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Virginia Woolf and Feminism Through Vulnerability

Within Virginia Woolf's piece of literature famously known as "The Journal of Mistress Joan Martyn" it outlines the basis of contribution towards early feminism. This piece of literature incorporates feminism through vulnerability within the depicted characters. The two main characters are known to be Rosamond Merridew and Joan Martyn. Both women encounter challenges throughout their lives because of societal standards that are placed upon them. Merridew is a historian who is dedicated to tracing back families' genealogies through her own discovery. As she is scattering to look for archives, Meridew encounters Joan Martyn's diary. As described within the story, this diary is dated to have been written in the early 1400's. Merridew then proceeds to dive into the world of Joan Martyn who describes her frustration of having to comply with her family's expectations. Feminism is then incorporated through Joan Martyn as she struggles within her state of vulnerability. The assets within the DJ project outlines a basis for a deeper understanding of how this theme was implied within this chosen piece of literature.

This was done intentionally to contribute to the underlying messaging Woolf was trying to imply when contributing to the early wave of feminism within the modernist era. On the third floor to the rest there is a poem written by Julisa Mijangos that was created with the intent to portray vulnerability when trying to speak through one's inner voice. The same is applied to Joan Martyn within the literature as she encounters similar relative experiences when trying to make decisions on her own. When her family pressures her to get married for status and for honor,

Joan Martyn proceeds by expressing her immediate concern by stating to her mother, “I have no wish to leave you” (256). Despite her vulnerability and tenderness to react in an elegant way towards her mother’s requests, she was shunned down and reminded that marriage brought both “honor” and “burden”.

Woolf’s studies are notoriously known for empowering women. The rest of the assets in this digital room imply a similar approach by providing information pertaining to other pieces of literature written by Woolf similarly to the selected one in this essay. As well as other women who sparked a large influence within her style of writing. Visual images and scholarly articles were also provided to help add to the what if factor in where Virginia Woolf’s text is incorporated within this form of digital modernism.

Work Cited

Squier, Susan M., et al. "Virginia Woolf's *The Journal of Mistress Joan Martyn*." *Twentieth Century Literature*, vol. 25, no. 3/4, 1979, pp. 237–69. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/441323>. Accessed 27 Nov. 2023.