

PLIGHT TO PROGRESS: A STUDY OF WOMEN IN ALICE WALKER'S "THE THIRD LIFE OF GRANGE COPELAND"

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ABSTRACT

Alice Walker is a versatile and prolific writer, who won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award for her best-selling, best-known novel, 'The Color Purple'. Walker, a great writer today is because of her teacher, the poet, Muriel Rukeyser who had encouraged her to submit her verse for publication. Walker focuses on feminist issues within the black community, as well as upon intra-racial violence and oppression, places her in a category of writers willing to confront the difficult problems of communities in transition, to complain about their male/female and parent/child relationships, and to cajole their members to renew their faith in each other for the sake of the community survival. Alice Walker has explored the double-oppression of women and the triumphs of women in her novels of how the women suffer as women and as black women. She has coined the word, "Womanist" to articulate her concept of black feminism. Gloria Wade-Gayle observes:

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