

Extra Credit LRC visit w/ proof: 10 extra credit points given ONCE for attending LRC during this essay's drafting process, but you may go as many times as you need to.

10/29 Sat: Essay DUE uploaded in Moodle prior to 1155pm.

Like the speaker in Mary Elizabeth Coleridge's "The Other Side of the Mirror," the literary woman frequently finds herself staring with horror at a fearful image of herself that has been mysteriously inscribed on the surface of the glass, and she tries to guess the truth that cannot be uttered by the wounded and bleeding mouth, the truth behind "the leaping fire/Of jealousy and fierce revenge," the truth "of hard unsanctified distress" . . . Yet even though she strives to "set the crystal surface" of the mirror free from frightful images, she continually feels . . . that she is "broken in two/By sheer definition." The story "no man may guess" therefore, is the story of her attempt to make herself whole by healing her own infections and diseases. --(G & G 76)

WRITING TASK: Select TWO readings from 1-3 below & Brontë's *Jane Eyre* in an essay 5-6 pages (not including Works Cited page) in length.

DISCUSS TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THE NOVEL, JANE EYRE, EMPOWER A LITERARY WOMAN TO "SHATTER THE MIRROR THAT HAS SO LONG REFLECTED WHAT EVERY WOMAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE."

Grounds for discussion: What does the work(s) tell readers about Images of Women in Literature and the critical issues that impact the images or emerge from them? It could be a theoretical lens that applies to the reading; a view of Mr. Rochester; a particular reading of Jane or Bertha or another character? Focus on the nature of temptation; civilized behavior; patriarchal oppression; element of class in the equation of seduction, roles of choice; issues regarding speech and silence in the novel; experiences of a child related to silence and listening; creating comparisons/contrasts between the readings. Consider the many literary elements. Again, ask yourself what caused you to stop and think . . . there are numerous possibilities.

1. Moodle Reading: Gilbert & Gubar's "Infection in the Sentence: The Woman Writer and the Anxiety of Authorship" (45-92)
2. Norton JE Criticism: Sandra M. Gilbert "Dialogue of Self & Soul: Plain Jane's Progress" (483)
3. Norton JE Criticism: Adrienne Rich "The Temptations of a Motherless Woman" (469)
4. Norton JE Critical Edition: Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*

Your essay is NOT a research paper. It is an argument/position paper. The purpose of this essay is to render your interpretations and exploration in an analytical mode. Your thesis is driving the essay, not the combined contentions of other writers.

Your Purpose in Writing This Essay:

Demonstrate your ability to look insightfully at a variety of genres within Images of Women in Literature.

Argue a significant and meaningful way to interpret these texts.

Present a clear, arguable, and provocative thesis.

Support your argument with clear and appropriate evidence, taken from the texts and from outside critical sources.

Illustrate your ability to correctly interpret critical sources.

Demonstrate knowledge of the rhetorical and argumentative structures in organizing your essay.

Illustrate the proper usage of MLA documentation, in text and in the Works Cited page.

Exercise the skill of writing well-crafted sentences, utilizing standard edited American English.