



ELA Virtual Learning

Composition and Reading 2

April 13, 2020



Composition and Reading II

Lesson: April 13, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Students will be able to identify and apply feminist criticism across a variety of media.

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Starting Question(s):

Please answer the following questions in your notebooks:

1. Think back to your response from the [previous lesson](#) about the application of feminist theory. How is your application a result of historical gender relations?
2. In what manner has the social role of women developed in the past ten years?



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Lesson/Activity:

Apply feminist criticism to “The Yellow Wallpaper”. There are discussion questions attached to the next slide. Please answer those questions in your notebook.

[“The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Stetson](#)



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Practice:

Complete the following practice in your notebooks.

- Is the author male or female?
- Is the text narrated by a male or female?
- What types of roles do women have in the text?
- Are the female characters the protagonists or secondary and minor characters?
- Do any stereotypical characterizations of women appear?

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Practice (continued):

Complete the following practice in your notebooks.

- What are the attitudes toward women held by the male characters?
- What is the author's attitude toward women in society?
- How does the author's culture influence his/her attitude?
- Is feminine imagery used? If so, what is the significance of such imagery?
- Do the female characters speak differently than the male characters? In your investigation, compare the frequency of speech for the male character to the frequency of speech for the female characters.



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Practice *Answer Key*:

- Is the text narrated by a male or female? **The story is written as a series of journal entries written by a woman being treated for “temporary nervous depression” by her husband. The story is told through her voice.**
- What types of roles do women have in the text? **The narrator is kept on a rest routine by her husband and has very little autonomy. All of her desires to change her room or her feelings about her treatment are suppressed by either her husband, her brother, or her sister-in-law. Her sister-in-law, Jane, is a housekeeper for the estate where the narrator is staying, and serves as a spy to report on the narrator’s behavior to her brother.**

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Practice *Answer Key*:

- Are the female characters the protagonists or secondary and minor characters? **The narrator is the main character, Jane is a secondary character, and may be a secondary antagonist.**
- Do any stereotypical characterizations of women appear? **Jane is characterized as having no other aspirations beyond being a housekeeper.**
- What are the attitudes toward women held by the male characters? **John views himself as his wife's caretaker, ignoring her feelings and treating her as if she were defenseless. She has also bought into these feelings, and believes everything he says for the first half of the text.**
- What is the author's attitude toward women in society? **The author is commenting on how women were treated medically at the time.**

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Practice *Answer Key*:

- How does the author's culture influence his/her attitude? **It seems as if the author was frustrated with how women were treated in the late 19th century.**
- Is feminine imagery used? If so, what is the significance of such imagery? **Not necessarily. There are references to gardens and nature, but those aren't necessarily feminine images.**
- Do the female characters speak differently than the male characters? **The females speak from a place of powerlessness until the last journal entry.**
- In your investigation, compare the frequency of speech for the male character to the frequency of speech for the female characters. **The entire text is narrated by a female. It is her story. It is interesting to note that as the author reflects on how little power women had in 1892, the male character's words hold more power despite speaking less.**