

Feminist Curatorial Statement (Rebecca Colbert)

In this section of the modernist gallery, I take the way Virginia Woolf addresses Victorian patriarchy through a modernist feminist critique. Starting from the left side of the gallery, I include page 35 of *To the Lighthouse* from the berg materials online (a.k.a. Virginia Woolf's rough draft), an audio version of the Brothers Grimm story "The Fisherman and His Wife," the first page of Woolf's essay on David Copperfield, a picture of Julia Stephen looking out a window, page 125 of *To the Lighthouse*, a picture of Leslie and Julia Stephen (Virginia Woolf's parents), and a quiz on which character said a line in the book. All of these artifacts have a feminist critical angle Woolf fleshes out.

On page 35 of *To the Lighthouse*, if you open the "open link" tab, you will see the lines she chooses to cross out. In this scene, Mrs. Ramsey is soothing Charles Tansley because he feels as if he never became a great philosopher or poet. The lines she crosses out are of Charles Tansley's thoughts, and I believe she chose to cross them out because they would've made the male character to aware of himself. As well, I include a picture of Julia Stephen under this to give a visual context of the way women had no one to turn to except a window when they feel like failures under Victorian society.

For the Brothers Grimm story, I chose it because its lines come up throughout the novel, and I believe Woolf choose it in a satirical way not only to highlight the ways in which the male patriarchy favors positions of power over others but in the way they are never satisfied either. I mention satire because the main character who is greedy and desires to be emperor, king, and the pope is a woman. Everyone sees her actions as greedy and malicious, but if her husband did it he would only seem ambitious. Press the play button if you want to hear the story.

In Woolf's essay "David Copperfield" she criticizes the way the author fails to describe female characters and is rigid with victorian societal structures. (Para 2) As well, I've included a picture of Julia and Leslie Stephen to give a visual representation of the way victorian people had to dress as well as their patriarchal body language (Leslie confident and open, Julia close and tight).

On page 125 of *To the Lighthouse*, this scene follows the Ramsey family as they head to the lighthouse many years after the start of the novel while Lily Briscoe watches them. The crossed-out line that caught my eye and w=one I think has specific feminist undertones is when Lily Briscoe is thinking about grief and says "There would never be a word of this in masculine society. (Para 4).

For the quiz, each line I included in the test has some mention of women and or thoughts by a woman in the novel. This is designed to give an overarching theme of how often women were given a voice in the novel and how often the topic of women in society came up.

Works Cited

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