

Editorial

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This Literary Cultures Special Edition journal is entitled *Coming of Age*, a phrase which encapsulates the point of discussion. The theme of this special issue was inspired by the publication of the novel *The Private Joys of Nnenna Maloney* by Okechukwu Nzelu. Nzelu's novel is the story of a young, bright girl who longs to learn more about her Igbo-Nigerian heritage. Her journey of self-discovery motivated the authors of this journal to look at aspects of different pieces of coming of age literature and how these aspects affect the characters as they grow.

The transition from being a child to an adult is a difficult one, full of hardship, responsibility, and confusion. It can also be a time where young people choose to change their identity as they discover who they are, as well as exploring the limits of their potential. This journey is undertaken by every person, but is also reflected in the literature we have chosen to study.

There are a wide diversity of features regarding the process of coming of age that are discussed in this journal, such as bereavement, social class, and teen pregnancy. This variety allows us to explore the impact of a gradual change of identity and subsequently understand the characters that undergo these changes. This special edition journal contains multiple book reviews and articles, all centred around the idea of coming of age. Our authors have worked hard to make their voices heard, and the subject is viewed from many different angles. Literature of this type has been overlooked as being for younger readers, and yet the most inspiring stories can be found in these books. The journeys of the characters depicted can give inspiration to people of any age, which is why we believe that this corner of literature is so important.