

Curatorial Statement

Analyzing Virginia Woolf's "The Journal of Mistress Joan Martyn" from a feminist lens in the span of the Late Middle Ages timeline recognizes the lead female protagonists, Rosamond Merridew and Joan Martyn, and the challenges they face within the social norms of their time. These challenges influence their character development within the setting, art, architecture, politics, literature, and fashion. Through specifically using the feminist lens, our group individually recognizes the multi-faced aspects of these women within Woolf's story. To accomplish these goals within our hub room, our group curated a variety of academic and non-academic assets to apply and support various themes found through the feminist lens as well. Our project as a whole addresses at least four overall recurring themes within Virginia Woolf's text.

One theme that remains relevant within the first floor of our hub is that female characters try to remove gender social roles in aspiration to be their true authentic selves. We identify this theme by focusing on the social gender roles through history and how the female characters exemplify this defiance through the text. On our second floor, a recurring theme is that women try to find freedom and connection through a life of personal isolation. This theme is highlighted through some assets that focus on the historical account of women's lives in various periods and how Virginia Woolf immersed herself in isolation at Blo Norton Hall to write the story. The first room on the third floor has a theme of identifying standards of a woman's beauty in society. This theme is displayed through assets that focus on women's beauty trends in history and accepting one's own beauty within society. In the last room of our hub, there is a present theme of characters finding their own voice within vulnerability. The theme is represented through assets like an original poem from the viewpoint of Joan Martyn and videos about Virginia Woolf's

experiences in vulnerability. As a whole, these individuals themselves come together to showcase a feminist lens being applied. This application identifies the social challenges both protagonists experience with Virginia Woolf's short story.