

Memory and the Island: Reading Roshni Mooneeram's *FlerKann Longtail: A Little Bird Goes a Long Way* (2015)

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Abstract

In analysing Roshni Mooneeram's *FlerKann Longtail: A Little Bird Goes a Long Way* (2015), this article proposes a reassessment of insular identity. This recent publication posits the unusual standpoint of a bird-persona whose identity dilemma is reflected by a strong desire to find out his origins. The argument is therefore based on the ways in which the protagonist of this contemporary Mauritian text preserves individual as well as regional autonomy. Acknowledging that Indian Ocean insular identity is multi-faceted, the paper discusses the latent empowering Mauritian characteristics in Mooneeram's writing. The study is divided into four sections. While the introductory part contextualizes Mooneeram's work in the framework of Mauritian fiction, the second and third sections focus on the relationship between memory and the island. The last part enhances ways in which Mooneeram's *FlerKann Longtail* departs from the traditional "robinsonnade". The last section reinstates memory as the source for a hybrid Mauritian text. Finally, the conclusion sums up the main aspects of the study.

Keywords: children's literature, Indian Ocean, island, Mauritian literature, memory, postcolonialism, Roshni Mooneeram