

The Black Panther Party in Recent Young Adult Literature

The recent turn in young adult literature to subplots that include the Black Panther Party (BPP) seem appropriate and necessary within the context of the Black Lives Matter movement. Many of the BPP members were teenaged or young adult activists fighting for human and civil rights, so it seems fitting that contemporary African-American young adult literature would feature protagonists influenced by BPP ideals. How might texts such as Rita Williams-Garcia's *One Crazy Summer*, Kekla Magoon's *Fire and the Rock* & *Fire in the Streets*, and Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*, to use Elizabeth Marshall's words, "intervene in institutions such as the public school," where discussions about black activism and protest are "likely unavailable in standard curriculum?" According to Diane Johnson, a pedagogical aspect of African-American literature for youth is to respond to stereotyping and misrepresentation of black history and culture in children's literature. So, is *One Crazy Summer*, *Fire and the Rock*, *Fire in the Streets*, and *The Hate U Give* considered pedagogical in this sense? Thus, this presentation argues that, the authors of *One Crazy Summer*, *Fire and the Rock*, *Fire in the Streets*, and *The Hate U Give* make moves designed to present a fuller depiction of the BPP that both addresses gaps in previous depictions of the BPP and encourage youth to empathize and speak out (and act out) against racism and oppression.