

# Contents

## 1. Rethinking the *Bildungsroman*:

### The Politics of Rememory and the *Bildung* of Ethnic American Woman Writers 1

I. Traditional Definitions of the *Bildungsroman* 2

II. Definitions of the Female *Bildungsroman* 9

III. Narratives of *Bildung* by Ethnic Women 13

IV. Knots of Subjectivity 24

V. Breaking Silence 32

VI. Revising the *Bildungsroman*: Morrison and Kingston 36

## 2. The Gaze of *The Bluest Eye* 51

I. Pecola Breedlove 55

II. Claudia MacTeer 67

## 3. En-Gendering New Black Womanhood in *Sula* 77

I. "We was girls together" 78

II. Maternal Discourse 80

III. Memory of Male Ancestors—"A nigger joke" 89

IV. Memories of Wars—National Suicide Day 96

## 4. Stories to Grow up on:

### Talking Story in *The Woman Warrior* 107

I. Problems of Genres 108

II. Talking Story 110

III. The *Bildung* of A Word Warrior 114

## 5. The Daughter of *China Men* 133

I. A Dialogue of Historical Discourses 133

II. An Intellectual Dialogue 138

III. Intertextual Dialogues 143

Contents

**Bibliography**

Works Cited

Selected Bibliography

159

159

174

**Index**

189

13	1. Traditional Definitions of the Bildungsroman	
24	II. Definitions of the Female Bildungsroman	
24	III. Narratives of Bildung by Ethnic Women	
32	IV. Knots of Subjectivity	
32	V. Breaking Silence	
36	VI. Revising the Bildungsroman: Morrison and Kingston	
51	2. The Gaze of The Blind Eye	
52	I. Pecola Breedlove	
62	II. Claudia MacTeer	
77	3. En-Gendering New Black Womanhood in <i>Sula</i>	
78	I. "We was girls together"	
80	II. Maternal Discourse	
89	III. Memory of Male Ancestors—"A nigger joke"	
96	IV. Memories of Wars—National Suicide Day	
107	4. Stories to Grow up on:	
108	Talking Story in <i>The Woman Warrior</i>	
110	I. Problems of Genes	
110	II. Talking Story	
114	III. The Bildung of A Word Warrior	
133	5. The Daughter of China Men	
133	I. A Dialogue of Historical Discourses	
138	II. An Intellectual Dialogue	
143	III. Intertextual Dialogues	