

STAR CHILD

A BIOGRAPHICAL
CONSTELLATION OF
OCTAVIA ESTELLE BUTLER

BY IBI ZOBOI





Inspirations:
My Mother
My Grandmother

Octavia Margaret Butler named her only daughter after herself. She nicknamed her "Junie" because she was a junior and also because she was born in the month of June.

Use Detail

To Build Suspense

To Regulate Pacing

To Create
Mood and Tone

Build a World
With Selected Detail

"I'm the kind of person who looks for a complex way to say something... Poetry simplifies it. When I started to write poetry, I was forced to pay attention word by word, line by line."
-Octavia E. Butler



No Entertainment
On Earth
Can Match
A Good Story
Compellingly Told

“Estella’s most grievous fault is her slowness. She does not complete assignments. She dreams a lot and has poor concentration.”

- from a school report card
Octavia E. Butler received



ACHIEVEMENT				
	NOV.	FEB.	APRIL	JUNE
Reading	B	a	a	a
Mathematics	B	B	B ⁺	a
Language Arts	B ⁺	a	a	a
Applied Spelling	B	B	a	a
Science	a	a	a	a
Social Studies	B	B	B ⁺	a
Handwriting		a	B	a
Art	a	a	a	a
Physical Education		B	B	a
Music – Vocal	B	a	a	a
Instrumental				

A – Excellent B – Good C – Satisfactory
D – Poor F – Failure

PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT				
	NOV.	FEB.	APRIL	JUNE
Effort	S	S	S	S
Conduct	S	S	S	S
Preparedness	S	S	S	S
Courtesy	S	S	S	S
Health Habits	S	S	S	S

S – Satisfactory U – Unsatisfactory

"I never really learned to be part of a group. At first, it didn't matter... I really knew more about being around adults than I knew about being around other kids. This made me very awkward and strange. When I realized that I could fight back, I discovered that I was a lot stronger than I had thought. I hurt people by accident. I had a lot of empathy, and hurting someone really bothered me. - Octavia E. Butler

Tell stories
Filled with
Facts.
Make People
Touch and
Taste and
KNOW.
Make People
FEEL!
FEEL!
Feel!

Why do I write

Because I am an avid collector of people
and people-fragments

Because I am an egoist, and the
power to create and manipulate whole worlds
pleases my vanity.

Because symbiosis pleases me more
than parasitism. I am not a people-person
in the usual sense. Much of the time I'm a
hermit. Yet I have a human need to reach out
to my fellow beings and feel that I've
touched some of them.

Because I would rather grow and
learn and add to myself and writing encourages
this. ~~The only times I have ever considered suicide~~
~~have been times when I thought I might have~~
~~to accept the narrowness.~~ Because I
don't think I could stand the narrow, timid person
I would be if I did not.

Because nothing else seemed worth
doing. Because writing, even at it's worst seemed
better than anything else I could do

"In a way, reading and writing helped me not to be lonely, but in another way, they permitted me to go on being an oddball as far as other kids were concerned. So reading and writing both helped and, I suppose in some ways hindered ... I made my own society in the books and in the stories I told myself."

-Octavia E. Butler

Thurs
11-1-79

I am not ordinary! I am not some damn nothing writer, some s~~h~~lep who spends her whole life writing and being ignored and shat on and used and made to feel she ought to be grateful for the ~~cutting~~ privilege.

I am so incredibly tired of being passed over while writers of less ability telling stories that don't entertain as well or read as smoothly ~~make~~ in the gray. Sally Hemmings is a lesser book that somebody decided was more marketable because it exposed the illicit love-life of an historical figure. Story to hell, get it exposed!

Sally doesn't expose anyone, is it that great a speaker, but had the beautiful good sense to write SF without ever having it so labeled.

So now I have a past to over come - 2 pasts. One is "SF" One is "low seller" That's why there's a note on my wall: No less than \$5000 for SF, No less than \$10,000 for mainstream. I mean it.

"I had no idea what to do and how to get where I wanted to go, and no idea how bad my stuff was because who could I compare it to? Nobody was writing on the subjects that really interested me and the stuff I was sending out."

REMINGTON

"Each key is a memory... Her spaceship is her imagination - a docked rocket ready for takeoff. She travels far into the future - long after we have destroyed our own planet - to a world with mind-reading aliens. She sends herself to save us all from our wars and hunger for power, from our ignorance and self-interest. She travels back to a time to a world where Black bodies were property to save her own ancestor. She leaps into other bodies and minds to feel, to know, to empathize with us all - like a kindred soul."

She is hagridden. Earthseed is Positive Obsession
It will Never let go.

More Sharing
PARABLE OF THE SOWER is a story of death and rebirth. In this story, a woman strives to create a new religion that will give humankind a new birth among the stars.

More Hispanics
The religion, EARTHSEED is first, last, and foremost - Goal, Whip, and Sustenance. EARTHSEED must touch on everything, delve into everything, must offer strength, guidance, and purpose to Lauren and through Lauren without demanding faith in the supernatural.

More Racism
ADD more racism. Add more Hispanics. Most of neighborhood should have Hispanic relatives. More Hispanic surnames on people like Mora who seem ordinary blacks, or ordinary whites. More Spanish Language.

More Heat & Dust & Thirst & Stench & Misery & Fire.

More Sickness
More disease. They must see the sick & dying along the road like downtown LA only worse. More casual, horrible death.

More Death
MORE POSSIBLE TRAVELING COMPANIONS DURING THE NORTHERN JOURNEY. They drop away, refusing to comply with group rules. They try to push her away to take over leadership. They try to settle in the stones of the small towns and cities they pass through. They die. They are killed by gunfire, illness, knives. They are kidnapped and killed. Burned out druggies. They are raped.

More High Tech
These things must happen at least once each. Incidents will bunch up, two or three at once. Some people may leave the group because they've lost a child, a wife, whatever.

More "old" new stuff--computers--talking notebook-library photovoltaic (solar) strips, Hydrogen or electric vehicles. *solar Roll, sheet Ribbon*

GOD IS HER OPPONENT, AND/OR HER PARTNER.
In Book I, She learns to be a careful, adaptable, farsighted Godshaper.
In Book II, She applies what she has learned to collect and protect a new moving community, then lead these to find and claim a new home.

They are seeking a home—room of their own in which to grow and work toward the goal that Olamina has given them.

Looking for one's Children mates etc

"I'm a 48-year-old writer who can remember being a 10-year-old writer and who expects someday to be an 80-year-old writer. I'm also comfortably asocial - a hermit in the middle of Los Angeles - a pessimist if I'm not careful, a feminist, a black, a former baptist, and oil and water combination of ambition, laziness, insecurity, certainty, and drive.

- Octavia Butler

Write Visually

Consciously write vivid word pictures and powerful, vividly alive characters plus Action and Struggle

Publicize Yourself

Conscientiously seize with tenacity every opportunity to get good print publicity

- 1. Write excellent, powerful short stories.
- 1. Write articles for
 - 1. Writers's magazines
 - 1. SF magazines and/or fanzines
 - 1. Women's + Black magazines ???
 - 1. Newspapers - op-ed

Strive For Excellence

I shall be a bestselling writer.

After Imago, each of my books
will be on the bestseller lists of
LAT, NYT, PW, WP, ~~etc.~~, etc.

My novels will go onto the above lists
whether publishers push them hard or not,
whether I'm paid a high advance or not,
whether I ever win another award or not.

This is my life. I write bestselling
novels. My novels go onto the bestseller lists
on or shortly after publication. My novels
each travel up to the top of the bestseller
lists and they reach the top and they stay
on top for months (at least two). Each of my
novels does this. So be it! I will find the way
See to it! So be it! See to it!

My books will be read by millions of people.
I will buy a beautiful home in an excellent neighborhood
I will send poor black youngsters to Clarion or other writer's workshops
I will help poor black youngsters broaden their horizons
I will help poor black youngsters go to college
I will get the best of health care for my mother and myself
I will hire a car whenever I want or need to.
I will travel whenever and wherever in the world that I choose.
My books will be read by millions of people!
So be it! See to it!

