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The Yoruba saying, "Iya ni wura, baba

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ni jigi" ("mother is gold, father is a mirror") goes a long way in showing the importance of motherhood in African society. Mother is gold: strong, valuable, true, central to a child's existence, wise is also very important. Motherhood is not always as smooth as it seems in that it is also self-

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Motherhood as experienced and practiced in Africa is influenced by religious mythologies and local lore and it is coloured with examples of self-sacrifice/giving and much more in the name of motherhood.

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Some critics of African literature believe that this idea of "mother Africa" often found in male literature is a ploy to silence the woman but most female writers are not silenced by this sentiment; rather, it encourages them

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to work hard hence some of them defy negative tags and present the female experience the way it occurs.

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The author examines the sacred associations of motherhood in African

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Cultures, focusing on the production and consumption of cultural items associated with motherhood.

Emphasis is also placed on the theme of motherhood as a lifelong commitment in African literature.

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Akujobi examines Motherhood as a sacred as well as a powerful spiritual component of the woman's life. Emphasis is put on literary discourse where motherhood is a recurrent theme, where motherhood is also a lifelong commitment. The article

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particularly explores motherhood as a discourse in African women creative efforts.

~~"Motherhood in African Literature and Culture" by Remi Akujobi~~

1 AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTHER IN AMERICAN LITERATURE 1.1 The

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Mother The African American mother can be seen from a numerous, often contradictory points of view: she is a woman, who could be analyzed on the basis of psychology or gender studies; she is a feminist, a civil rights fighter or an artist. Black mothers have a lot of faces and



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an experience that is said to be profoundly shaped by social context and culture. Motherhood is also seen as a moral transformation whereby a woman comes to

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This history of African motherhood over the *longue durée* demonstrates that it was, ideologically and practically, central to social, economic, cultural and political life. The book explores how people in the North Nyanzan societies of Uganda used an ideology of motherhood to shape their

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~~A History of African Motherhood by Rhiannon Stephens~~

Motherhood remains a complex and contested issue in feminist research as well as public discussion. This interdisciplinary volume explores

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Cultural representations of motherhood in various contemporary European contexts, including France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain, and the UK, and it considers how such representations affect the ways in which different individuals and groups negotiate ...

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The study comparatively examines the representation of motherhood identities and the trauma of being childless to women in African and Indonesian literary texts namely Ngugi

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wa Thiong'o's Secret Lives and other Stories, Elieshi Lema's Parched Earth, Ratih Kumala's Genesis and Iwan Setyawan's Ibuk. Central to the analysis of this study is the argument that the existing cultural and religious discourses significantly contribute to the ways motherhood identities are

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an automatic set of feelings and behaviours that is switched on by pregnancy and the birth of a baby. It is an experience that is said to be profoundly shaped by social context and culture. Motherhood is also seen as a

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The book charts the decline of the "moral mother" and the accompanying idea of motherhood as a sacred estate and vaunted social institution, the impact of progressive and conservative views on the appropriate

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place of women and mothers within the political and social realms, psychotherapy's influence on mothers' sense of identity, and the influences of both natural and medical ...

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*Page 35/69*

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Selected by Dr Oliver Tearle There's a long, and strong, tradition of African-American writing stretching back centuries, and the annals of literature are filled with amazing African-American poets and poems. Below, we introduce just ten of the very best

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poems by African-American poets, covering over 250 years. Which important poet or poets have we missed?

~~10 of the Best Poems by African-American Poets ...~~

In almost all African societies, the

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most important role of women is to bear children. Whatever else — farming, cooking, or their role in women's associations — their primary responsibility is to produce and nurture children. It is, as Cole puts it, a "biological imperative" or, as Dennis Warren states, a

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Written by award-winning African novelist Mariama Bâ and translated from the original French, *So Long a Letter* has been recognized as one of Africa's 100 Best Books of the 20th

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Century. The brief narrative, written as an extended letter, is a sequence of reminiscences — some wistful, some bitter—recounted by recently widowed Senegalese schoolteacher Ramatoulaye Fall. Addressed to a lifelong friend, Aissatou, it is a record of Ramatoulaye's emotional struggle



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for survival after her husband betrayed their marriage by taking a second wife. This semi-autobiographical account is a perceptive testimony to the plight of educated and articulate Muslim women. Angered by the traditions that allow polygyny, they inhabit a social milieu dominated by attitudes and

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values that deny them status equal to men. Ramatoulaye hopes for a world where the best of old customs and new freedom can be combined.

Considered a classic of contemporary African women's literature, *So Long a Letter* is a must-read for anyone interested in African literature and the

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passage from colonialism to modernism in a Muslim country.

Winner of the prestigious Noma Award for Publishing in Africa.

...a graceful, touching, ironically titled tale. - John Updike A new edition of her classic novel to coincide with the

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publication of her other works in the African Writers Series. Nnu Ego is a woman devoted to her children, giving them all her energy, all her worldly possessions, indeed, all her life to them -- with the result that she finds herself friendless and alone in middle age. This story of a young mother's

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Struggles in 1950s Lagos is a powerful commentary on polygamy, patriarchy, and women's changing roles in urban Nigeria.

This collection is a study of African literature framed by the central, and multi-faceted, idea of 'mother' -

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motherland, mothertongue, motherwit, motherhood, mothering - looking at the paradoxical location of (m)other as both central and marginal. Whilst the volume stands as a sustained feminist analysis, it engages feminist theory itself by showing how issues in feminism are, in African literature,

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Critics take stock of where African Literature has got to and where it is likely to go with the next generation of writers.

This history of African motherhood

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Over the longue durée demonstrates that it was, ideologically and practically, central to social, economic, cultural and political life. The book explores how people in the North Nyanzan societies of Uganda used an ideology of motherhood to shape their communities. More than biology,



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motherhood created essential social and political connections that cut across patrilineal and cultural-linguistic divides. The importance of motherhood as an ideology and a social institution meant that in chiefdoms and kingdoms queen mothers were powerful officials who

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legitimated the power of kings. This was the case in Buganda, the many kingdoms of Busoga, and the polities of Bugwere. By taking a long-term perspective from c.700 to 1900 CE and using an interdisciplinary approach - drawing on historical linguistics, comparative ethnography,

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and oral traditions and literature, as well as archival sources - this book shows the durability, mutability and complexity of ideologies of motherhood in this region.

Reclaiming Home, Remembering Motherhood, Rewriting History: African

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## American and Afro-Caribbean

Women's Literature in the Twentieth Century offers a critical valuation of literature composed by black female writers and examines their projects of reclamation, rememory, and revision. As a collection, it engages black women writers' efforts to create more

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**Inclusive Conceptualizations of community, gender, and history, conceptualizations that take into account alternate lived and written experiences as well as imagined futures. Contributors to this collection probe the realms of gender studies, postcolonialism, and post-structural**

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theory and suggest important ways in which to explore connections between home, motherhood, and history across the multifarious narratives of African American and Afro-Caribbean experiences. Together they argue that it is through their female characters that black women writers demonstrate

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the tumultuous processes of deciphering home and homeland, of articulating the complexities of mothering relationships, and of locating their own personal history within local and national narratives. Essays gathered in this collection consider the works of African

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American women writers (Pauline Hopkins, Toni Morrison, Jessie Redmon Fauset, Audre Lorde, Lalita Tademy, Lorene Cary, Octavia Butler, Zora Neale Hurston, and Sherley Anne Williams) alongside the works of black women writers from the Caribbean (Jamaica Kincaid and Gisèle Pineau),



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Guyana (Grace Nichols), and Cuba (María de los Reyes Castillo Bueno).

This collection is a study of African literature framed by the central, and multi-faceted, idea of 'mother' - motherland, mothertongue, motherwit, motherhood, mothering - looking at the

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paradoxical location of (m)other as both central and marginal. Whilst the volume stands as a sustained feminist analysis, it engages feminist theory itself by showing how issues in feminism are, in African literature, recast in different and complex ways.

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A Study Guide for Buchi Emecheta's "The Joys of Motherhood," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and

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much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

This collection of essays explores the gamut of Toni Morrison's novels from her earliest to her most recent. Each of the essays examines the various ways

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in which Morrison's work delineates and interrogates Western culture's ideological norms of mothers, motherhood, and mothering. The essays consider Morrison's female, and in some cases male, characters as challenging the concept that mothering and motherhood is a stable

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notion. The essays reveal both that mothering is a central concept in Morrison's work and that an examination of this pervasive notion illuminates her corpus as a whole. Toni Morrison on Mothers and Motherhood offers a wide range of scholarship that provides a compelling

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look at Morrison's work through an array of interdisciplinary approaches that are grounded in feminist/gender studies. This interdisciplinary collection of essays will be of interest to scholars and critics concerned with the notions of how we define mother/motherhood/mothering and the

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problem of its interpretation within Western society, as well as those engaged in the interpretation of African-American literature, and Morrison's work in particular.

Interest in the mother-daughter relationship has never been greater,



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yet there are few books specifically devoted to the relationships between daughters and mothers of color. To fill that gap, this collection of original essays explores the mother-daughter relationship as it appears in the works of African, African American, Asian American, Mexican American, Native

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Culture, Indian, and Australian Aboriginal women writers. Prominent among the writers considered here are Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Maxine Hong Kingston, Cherrie Moraga, Leslie Marmon Silko, and Amy Tan. Elizabeth Brown-Guillory and the other essayists examine the myths and

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reality surrounding the mother-daughter relationship in these writers' works. They show how women writers of color often portray the mother-daughter dyad as a love/hate relationship, in which the mother painstakingly tries to convey knowledge of how to survive in a

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racist, sexist, and classist world while the daughter rejects her mother's experiences as invalid in changing social times. This book represents a further opening of the literary canon to twentieth-century women of color. Like the writings it surveys, it celebrates the joys of breaking silence and moving

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