

ENGL 1102M

Student: Teneil Salmon

Teacher: Allison Lenhardt



Teneil Anesia Salmon was born on a tropical island in the Caribbean called Jamaica. For seventeen years, Teneil was raised in a country with its roots embedded in the African, Spanish, and British cultures. For the first two years of her life, she was raised in a bustling town called St. Catherine, but her family moved to the cool hills of Manchester in 1991. During her childhood and adolescent years in Manchester, Teneil learned about her African background and developed an appreciation for the folk songs, traditional dishes, and customs that collectively define her country's unique culture.

During the holidays, Teneil enjoyed visiting her relatives, who lived in different regions of the small island. However, her most exciting and memorable vacations were spent at the home of her late grandparents. Her grandparents owned several acres of land, on which they grew a variety of tropical fruits and vegetables that they sold in the market on Saturdays. This land was inherited from her great-grandparents, who lived during the era in which the British ruled the island. Teneil's parents often shared childhood stories about being raised on such a vast amount of land; these stories contributed to Teneil's desire to spend holidays with her grandparents whenever possible. Given the opportunity to spend such valuable time with her grandparents, Teneil was able to learn interesting facts about her family, such as the fact that her grandfather was the first person to own an automobile in his town. Though this fact seemed inconsequential initially, Teneil soon realized that it was an important aspect of her family's history that would be remembered by many residents in her grandparents' community.

In April 2007, Teneil and her family migrated to the United States of America. Despite this change in location, Teneil remained fully aware of her background and has always been willing to share her culture with those around her. She has resided in the United States of America for two years, and she has discovered that there are similarities between both cultures. As a result, the transition into a foreign culture was not as difficult as she perceived initially. She has learned to accept a new culture but has simultaneously preserved the culture of her homeland within her immediate family. Teneil is elated to reside in a country that encourages diversification and looks forward to continue discovering new aspects of its culture.