



STUDENT ID NUMBER: 200708423	DEGREE: BA Comparative American Studies
STUDENT NAME: Mariette Ohuimumwen	TUTOR/MODULE ORGANISER: Dr L.E.B. Key
MODULE CODE: LATI341	MODULE TITLE: CAS Dissertation
TITLE OF ESSAY/ASSESSMENT: Mythopoetising the Black Female Experience	
PROVISIONAL MARK: (based on first and second marker's marks, before any deductions for late submission) 80	

REPORT ON ASSESSED WORK: DISSERTATION

FIRST MARKER [Feedback will typically address: focus on question/coverage; structure; theoretical, analytical, factual content; clarity of expression; referencing/bibliography] *PB*

This is the most accomplished piece of undergraduate research that I have read in my career. It takes the complex idea of Black Female identity and traces its manifestations through the study of the work of a single female poet: Grace Nichols. In so-doing the dissertation engages with many of the stereotypes prevalent in the representation of Caribbean women. What is particularly impressive is the quality of the student's expression. The analysis reads seamlessly and numerous pertinent insights into the poetry are offered to the reader. The most powerful example of this is in the final chapter where the student complements an existing critical reading of the image of the 'golden stool' with her own knowledge of Ghanaian culture to explain more fully its significance. I would commend the student for the breadth and diversity of her analysis. There is never the sense that the primary material is being viewed through a restrictive or limited lens. It would be very interesting to see the dissertation in print and I would have no hesitation in recommending that the student submit the piece to a peer-reviewed journal for feedback and further refinement. There are very few typos and the bibliography is extensive but I would point out a consistent problem of split infinitives which occur four times.

FIRST MARKER PROVISIONAL MARK: 80

SECOND MARKER *LK*

This dissertation is focused, with a clear structure and offers an engaging analysis of the work of Grace Nichols. It is excellent to see how you have examined relevant critical theories such as those of Cixous and Bakhtin (though you could have discussed these in more detail) and the close readings you offer are detailed and sophisticated.

A good grasp of the existing scholarship is shown, and the dissertation is particularly strong where you argue against other scholars in order to assert your own argument. There is originality here, which is particularly impressive.

There is the odd unsubstantiated claim (on p. 14, for example: "Not until recently has there been a significant exception to the negative image of Afro-Caribbean women". Where is your evidence to support this?) and occasionally you let the critics' analyses dominate your own argument, but these are minor quibbles in what really is an excellent piece of undergraduate work.

There are some issues with grammar and typographical errors, but overall, the piece is very eloquently written (chapter 2 in particular), making strong connections between the chapters and finishing with a convincing conclusion. Very well done.

SECOND MARKER PROVISIONAL MARK: 80

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

34 (Grading level: Fail); 35-39 (Grading level: Unacceptable); 40-49 (Grading level: Third class); 50-59 (Grading level: Lower second); 60-69 (Grading level: Upper Second); 70-79 (Grading level: First); 80-99 (Grading level: Exceptional First).