The dream of change

by Kathleen Burke

Black Children, White Dreams - Thomas J. Cottle (Houghton Mifflin, $4.95)

The dream of the black child is a marker of the black child's sense of himself, the child's values, the child's hopes, the expectations the child has about what his life or her life is going to be like in the future. But the dream is also the inadequate, in fact, invidious, of the white child, for whom the future is a mirage. What does the dream mean to the black child? He does not dream about the exploitation and oppression that are a reality for the family. He dreams of the realization of the values he has been taught. Because he is acutely aware of those limitations imposed by his middle-class intellectual background, his dreams reflect the anxieties of his own group and the inadequacy, in fact, invidious, of the white child's dream. His dream is a reflection of the political realities which shape their lives.

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