

STRUGGLES OF BLACK MEN AND WOMEN IN REAL LIFE

**Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award
of Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature**

By

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SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)

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This is to certify that this Project Report is the bonafide work of **S. SINDHU (40010029)** who carried out the project entitled "**STRUGGLES OF BLACK MEN AND WOMEN IN REAL LIFE**" under my/our supervision from November 2022 to May 2023.

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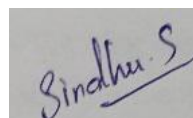
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DECLARATION

I **Sindhu. S** hereby declare that the Project Report entitled **STRUGGLES OF BLACK MEN AND WOMEN IN REAL LIFE** done by me under the guidance of **Mr. S. Senthil Kumar M.A.** at **Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology** is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature.

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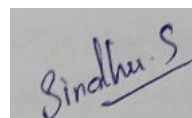
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ABSTRACT:

The Color Purple" by Alice Walker and "Twelve Years a Slave" by Solomon Northup are two important literary works that explore the themes of oppression, resilience, and the power of community. "The Color Purple" is a novel that tells the story of Celie, a young black woman who overcomes incredible adversity to find her own voice and sense of self-worth. Through her relationships with the women in her life and her own personal growth, Celie is able to find strength and resilience in the face of trauma and abuse. The novel is a powerful commentary on the importance of community and solidarity in overcoming oppression and finding one's own sense of power and agency. "Twelve Years a Slave" is a memoir by Solomon Northup, a free black man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Louisiana. The book chronicles his life as a slave for twelve years and his eventual release and return to freedom. Through his testimony, Northup provides a first hand account of the horrors of slavery and the resilience of those who were subjected to it. The memoir is a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality in the United States. Both works share the themes of oppression and resilience in the face of adversity. They also emphasize the importance of community and solidarity in overcoming oppression and finding one's own sense of power and agency. While "The Color Purple" is a work of fiction and "Twelve Years a Slave" is a memoir, both works are powerful testimonies to the human spirit and the enduring struggle for justice and equality.

KEY WORDS;

Oppression, slavery, racism, family, trauma, faith

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 OVERVIEW

Chapter one will be the introduction part. This chapter explains struggles of racism, it also explains the terms of racism, struggles of black men and women, discrimination of black people by white people. This chapter also explains briefly about the authors and the summary of the novel

1.2 INTRODUCTION

The Color Purple by Alice Walker and 12 years a slave by Solomon Northup are two acclaimed novels that focus on the experience of African Americans in the United States. 'The Color purple' novel set in rural Georgia in the early 20th century and follows the life of Celie a poor, uneducated African American woman who is abused and mistreated by her father and later her husband. The novel explores themes of racism, sexism, domestic violence, and the power of female relationships, Celie's journey towards self – discovery and empowerment is driven by her bond with other women, particularly her sister Nettie and her lover Shug Avery. 'The Color purple' won the Pulitzer prize fiction in 1983 and was adapted into a critically acclaimed film in 1985.

12 years a Slave is a memoir written by Solomon Northup, a free Black Man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in the mid – 19th century. Northup recounts his harrowing experience as a slave in Louisiana, including his physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his various owners. The memoir exposes the brutal realities of slavery, the dehumanization of slaves, and the injustice of the legal system that allowed for the kidnapping and enslavement of free black people. 12 years a slave was first published in 1853 and was adapted into an academy award winning film in 2013. Both 'The Color purple' and '12 years a slave' are powerful works that explore the history of racism and slavery in the United States. They shed light on the inhumane treatment of African Americans and the resilience and strength they displayed in the face of adversity. These novels serve as important reminders

of the ongoing struggle for equality and justice and the importance of acknowledging and confronting the dark history of the country. Racism is a belief system that asserts the superiority of one race over another. it is a form of discrimination that is based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. racism can take many forms, including individual acts of prejudice and systemic inequalities that are embedded in social, economic, and political structures. At its core, racism is a form of power imbalance that privileges one group while oppressing others. it can be expressed through overt acts of hate, such as hate speech, violence and exclusion, as well as through subtle forms of bias and stereotyping. Racism can have serious and long – lasting impacts on individuals and communities including limiting opportunities, reducing access to resources, and damaging mental and physical health. it is a pervasive problem that requires active efforts to challenge and dismantle systems of oppression and work towards a more equitable society.

1.3 HISTORY OF RACISM

The history of racism is a complex and multifaceted topic that spans centuries and continents. It is impossible to do justice, but I will attempt to provide a brief overview of some key moments and themes. Racism is the belief that certain groups of people are inherently superior or inferior to others based on their perceived racial characteristics. This belief has been used to justify discrimination, prejudice, and violence against marginalized communities throughout history. The origins of racism can be traced back to ancient civilizations such as Greece and Rome, where slavery was a common practice. However, the concept of race as we understand it today did not emerge until the 16th century, with the rise of European colonialism and the transatlantic slave trade. During this period, European powers began colonizing and exploiting the Americas, Africa, and Asia.

They brought with them a worldview that saw non-Europeans as primitive and uncivilized, and used this belief to justify their conquest and subjugation. The transatlantic slave trade, which lasted from the 16th to the 19th century, saw millions of Africans forcibly taken from their homes and transported to

the Americas to work as slaves on plantations The ideology of racism continued to evolve in the centuries that followed, with scientific racism emerging in the 19th century as a means of justifying colonialism and imperialism. This approach claimed that there were inherent biological differences between races, and that these differences made some races superior to others. This pseudo-scientific ideology was used to justify atrocities such as genocide, forced sterilization, and apartheid. In the 20th century, racism took on new forms as colonial empires crumbled and civil rights movements gained momentum. The rise of fascist regimes in Europe during World War II saw the implementation of policies aimed at exterminating Jews, Roma, and other marginalized groups. The aftermath of the war saw the establishment of international human rights law, which sought to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again. The Civil Rights Movement in the United States, which gained momentum in the 1950s and 1960s, sought to address the systemic racism that had been enshrined in law and society since the country's founding. This movement was led by figures such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Park However, racism did not disappear with the end of legal segregation.

In the decades since, it has taken on new forms, such as institutional racism and implicit bias. Institutional racism refers to the ways in which societal institutions such as the criminal justice system and education system perpetuate racial inequalities. Implicit bias refers to the unconscious biases that people hold towards certain groups, which can affect their behaviour and decision-makings, who fought for equal rights and an end to segregation However, racism did not disappear with the end of legal segregation. In the decades since, it has taken on new forms, such as institutional racism and implicit bias. Institutional racism refers to the ways in which societal institutions such as the criminal justice system and education system perpetuate racial inequalities. Implicit bias refers to the unconscious biases that people hold towards certain groups, which can affect their behaviour and decision-making, the history of racism is a long and complex one, spanning centuries and continents. It has taken on many different forms throughout history, from the transatlantic slave trade to scientific racism to institutional racism. While progress has been made in addressing these issues, racism continues to be a pervasive problem in society today, and must be addressed if we are to achieve true equality and justice for all.

1.3.1 AMERICA AND AFRICA

Both "The Color Purple" and "12 Years a Slave" explore the themes of racism and discrimination, but in different contexts. "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker is set in the early 20th century in rural Georgia, USA, and follows the life of Celie, an African American woman who faces various forms of oppression and abuse and deep impact on African American spirituality and religion. The novel explores the ways in which Christianity is used as a tool of oppression by white people, who use it to justify their racism and to control the lives of African Americans. At the same time, the novel portrays the ways in which African Americans have developed their own spiritual practices and beliefs, which they use to resist and survive in the face of oppression. This is exemplified by the character of Shug Avery, who challenges traditional Christian morality and helps Celie to develop a more nuanced understanding of spirituality. The novel also depicts the effects of racism on the relationships between African Americans, as well as the ways in which the Black community uses its own cultural practices and traditions to resist and survive in the face of oppression.

Similarly, "12 Years a Slave" depicts the horrors of slavery and the impact of racism on the lives of African Americans in the United States during the 19th century. The memoir describes the ways in which slaves were stripped of their culture and traditions, and forced to assimilate into a system that denied their humanity and dignity. Northup's experience as a free man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery highlights the arbitrary and cruel nature of the slave trade, and underscores the ways in which racism was institutionalized and normalized in American society during this time period. Northup also highlights the ways in which slaves resisted this erasure of their culture and identity, by preserving their language, music, and spiritual practices in secret. This is exemplified by the character of Patsey, who uses her skill as a cotton-picker and her knowledge of herbs to assert her agency and resist the dehumanizing conditions of slavery. In both works, racism is depicted as a complex and multi-faceted issue that intersects with other forms of oppression and discrimination. The books emphasize the importance of acknowledging and confronting the ways in which racism affects every aspect of

African Americans' lives, from their economic opportunities to their spiritual practices and cultural identity. They also highlight the importance of resistance and resilience in the face of oppression, as African Americans find ways to assert their agency and dignity in a system that seeks to deny them both. Overall, "The Color Purple" and "12 Years a Slave" offer powerful and poignant insights into the history of racism in Africa and America. They provide a glimpse into the ways in which racism has impacted African Americans' lives, both in the past and in the present, and underscore the importance of acknowledging and confronting this legacy of oppression.

The books explore the ways in which racism intersects with other forms of oppression, such as sexism and poverty, to create a complex web of systemic inequality. Through their powerful storytelling and nuanced characterizations, these works offer a testament to the resilience and strength of African American communities, and serve as a call to action for building a more just and equitable society for all.

1.4 STRUGGLES OF BLACK MEN AND WOMEN

The struggles of black men and women have been shaped by a history of racism and discrimination, which has had a profound impact on every aspect of their lives. In the United States, black men and women have faced economic, social, and political marginalization, as well as violence and systemic oppression. Black men and women have faced unique and intersecting struggles, with racism affecting their experiences differently depending on their gender, class, and other factors. For example, black women have faced both racism and sexism, as well as economic inequality and limited access to education and job opportunities. Black men have faced high rates of incarceration and police violence, as well as limited opportunities for economic mobility and social advancement. Despite these challenges, black men and women have demonstrated remarkable resilience and resistance in the face of oppression. They have fought for civil rights and social justice, using various forms of activism and protest to challenge the systemic inequalities that they face.

They have also used their own cultural practices and traditions to build strong communities and resist the erasure of their culture and identity. the struggles of black men and women continue, as they face ongoing racism and discrimination in various forms. However, there is also hope for a more just and equitable future, as more people become aware of the issues facing black communities and work towards dismantling systemic inequality. The struggles of black men and women serve as a reminder of the ongoing work that must be done to create a society that values and respects the dignity and humanity of all people, regardless of their race or gender. The struggles of black men and women continue, as they face ongoing racism and discrimination in various forms. However, there is also hope for a more just and equitable future, as more people become aware of the issues facing black communities and work towards dismantling systemic inequality. The struggles of black men and women serve as a reminder of the ongoing work that must be done to create a society that values and respects the dignity and humanity of all people, regardless of their race or gender. Housing discrimination has also been a major challenge for black communities, with historical practices like redlining and racially restrictive covenants contributing to the creation of segregated Neighbour hoods and unequal access to homeownership. This has had a lasting impact on black wealth and economic mobility, as homeownership is a major pathway to building wealth and stability. Black men and women have also faced challenges in the workplace, including discrimination in hiring and promotions, wage disparities, and workplace harassment.

Black women, in particular, have faced unique challenges at the intersection of racism and sexism, including discrimination and stereotyping in both personal and professional contexts Despite these challenges, black men and women have continued to make important contributions to society in a variety of fields, from literature and the arts to politics and activism. They have also worked to build strong and resilient communities, often through grassroots organizing and community-based initiatives the struggles of black men and women reflect a long and complex history of racism and discrimination, as well as the ongoing challenges faced by black communities in the present day.

1.5 DISCRIMINATION OF BLACK PEOPLE BY WHITE PEOPLE

The issue of discrimination against black people by white people is a complex and deeply ingrained problem that has plagued societies around the world for centuries. While progress has been made in recent years, discrimination against black people continues to persist in various forms, including systemic racism, implicit bias, and overt acts of racism. Systemic racism, also known as institutional racism, refers to the ways in which institutions and systems within society perpetuate discrimination against black people. This can include unequal access to education, housing, healthcare, and employment opportunities, as well as the overrepresentation of black people in the criminal justice system. One example of systemic racism is the racial wealth gap, which refers to the disparity in wealth between black and white households.

According to a 2020 report by the Brookings Institution, the median wealth of white households in the United States is 10 times higher than that of black households. This is due in part to historical and ongoing discrimination in areas such as employment, housing, and access to credit. Another example of systemic racism is the school-to-prison pipeline, which refers to the disproportionate number of black students who are disciplined and pushed out of the education system and into the criminal justice system. Black students are more likely to be suspended, expelled, or arrested for minor infractions compared to their white counterparts, leading to a cycle of incarceration and poverty. Implicit bias, also known as unconscious bias, refers to the attitudes and stereotypes that people hold about others based on their race or ethnicity without even realizing it. These biases can lead to discrimination against black people in various contexts, such as hiring, housing, and healthcare. For example, studies have shown that job applicants with "black-sounding" names are less likely to be called back for an interview compared to those with "white-sounding" names, even when their resumes are identical. Similarly, black people are more likely to be denied housing or charged higher rent compared to white people with similar income and credit scores. Overt acts of racism refer to deliberate acts of discrimination against black people based on their race.

These acts can range from verbal harassment to physical violence, and can occur in various contexts, such as the workplace, public spaces, and online.

One example of overt racism is hatred crimes, which are criminal acts motivated by bias against a particular race, ethnicity, or other protected characteristic. According to the FBI, hate crimes against black people accounted for more than half of all hate crimes in the United States in 2020. Another example of overt racism is police brutality, which refers to the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers against black people. The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many other black people at the hands of police have sparked widespread protests and calls for police reform. Discrimination against black people by white people is a complex and multifaceted problem that continues to persist in various forms. Addressing this issue requires a concerted effort by individuals, institutions, and society as a whole to acknowledge and confront systemic racism, implicit bias, and overt acts of racism. Only by working together can we create a more equitable and just society for all. Discrimination against black people is not limited to the United States, but is a global issue.

In many countries, black people face discrimination based on their race, ethnicity, and skin color. For example, in South Africa, apartheid policies enforced by the white minority government from 1948 to 1994 resulted in the systematic oppression of black people and other non-white groups.

1.6 AUTHOR

Alice Walker is an American author, poet, and activist who was born on February 9, 1944, in Putnam County, Georgia. She is best known for her novel "The Color Purple," which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1983 and was later adapted into a movie and a Broadway musical. Walker is also a prominent feminist and civil rights activist, whom has been involved in various social justice causes throughout her career. She has written extensively on topics such as race, gender, and class, and her work often explores the experiences of black women in America. In addition to her literary career, Walker has been an active participant in various social movements, including the Civil Rights Movement and the anti-war movement. She continues to be a prominent voice in the struggle for social justice and has received numerous awards and honors for her contributions to literature and activism.

Solomon Northup was an American writer and abolitionist who was born in July 1808 in Minerva, New York. He is best known for his memoir "Twelve Years a Slave," which recounts his experiences as a free black man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in the American South. Prior to his abduction, Northup was a skilled carpenter and fiddle player who lived with his family in Saratoga Springs, New York. In 1841, he was lured to Washington D.C. under false pretenses and was subsequently drugged and sold into slavery. He spent the next twelve years working on plantations in Louisiana before he was able to regain his freedom with the help of a sympathetic white man. After his release, Northup returned to New York and wrote "Twelve Years a Slave," which was published in 1853. The book became a bestseller and helped to raise awareness about the horrors of slavery and the need for abolition. Northup also became an active participant in the abolitionist movement, speaking at rallies and advocating for the rights of black people. Despite in 1863. It was not until the 1960s that his memoir was rediscovered and brought back into public consciousness. Today, Northup is remembered as a powerful voice in the fight against slavery and an inspiration to those who continue to struggle for social justice.

1.8 SUMMARY

The Color Purple Summary:

"The Color Purple" is a novel by Alice Walker published in 1982, which tells the story of a young African American woman named Celie. The novel is set in the early 1900s in rural Georgia, USA, and is written in an epistolary format, with Celie writing letters to God. Celie is sexually abused by her stepfather and later forced into a loveless marriage to a cruel man named Albert, who mistreats her and separates her from her beloved sister Nettie. However, Celie finds solace and support in the form of Shug Avery, a blues singer with whom Albert is having an affair. As Celie navigates the challenges of her life, she gradually finds her voice and strength, challenging the patriarchal and racist systems that have oppressed her and other women around her. She also reconnects with Nettie and learns about her own family history, which has been hidden from her for many years. through Celie's journey, Walker explores themes of race, gender, sexuality, and identity, highlighting the importance of self-love and community support in the face of adversity. "The

"Color Purple" has been widely acclaimed for its powerful portrayal of African American women's experiences and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1983

12 Years a Slave Summary:

12 Years a slave is a memoir by Solomon Northup, published in 1853, which tells the story of his kidnapping and enslavement in the southern United States in the 19th century. Northup, a free born African American from New York, was lured to Washington DC. with the promise of work, only to be drugged, Kidnapped, and sold into slavery, including beatings, forced labour, and separation from his family. He worked on various plantations and witnessed the cruelty and violence inflicted upon other enslaved people, including the sexual exploitation of enslaved women. Despite his circumstances, Northup never lost hope and remained determined to regain his freedom. With the help of a Canadian abolitionist, he was finally able to send a letter to his family in New York, which led to his rescue and return home. Through Northup's harrowing story, "12 Years a Slave" exposes the inhumanity and systemic violence of slavery in the United States.

"12 Years a Slave" is a memoir by Solomon Northup, published in 1853, which tells the story of his kidnapping and enslavement in the Southern United States in the 19th century. Northup, a free-born African American from New York, was lured to Washington D.C. with the promise of work, only to be drugged, kidnapped, and sold into slavery in Louisiana. For 12 years, Northup endured the brutal realities of slavery, including beatings, forced labor, and separation from his family, while also highlighting the resilience and strength of enslaved people in the face of oppression.

The book has become an important historical document and a powerful reminder of the need to confront and reckon with the legacy of slavery and its ongoing impact on society. The book was adapted into a critically acclaimed film in 2013.

CHAPTER 2

2.1 OVERVIEW

"The Color Purple" is a powerful work of fiction that examines the lives of African American women in the early 20th century, and the struggle for freedom and self-determination in the face of systemic oppression

2.2 LIFE STRUGGLE OF CELIE

Celie, the protagonist of Alice Walker's novel "The Color Purple," faces numerous struggles in her life. These struggles are primarily based on her race, gender, and socio-economic status. Celie is a poor, uneducated Black woman living in rural Georgia in the early 20th century. Her life is marked by hardship and abuse, and she faces several challenges throughout the course of the novel. Celie's early life is marked by trauma and abuse. She is raped by her stepfather, and she gives birth to two children, who are taken away from her. Celie's mother dies, leaving her alone with her abusive stepfather. She is forced to marry Albert, a man who is abusive and cruel to her. Celie's life is marked by hardship and suffering, and she is powerless to change her situation. One of the major struggles that Celie faces in her life is the fact that she is a Black woman in a society that is deeply racist and sexist. Celie is treated as inferior and is denied basic rights and freedoms.

She is denied an education and is forced to work in the fields, doing backbreaking labor for very little pay. She is also subject to constant abuse from the men in her life, including her stepfather and her husband. Another struggle that Celie faces is the fact that she is a victim of domestic violence. Albert is physically and emotionally abusive towards her, and she is powerless to leave him. Celie is trapped in a cycle of abuse, and she is unable to escape from her situation. She is isolated from her family and friends, and she has no one to turn to for help. Despite the challenges that Celie faces in her life, she is able to find strength and resilience in the face of adversity. She forms a close relationship with her sister Nettie, who is a source of support and comfort for her.

She also develops a deep and meaningful friendship with Shug Avery, a singer who is Albert's mistress. Shug helps Celie to find her voice and to stand up for herself, and she encourages Celie to pursue her own dreams and desires. Through her relationships with Nettie and Shug, Celie is able to break free from the cycle of abuse and oppression that has defined her life. She finds the courage to leave Albert and to start a new life for herself. She also discovers her own artistic talent and begins to write letters to God, which serve as a form of therapy and self-expression for her. Through her relationships with Nettie and Shug, Celie is able to break free from the cycle of abuse and oppression that has defined her life. She finds the courage to leave Albert and to start a new life for herself. She also discovers her own artistic talent and begins to write letters to God, which serve as a form of therapy and self-expression for her.

2.3 LIFE STRUGGLE OF SOFIA

Sofia is one of the most prominent characters in Alice Walker's novel "The Color Purple." She is a strong-willed and independent woman who faces a variety of struggles throughout her life. Sofia's struggles are primarily based on her gender and race, as she is a Black woman living in the South during the early 20th century. One of the major struggles that Sofia faces in her life is the fact that she is a Black woman in a deeply racist and sexist society. She is denied basic rights and freedoms, and she is treated as inferior to White people and men. Sofia is forced to work as a maid for White families, doing backbreaking labour for very little pay. She is also subject to constant discrimination and abuse, both from the White families she works for and from the men in her life. Another struggle that Sofia faces is the fact that she is a victim of domestic violence. Her husband, Harpo, is physically and emotionally abusive towards her, and she is forced to defend herself against his attacks. Sofia is a strong and capable woman, but she is trapped in a cycle of abuse that she is unable to escape from.

She is torn between her love for Harpo and her desire for freedom and independence. Despite the challenges that Sofia faces in her life, she is able to find strength and resilience in the face of adversity. She is a proud and independent

woman who refuses to be defined by her gender or race. She stands up for herself and fights for her rights, even in the face of overwhelming oppression and discrimination. One of the most notable examples of Sofia's strength and resilience is her confrontation with the mayor's wife, Miss Millie. Miss Millie is a wealthy White woman who asks Sofia to work as her maid, but Sofia refuses to be treated as a second-class citizen. When Miss Millie insults Sofia, Sofia fights back and is eventually arrested and beaten by the police. Despite the brutality of her treatment, Sofia refuses to back down or compromise her principles. Another example of Sofia's strength is her relationship with her sister, Odessa. Odessa is a deeply religious woman who disapproves of Sofia's independent spirit and her refusal to be submissive to men. Despite their differences, Sofia loves her sister and is deeply loyal to her.

When Odessa falls ill, Sofia sacrifices her own freedom and safety to care for her sister and to ensure that she receives the medical care she needs. In the end, Sofia's struggles are not in vain. She is able to find a sense of empowerment and agency in her life, and she is able to overcome the obstacles that have held her back for so long. Her story serves as a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, and to the power of love, friendship, and self-expression to transform even the most difficult of circumstances. Sofia's strength and courage inspire Celie and other characters in the novel to find their own voices and to stand up for themselves in the face of oppression and discrimination.

2.4 COMPARING THESE TWO CHARACTERS

Celie and Sofia are two important characters in Alice Walker's novel 'THE COLOR PURPLE' who face different but equally difficult struggles in a society that is deeply racist and oppressive. Both women are Black and live in the South during the early 20th century, where they are denied basic rights and freedoms because of their race. Celie and Sofia are two important characters in Alice Walker's novel "The Color Purple" who are different in age and gender. However, their experiences of racism and discrimination are shaped by different factors and circumstances. One of the key differences between Celie and Sofia's experiences is the way in which they are treated by men. Celie is subject to physical and emotional abuse by the men in her

life, including her father and her husband, Albert. She is told that she is ugly, worthless, and good for nothing, and she is forced to endure years of suffering and mistreatment. Sofia, on the other hand, is a strong and assertive woman who stands up for herself and refuses to be pushed around by men. However, this independence and strength come at a cost, as Sofia is subjected to violence and abuse by her husband, Harpo, and is ultimately arrested and beaten by the police for fighting back against a White woman who insults her. Another difference between Celie and Sofia's experiences is the way in which they are perceived by White people.

Celie is largely invisible to White people, as she works as a maid for a wealthy White family and is expected to be submissive and obedient. She is not subject to the same kinds of discrimination and racism that Sofia faces on a daily basis, as White people largely ignore her existence. Sofia, on the other hand, is constantly confronted with racism and discrimination from White people. She is denied basic rights and freedoms, and she is forced to work in low-paying jobs simply because of her race. When she stands up for herself and refuses to be treated as a second-class citizen, she is punished and humiliated by White people who seek to maintain their power and privilege. Despite these differences, Celie and Sofia's experiences are linked by their shared experiences of oppression and marginalization. Both women are denied basic human rights and freedoms, and they struggle to find their place in a world that seeks to silence and subjugate them. Through their struggles, both women find a sense of strength and resilience that allows them to survive and even thrive in the face of overwhelming adversity. One of the key ways in which Celie and Sofia find strength and resilience is through their relationships with other women. Celie forms a deep bond with her friend and lover, Shug Avery, who helps her to see herself as a valuable and worthwhile person. Shug teaches Celie about her own sexuality and encourages her to stand up for herself and assert her own desires and needs. Sofia, on the other hand, finds strength and support from her sister, Odessa, who is a deeply religious woman who disapproves of Sofia's independence and refusal to be submissive to men.

Despite their differences, Sofia loves her sister and is deeply loyal to her. When Odessa falls ill, Sofia sacrifices her own freedom and safety to care for her sister and to ensure that she receives the medical care she needs. In the end, the experiences of Celie and Sofia serve as a powerful reminder of the ongoing legacy

of racism and discrimination in American society. Their struggles highlight the need for continued efforts to combat racism and inequality, and they serve as an inspiration to all those who continue to fight for justice and equality for all. Despite the different circumstances of their lives, both women are able to find strength and resilience in the face of overwhelming adversity, and they emerge as powerful and inspiring figures who embody the struggle for freedom and justice in the face of oppression.

CHAPTER 3

3.1 OVERVIEW

"12 Years a Slave" is a powerful and heart touching account of the brutality of slavery in America, and the resilience and strength of those who endured it. The book provides a vivid depiction of the daily horrors and indignities that slaves were subjected to, as well as the deep-seated racism and prejudice that underpinned the institution of slavery. It is a searing indictment of a society that condoned and perpetuated such atrocities, and a testament to the courage and resilience of those who fought against it.

3.2 SOLOMON NORTHUP VIEW POINT ON BLACK MEN AND WOMEN

Solomon Northup's view on black men and women is largely shaped by his experiences as a free Black man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery. Throughout his memoir, "12 Years a Slave," Northup provides a vivid depiction of the brutalities and injustices that Black men and women were subjected to under the institution of slavery. His view of Black men and women is one of deep respect and admiration, tempered by a sense of outrage at the injustices they were forced to endure. In his depiction of Black men, Northup emphasizes their strength, resilience, and dignity in the face of immense adversity. He describes them as hardworking and resourceful, capable of enduring long hours of labour in harsh conditions without complaint. He also portrays them as fiercely protective of their families and communities, willing to risk their lives to defend their loved ones against the cruelty of their oppressors. Northup's portrayal of Black women is similarly nuanced, and highlights their resilience and strength in the face of oppression. He portrays them as self-reliant and resourceful, often taking on multiple roles as cooks, housekeepers, and caretakers for their families and communities. He also emphasizes their ability to resist and challenge the patriarchal norms that underpinned slavery, often standing up to slave owners and refusing to be

subjugated. Throughout his memoir, Northup also emphasizes the deep sense of community and solidarity that existed among Black men and women under slavery. He describes how they supported one another in times of need, often forming close-knit communities within the plantations where they lived and worked. He also emphasizes the role that music and culture played in sustaining these communities, and how they were able to find moments of joy and connection despite their oppressive circumstances at the same time, Northup's view of Black men and women is also marked by a deep sense of outrage at the injustices they were forced to endure.

He describes the horrific violence and abuse that they were subjected to, including beatings, whippings, and sexual assault. He also highlights the ways in which the institution of slavery was designed to strip Black men and women of their humanity, denying them basic rights and freedoms and treating them as mere property to be bought and sold at will. Despite these injustices, however, Northup never loses sight of the inherent dignity and worth of Black men and women. He sees them as capable of great strength and resilience, even in the face of immense adversity, and emphasizes the importance of recognizing and honouring their humanity.

In conclusion, Solomon Northup's view of Black men and women is one of deep respect, admiration, and outrage. Throughout his memoir, he portrays them as strong, resilient, and dignified, capable of enduring immense hardship and oppression without losing their humanity. At the same time, he is keenly aware of the injustices and cruelties that they were forced to endure, and emphasizes the importance of recognizing their inherent worth and dignity as human beings.

3.3 LIFE STRUGGLE OF SOLOMON NORTHUP

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humanity. At the same time, he is keenly aware of the injustices and cruelties that they were forced to endure, and emphasizes the importance of recognizing their inherent worth and dignity as human beings. Northup's experiences and the publication of his memoir helped to galvanize the abolitionist movement in the United States, and his story was widely publicized in newspapers and other media outlets. Northup himself became an important speaker and advocate for the abolitionist cause. After the publication of his memoir, Northup continued to speak out against slavery and advocate for the rights of African Americans. He was also involved in efforts to provide aid and support to formerly enslaved people who were transitioning to life as free citizens.

Northup's life struggle was one of immense hardship and injustice, but his resilience and determination in the face of adversity serve as an inspiration to all who read his story. His memoir remains a powerful reminder of the horrors of slavery and the importance of fighting for justice and equality for all people.

3.4 COMPARING SOLOMON NORTHUP WITH REAL LIFE

Solomon Northup's experience as a free Black man who was kidnapped and sold into slavery was unfortunately not a unique occurrence in American history. Throughout the antebellum period, thousands of free Black people were kidnapped and sold into slavery, often with the complicity of local law enforcement and government officials. Northup's memoir, "12 Years a Slave," offers a vivid and powerful account of the brutality of slavery, and provides insight into the ways in which Black people were dehumanized and oppressed under the system of chattel slavery. Comparing Northup's experience with real life reveals a number of important truths about the history of slavery in the United States, as well as the ongoing legacy of racism and oppression that continues to shape American society today. One of the most striking aspects of Northup's story is the way in which it exposes the arbitrary and capricious nature of slavery. Northup was born a free man in New York, and spent the early years of his life working as a farmer and musician. However, because of his race, he was seen as a threat by white slave traders and was kidnapped and sold into slavery. This kind of arbitrary violence and injustice was all too common during the antebellum period, as free Black people were

routinely kidnapped and sold into slavery, often with little or no recourse to the law. Another important aspect of Northup's story is the way in which it exposes the hypocrisy of American democracy.

At the time of Northup's kidnapping, slavery was still legal in many parts of the United States, and even in states where slavery had been abolished, Black people still faced pervasive discrimination and oppression. This was particularly true in the South, where slavery was a central part of the region's economy and culture. Despite the rhetoric of American democracy and freedom, the reality for Black people was one of constant fear and oppression. Northup's experience also sheds light on the way in which slavery was used as a tool of economic exploitation. Slavery was a highly profitable institution, and slave owners were willing to go to great lengths to maintain their control over enslaved people. This often involved the use of brutal violence and other forms of coercion, as well as the implementation of strict social and cultural codes that were designed to keep enslaved people in a state of subservience. For Northup, this meant enduring years of physical and emotional abuse, as well as being forced to work long hours in harsh conditions for little or no pay. At the same time, Northup's story is also a testament to the resilience and strength of the human spirit. Despite the horrors of slavery, Northup never lost his faith in the possibility of freedom and justice, and remained committed to fighting for the rights of Black people. His memoir, "12 Years a Slave," is a powerful document of the human capacity for survival and resistance in the face of oppression, and provides inspiration for those who continue to fight for justice and equality today. Overall, comparing Solomon Northup's story with real life reveals the deep and lasting impact of slavery and racism on American society.

While slavery may have been officially abolished in 1865, its legacy continues to shape the social, economic, and political realities of the United States today. Northup's story reminds us of the need to remain vigilant in the fight against oppression and injustice, and to work towards a future in which all people are truly free and equal. In addition to highlighting the horrors of slavery, Northup's story also sheds light on the complex and often contradictory attitudes towards race in the United States during the 19th century. Northup was a free man with education and skills, yet he was still vulnerable to being kidnapped and sold into slavery simply because of his skin color.

Northup's experience also underscores the importance of agency and resistance in the face of oppression. Despite being stripped of his freedom and subjected to unimaginable suffering, Northup never lost sight of his desire to be free and to reunite with his family. He used his intelligence and resourcefulness to gain the trust of certain individuals and to communicate with the outside world in order to secure his release. Northup's story has also been adapted into a number of films and theatrical productions, including the Academy Award-winning film "12 Years a Slave" directed by Steve McQueen. These adaptations have brought Northup's story to an even wider audience and have helped to ensure that his legacy endures. Overall, Solomon Northup's life struggle is a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice and equality in the United States, and his memoir remains a vital and poignant testimony to the horrors of slavery and the resilience of those who were subjected to it

CHAPTER 4

4.1 CONCLUSION

"The Color Purple" is a novel by Alice Walker that tells the story of Celie, a young black woman who overcomes incredible adversity to find her own voice and sense of self-worth. The conclusion of the novel is a powerful testament to the power of love, community, and personal growth. At the beginning of the novel, Celie is a young girl who has been repeatedly abused and oppressed by the men in her life, including her stepfather and husband. Through her correspondence with her sister, Nettie, and her relationships with the women in her life, including Shug Avery and Sofia, Celie is able to find her own sense of strength and resilience. The conclusion of the novel sees Celie finally able to confront her abuser, her husband Albert, and assert her own independence and sense of self-worth. She also is reunited with her sister Nettie and learns of the remarkable journeys that Nettie has taken in Africa, further expanding Celie's understanding of herself and her place in the world. The conclusion of "The Color Purple" is ultimately a message of hope and triumph over adversity. Despite the trauma and abuse that Celie has experienced, she is able to find a sense of joy and fulfillment through her relationships with the women in her life and her own personal growth. The novel ends with the suggestion that Celie will continue to grow and develop, and that her journey is far from over. The conclusion of "The Color Purple" is also a commentary on the importance of community and solidarity in the face of oppression and injustice. Throughout the novel, Celie finds strength and support from the women in her life, and it is through these relationships that she is able to find her own sense of power and agency. In conclusion, the conclusion of "The Color Purple" is a powerful message of hope and resilience in the face of adversity. It emphasizes the importance of community, love, and personal growth in overcoming oppression and finding one's own sense of worth and purpose. The novel remains a vital and poignant reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice and equality for all people, regardless of their race or gender.

"Twelve Years a Slave" is a memoir by Solomon Northup, a free black man from New York who was kidnapped and sold into slavery in Louisiana in 1841. The book chronicles his life as a slave for twelve years and his eventual release and

return to freedom. The conclusion of the book is a powerful testament to Northup's resilience and determination in the face of unimaginable hardship and injustice. After years of brutal physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his various owners, Northup is finally able to contact his family in New York with the help of a sympathetic white man. His family rallies to his aid, and eventually, Northup is able to regain his freedom through legal means. The book ends with Northup's reunion with his family and his return to New York. However, the conclusion of the book is bittersweet. Although Northup is able to regain his freedom and return to his family, many other enslaved people are left behind in Louisiana, continuing to suffer under the yoke of slavery. Northup is acutely aware of this fact and ends the book with a call to action for the abolition of slavery and the end of the injustice and cruelty that it represents.

Northup's memoir is an important historical document that provides a firsthand account of the horrors of slavery and the resilience of those who were subjected to it. The conclusion of the book emphasizes the importance of speaking out against injustice and fighting for freedom and equality for all people, regardless of their race or social status. Despite the fact that Northup was able to regain his freedom, the conclusion of the book highlights the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality in the United States. Slavery may have been abolished, but the legacy of slavery and the continued oppression of African Americans and other people of Color remains a pressing issue in the United States today. In conclusion, the conclusion of "Twelve Years a Slave" is a powerful testament to Solomon Northup's courage, resilience, and determination in the face of unimaginable adversity. His memoir remains a vital and poignant testimony to the horrors of slavery and the ongoing struggle for justice and equality in the United States.

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