

Mothers and matrilinear lines in works

by Jamaica Kincaid and Edwidge Danticat

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The thesis is concerned with how the role of mother and other female role models are represented and discussed in works by Jamaica Kincaid and Edwidge Danticat. The close reading and critical analysis of fiction and non-fiction works such as *Annie John*, *Lucy*, *Krik? Krak!*, *Breathe*, *Eyes*, *Memory*, and *Create Dangerously*, among others, and non-fiction stories and essays published mostly in the *The New Yorker* magazine, provide the baseline for examining the two authors' writings on topics of motherhood, matrilinear lines, and communal ties, with the emphasis on their importance in the Afro-Caribbean context, especially within Afro-Caribbean immigrant communities. This thesis compares and contrasts Kincaid's and Danticat's definitions of who a mother is and what she represents, the impact of both positive and negative dynamic she has with her children (usually daughters) on the children's identity and perception of self, and how that dynamic reflects on the rest of the community.