

DISPLACEMENT, MEMORY AND IDENTITY IN FOSTER CARE NARRATIVES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HIDDEN AND A LONG WAY FROM HOME

Chaamili Swetha G. T¹ & Dr. V. Jaisre²

¹Research Scholar, Department of English, Vels Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai

²Professor, Department of English, Vels Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai

ABSTRACT

*This paper uses a comparative literary analysis to look at the themes of identity, memory, and displacement in Cathy Glass's *Hidden* and *A Long Way from Home*. The study focuses on how separation, trauma, and migration within the foster care system cause emotional turmoil for the young characters, Tayo and Anna. In both stories, children are compelled to leave familiar surroundings and deal with difficult previous events while navigating new social and emotional realities. The study investigates how their behavior, relationships, and perceptions of trust are still impacted by memories of abuse, neglect, and instability.*

The study also emphasizes how a child's sense of identity and belonging is disrupted by displacement. Tayo's narrative illustrates anxiety, concealment, and the slow process of emotional opening in a nurturing setting. Anna's journey, on the other hand, focuses on emotional and cultural exile as she tries to fit in while clinging to remnants of her past. The study examines how memory serves as a link between prior trauma and current identity formation by contrasting these experiences.

In the end, this study makes the case that stability, emotional support, and compassionate care giving are crucial in assisting displaced children in reestablishing their sense of self. Through these accounts, the memoirs demonstrate how resilient kids can be and how care may have a profound impact on their healing and recovery.

KEYWORDS: *Displacement, Identity Formation, Childhood Trauma, Foster Care Narratives, Memory and Belonging*

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