



African literary responses have played a very vital role to racism forming perspectives

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African literary responses have played a very vital role to racism forming perspectives, challenging stereotypes, and encouraging social justice. African writers have utilized their literary skills as a medium to explore and confront the complex issues surrounding racism, colonialism, and the post-colonial experience. These responses have taken various shapes, including poetries, dramas, novels, essays, and short stories, and have deeply impacted both African and global audiences. Here are some key aspects of the role of African literary responses to racism:

1. **Challenging historical and modern racism:** African literature has given a platform for writers to discourse on the historical legacies of racism and colonialism. By reviewing the age of colonization, slavery and apartheid, authors have spotlighted the undergoing effects of racism on African societies and the psychological damage experienced by generations. Works such as Chinua Achebe's "Things Fall Apart" and Wole Soyinka's "Ake: The Years of Childhood" confront the destructive consequences of racism and colonial oppression.

2. **Demanding stereotypes and misrepresentations:** African writers have been influential in challenging misrepresentations and stereotypes preserved by Western narratives. Their works have showcased nuanced and diverse representations of African people, histories, and cultures. By civilizing African characters and demolishing stereotypes, writers like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie in "Half of a Yellow Sun" and Tsitsi Dangarembga in "Nervous Conditions" have

displayed the abundance and complexity of African experiences.

3. **Asserting cultural identity and pride:** African literature has furnished a platform for African writers to propound their cultural identity and celebrate the affluence of African heritage. By including native languages, folklore, and oral traditions in their works, writers have reinforced a sense of cultural pride. Authors such as Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o in "Petals of Blood" and Mariama Bâ in "So Long a Letter" have culminated the importance of cultural preservation and resistance against cultural assimilation imposed by racism.

4. **Empowering marginalized voices:** African literature has provided air to marginalized sections and individuals affected by racism. By increasing the experiences of the abused, writers have fostered identification and understanding among readers. Works like Buchi Emecheta's "The Joys of Motherhood" and Nawal El Saadawi's "Woman at Point Zero" shed light on the intersectional experiences of African women, marking issues of gender, race, and class discrimination.

5. **Inspiring activism and social change:** African literature has provided an impetus for political and social activism, encouraging readers to dare against comprehensive racism and inequality. Writers have utilized their works to reveal social injustices and encourage critical engagement with the issues. The writings of Steve



Biko, Frantz Fanon, and Ama Ata Aidoo have influenced and energized movements for decolonization, civil rights, and social justice.

In summary, African literary acceptance of racism has played a crucial role in duelling stereotypes, defying historical and contemporary injustices, affirming cultural identity, allowing marginalized voices, and inspiring social change. These works have affixed a broader global understanding of the African experience and fostered a more equitable and inclusive world.