

Student's Name

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Course

Date

Color as a Tool for Discrimination

The article "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" focuses on the problem of self-identity and cultural and ethnic identity as a part of the self. The narration takes place in the first person as the author shares her experiences and thoughts about how she feels. The article starts with her childhood as the period when she lived in a small town where all people were colored. After going to school and later to college, the author felt some changes in herself. However, she saw her reflection in the mirror and felt as a colored girl most of the time. She recounts about the moments when she felt as herself and other moments when she was a typical colored person. Perception of music is a vivid example the author sets to show how people of different color differ from one another. Finally, the entire concept of color is brought to comparison of human beings with bags "propped against a wall."

In fact, the concept of color is used by the author in two different ways that are clearly seen in the article. On the one hand, she tells about slavery that has been abolished more than half a century ago to distinguish the Color from other colors. On the other hand, the color is a way of showing how self-identity influences our own position and perception of the self in the life. For instance, she states that all people in her hometown were colored, whereas this can mean that they had certain values and lived specific lifestyles that could distinguish them from inhabitants of other small towns in the United States.

Slavery serves to show her position in society in addition to her own lack of confidence, as her identity is reflected in the mirror and in her soul. It is the most difficult when a person does not believe in her own dignity and abilities to achieve some goals in life. Would she feel less colored if raised in a large city where many different people integrate their experiences into one great melody? She does not recognize her colored identity as a problem she has created on her own. Instead, she blames her color in all the troubles and obstacles she did not manage to overcome. Though the author uses color to demonstrate discrimination and lack of confidence, she also creates a link to differentiate between the feelings inside and what others might see. In other words, her color may be a matter of circumstances: when she feels great, she does not think about her own color. Fear and uncertainty as well as differences that destroy any meaningful bounds between people can be painted with color. What color to choose? Every person would select a different color: Brown, yellow, red, handicapped, poor, or any other color from the palette of the world.

To conclude, colors may be used to add confidence, or reduce arrogance, while people tend to feel colored when they do not feel the same as everyone around. Being different means feeling colored. Color should not be a negative tool for discrimination or humiliation. It is a great instrument for self-identity and self-restoration.