

Cooking Up Resistance the Francophone Way

In the postcolonial francophone world, many authors and their characters use food to assert identity when their native tongues or cultures are crushed by colonization. Through my discussion of the portrayal of food in a diverse cross-section of works by Antillean authors Edouard Glissant, Maryse Condé, Gisèle Pineau, and Aimé Césaire, Lebanese-Canadian writer Abla Farhoud, and French-Cameroonian author Calixthe Beyala, I seek to expand this often narrowly focused vein of study and to exhibit the crucial role food plays in literature from the global francophone diaspora. In these cultures, food is an essential concrete representation of culture and this sentiment is expressed in African novelist Beyala's *How to Cook-up your Husband the African Way*, in which the protagonist states plainly, "*La nourriture est synonyme de la vie* [Food is synonymous with life]." I will establish links between the roles that food play in these different cultures and show how, both despite and because of colonization, food functions – not just within the confines of specific francophone regions, but across the francophone world – as a universal language which transcends borders.