

ACADEMIC ARTICLE ANALYSIS

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Academic Article Analysis

The article titled “The Audacious Natural Word: A Review of Camille Dungy's Black Nature” by Celeste Doaks presents a review of the anthology of nature poetry and essays by African Americans titled “Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry” compiled by Camille Dungy. In this article, the author argues that Camille Dungy’s anthology is a fearless collection. She posits that the adjective ‘fearless’ is not only the name of the last work in this collection but also perfectly describes the creative courage which Camille Dungy faced, the task of compiling works that have been ignored (Doaks, 2009, p. 242). In her review, Doaks argues that MFA has over the years canonized the nature poems written by white poets while conveniently overlooking or even excluding the nature poems by African Americans (Doaks, 2009, p. 244). The author praises Dungy's courage in speaking the truth as she gains success among African American nature poets and earns a rightful place in the realm of nature poetry. She also posits that the collection helps to introduce and canonize African American nature poets who, despite having written outstanding nature poems, remained largely unknown.

Reading Celeste Doaks' essay reviewing Camille Dungy's anthology "Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry" increased my curiosity and attention to the primary text. Before reading this essay, I considered Dungy's anthology to be like any other anthology of African American poems. However, after reading Doaks' essay, I realized that the anthology was intended to perform a much more complex task of challenging the norm of exclusion of nature poetry by African Americans. The essay helped me understand that in addition to presenting the works by various African American nature poets, the anthology is also activist.

References List

Doaks, C., 2009. The audacious natural word: a review of Camille Dungy's *Black*

Nature. *Obsidian: Literature in the African Diaspora*, 10(2), pp.240-244.

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