As a young undergraduate taking her first college sci fi course, it was this story that had the most impact on me. Butler is just a bad ass, and probably one of the best at using SF to question traditional notions of gender and race.

**Essay Ideas**

Check out this short video on the [Characteristics of Coming of Age Stories](http://pb.libretexts.org/sci/?p=41). Using information from this lecture, explain how “Bloodchild” could be considered a coming of age story.

Butler has said that “Bloodchild” could be read as a “love story.” What kind(s) of love could she be referring to? How might Gan’s and/or T’Gatoi’s thoughts and actions be interpreted as acts of love? What of Gan’s mother?

How do the T’lic as a society and their relationship to the humans complicate traditional notions of gender and gender roles?
A YouTube element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here: [http://pb.libretexts.org/sci/?p=41](http://pb.libretexts.org/sci/?p=41)

Author website: [http://octaviabutler.org/](http://octaviabutler.org/)

**Additional works by Octavia Butler:**

- [Amnesty](#). Callaloo, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Summer, 2004), pp. 597-615
- "[The Book of Martha](#)" – a short story
- "[Free libraries: Are they becoming extinct?](#)" – an essay
Interview with Octavia Butler on Charlie Rose:

- Part 1
- Part 2

Additional Scholarship about Octavia Butler:

"Loving the Other in Science Fiction by Women" in the Journal of Science Fiction.

"A New Biological Citizenship: Posthumanism in Octavia Butler’s Fledgling" – Academic article (Modern fiction studies, Nayar, Pramod yr:2012 vol:58 iss:4 pg:796 -817)


Remembering Octavia Butler: an Interview with Juan Diaz by Scott Timberg. Salon. Tuesday, Jan 10, 2017 03:59 PM PST.

Extras:


This clip starts off with Robert Silverberg, then Karen Joy Fowler and Octavia Butler discuss how more women writers began writing science fiction in the 1970s:

A YouTube element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here: http://pb.liber texts.org/sci/?p=41

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