroman is and more
particularly how they identify themselves. Both the stories are classic examples
of the oppressed character and the difficulties that engulfed their lives. The
adventure of their lives is explained explicitly through language, character and
their surroundings.

Both the novels share the connection of poem and story similarity. The
inputs from the author and how the speech binds all the points together into a
single topic of racism. Hurston uses the trial and life story of Janie to display
the pliancy and the ability of the women of African American origin to be able
to transform much of what the others had used to oppress thereby without
destroying themselves with aspects like gender, race, and self-dependence.
Like any other youngster Janie is yet another neighborhood kid who had to
entertain the wishes of those who are her guardian and well-wishers. But when
time warrants she rises and transforms into a confident girl who
unapologetically takes total control of the circumstances, which is portrayed in
her evolving hairstyle, her manner of dressing and something in the process
which puts a self-assured portrayal of her body. Similarly Maya in the Caged
Bird develops an understanding as to why the “caged bird” is in such a bad
condition and is forced to limit itself. Of course the state is similar to that of
Janie who was forced or was trapped in her first two marriages and was not
allowed to do all that she wanted as there was a blanket rule. She was not
allowed to speak also when she had the caliber and potential to express herself
potentially. However the free bird can choose to express itself freely, like the
time when Janie was able to decide for herself in the third marriage and she
also loved the choice in the man. Similarly little Maya is dumb folded and
chose not to speak to any one not only because of the brutality meted out to her
but also because of the cruelty towards another soul. Though it was an
unpardonable mistake and she also played a role in the court to prove him
innocent.

As a child with a large heart she could not digest death as a penalty to
the culprit. She was apprehensive about the people around her, except her twin
brother. The only soul she placed faith on and was ready to talk and confide.
Change of place and a little more maturity was the need for the little girl to
throw away her dis hearted past and march forward in to the big world
exploring and moving to greener pastures. She comes out of the trauma totally
and once she has a doubt about herself she could even gather guts to check on
her sexuality quotient and reaffirm herself with the side effect of the test becoming pregnant. Not because of the culmination of love and affection.

As is the norm, the works of Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou are related on various levels to that of their own lives. The author of the caged bird was shipped as a package from one place to another from one place to another among her family members who were living across the country. The unstable family, the deadly rape she had to suffer at a tender age of eight years and later on coming out of all her brooding and recuperation period exploring with alcohol, drugs and prostitution, which resulted in her teen pregnancy are representative of the few of the adversities that she endure which held her from achieving greatness. As an adolescent she not only overcame all these but also the ever the prevalent pains of racism and segregation. She rose to pristine positions only later in life. But all these forms the bricks that structured her to this position.

Zora Neale Hurston lived way back and eccentric personality and her abundant writing skills earned her a place in the literary history. It is the strong and independent character of the author which is evident in the self-assured state of Janie as she herself was a strong and independent character, reflected the whole dynamic self of the woman. Both the writers with varying personal hurdles and trials were very much victorious and shared valuable components of themselves in their works. Though Bildungsroman is the concept these writers got the opportunity and a channel to voice out their views because of the suffocation they had to face because of racism. Even though Angelou was
very careful to let the readers know about the humorous occurrences, she balances this throughout with reminders of how racism terrifies and dehumanizes those who are regarded as being at the bottom of the hierarchy.

She goes on to explain about complete segregation within the town and how Africans Americans were taught and trained to dread the “white folks”, more so they were strictly instructed never to be insolent. And the book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* stands as a clear testament of the bravery of those who have been oppressed but not silenced by the deeply rooted racist society. The book also teaches how one can lead a restricted life engulfed by fear. But ultimately the work of both the women show cased their desperate refusal to be silenced. These writers were intimidated when the whites noble and outstanding when they take the pains to acknowledge the presence of the colored people. They also go on to broad how even great leaders and achievers are unaware of the insulting patronage and revel in its glory. It is not a leverage given to them, it is in fact the basic requirement any human being deserves on is warranted to receive.

Though Fourth of July is to be celebrated and commemorated, and is supposed to be a stand point against all racism and in particular. Though the enslavement was scorched, they were aware and very much accepted the point that America was still in its youth and that it was due for so much potential than what it was hence they respected their country abundantly and accepted it with all its follies and discrepancies. The literary work of these writers have one single thing in common, which is expressed more vividly through a
Bildungsroman. That somewhere, someone is trapped and are oppressed. It is considered to be the duty of the writers to encourage them and enable them to stand up and not roll over. It is these writers who instigate the writers to dare to want more. This message is portrayed through characters and people have to go through these kind of situations that the writers had the opportunity to have openly be aware of and have a strong inclination to write against it. The two novels of Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou fits very well into the genre of Bildungsroman as it traces the growth and development of the protagonist as more so in a socialist point of view. As the protagonist under the siege of suppression cannot go too much away from the social setup and go all out against her man who is equally fighting for the equality of the race which is inclusive of Gender.

The two novels of Zora Neale Hurston and Maya Angelou engulfing race, gender, education and poverty having Bildungsroman as the core had been justified to the utmost capacity within my boundaries. Bildungsroman the German concept will aptly fit into the realms of any writer showcasing the rise of suppressed class. It can be further researched in terms with the literature of the fourth World and other literatures around the world. These two authors stand as a towering inspirational figures for decolonizing and problematizing, canonized understanding of literature in general.