

Document 1: The Story of an Hour (Kate Chopin)

Document 2: The Tenant of Wildfell Hall (Acton Bell / Anne Brontë)

Document 3: Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)

Personal documents: An illustration of Emma by Chris Hammond + an extract from Sense and Sensibility (Jane Austen)

The Writer in his/her time.

Issue: The place of women in society in the 19th century.

First text: The Story of An Hour by Kate Chopin.

The book relate the story of Mrs. Mallards who is told about her husband's death by her sister Josephine in a train accident. She recluded herself in her room at once at hearing and she propably felt lonely.

The text reflects the fact in the 19th century in America that husbands controlled their wives; they were their husband's property. Kate Chopin with this text want to show that women need an identity and this idea enhanced by the Romanticism movement which advocated the importance of individuals and especially in America the female authors created heroines who take importance after the civil war.

This text is forceful thanks to the pathetic fallacy, the description of the nature blends with Mrs. Mallards' rebirth and illustrate the inner state of her where she is relieved and she felt the mistress of her life because her husband could not control her. Then, the author uses the irony for the denouement and so illustrate the fact that Mrs. Mallards has fantasied her future freedom, with that she show that the appearance is very important at this period, a woman should be happy to see her husband, should be her property.

Second text: The Tenant of Wildfell Hall by Acton Bell (Anne Brontë's pen-name)

Here, in the first part of the book the narrator is Mr. Markham and thanks to that Anne Brontë criticizes his opinion of genders where boys should not be protected but exposed to danger to become strong and resilient whereas girls should be protected because they are delicate, sensible and fragile like a hot houseplant. So he thinks that women enfeeble their sons when they educated them alone and boys and girls should be educated differently. With this way, we identify with Mrs. Graham and we agree with her: women can educate their sons correctly, to become brave and strong like a tree, even if they are alone, they not are necessarily over-protecting them. Anne Brontë leads to reconsideration morals criterions in the Victorian Era, she uses a masculine pseudonym to avoid censorship and have an impact on society. The people have to understand this novel in second degree and search for the implicit, the persons who don't understand say: "utterly unfit to be put into the hands of girls " while is a feminist novel because they think that this book

is not adapt for women and which confirms the representation of women at this time which not be full of praise.

Third text: The incipit of Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.

Under the Regency, the place of women is the same like as under Victorian Era. Jane Austen's novels are set among the country of gentry that she knew where women accepted rational marriages instead of sentimental ones, such as Charlotte Lucas in the novel, and this idea is well represented by the character of Mrs. Bennet who want to marry her daughters for a comfortable situation because Mr. Collins is the only heir and so the house will be entailed to his if Mr. Bennet died. Jane Austen criticizes also the women dependence on men and this is why she created heroines and she gave to Elizabeth Bennet, for example, an independent voice and who refused this kind of marriage and for them, feeling is more important than comfortable situation. Compared to Kate Chopin or Anne Brontë, Jane Austen accuses directly the society of her time; she satirizes the hypocrisy, the self-importance and stupidity and gives a personal observation of this. They are Novels of Manners.

Personal documents:

A picture, created by Chris Hammond, of Emma by Jane Austen who illustrate that the property of many men at this time is the money, in this picture Philip Elton is a very realistic character and he don't project to marry a destitute women. If he don't obtained the Emma's hand, he try to find soon another with less fortune but a rich nonetheless.

A extract of Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen where John Dashwood represented the idea that women doesn't have the choice for the marriage, for him it the same that Miss Morton marry Robert Ferrars or his brother, he does not take into account the Miss Morton's feelings. Elinor Dashwood in this novel represented the ideas of Jane Austen who denounced the absurdities of manners and pretentions of society with wit and irony.