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Digital Manor

### Curatorial Statement

Upon entering the Digital Manor, our aim is to envelop our scholars in an immersive Norfolk-esque experience pulled from Virginia Woolf's "The Journal of Mistress Joan Martyn." Similar to Rosamond Merridew, the protagonist who delves into the journal's contents, our objective is to construct a parallel interpretation. Emulating Woolf's instruction from her essay, "The Leaning Tower," stating that "we must become critics because in future we are not going to leave writing to be done for us by a small class of well-to-do young men who have only a pinch, a thimbleful of experience to give us" (18); our focus centers on a feminist critique, aligning with the pervasive theme in Woolf's writing. Regarded as radical, Woolf's perspective on English literary culture as a contested space requiring inclusion beyond the masculinist tradition is elucidated in an article from the Chaucer Review: "For Woolf, English literary culture is a contested space that needs to embrace writers and ideas outside the masculinist tradition" (Macavoy & Watt 10). Through the subversion of gender norms in the characters of Merridew and Joan, Woolf provides a meticulously crafted perspective on the challenges faced by women in a patriarchal society to serve as a reminder of the importance of overcoming female repression akin to Woolf's own feminist perspective.

Our room is thoughtfully organized into three distinct floors, each serving a unique purpose. Upon entering the first floor, participants encounter various introductory assets, including a Summary and Cornish Music to establish the atmosphere. This floor serves as an introduction to Rosamond Merridew, featuring tasteful assets that represent her character and values. Discussing the subversion of gender norms within the narrative, Essay 1 sits within this floor. Moving to the second floor, participants discover two additional critical essays and an array of assets designated to the character of Joan Martyn. These supporting essays, Essay 2 and Essay 3, address the nuances of patriarchal culture, its impositions, and its impact on Joan Martyn and her internal desires. This floor's intention is to submerge viewers into Joan's experiences as if they are reading the journal alongside Rosamond Merridew. The third floor functions as a background of all things "The Journal of Mistress Joan Martyn," including an analysis of the similarities between Merridew and Woolf, along with images related to the narrative.

We encourage our scholars to enter the Digital Manor with an open mind, and a willingness to expand their analytic horizons. Use the arrow keys to move forward, backward, and side to side, and the Q and E keys to rotate. We hope you have an enchanting visit to the Digital Manor!

## Works Cited

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