

# English 203



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

uses the medievalist combination of erotic love and spiritual love to give voice to a female consciousness. The woman speaks strongly of a love "laid bare to you" that "you can make not void nor vain." And having had enough "Of love and parting in exceeding pain," (Sonnet 11) she wisely and faithfully chooses the spiritual path. This subversive tone, like the choice of spiritual over physical love, defies the woman's conventional role as the silent object of male adoration and creates the role of a woman lover who exists as a person in her own right. Christina Rossetti "Monna

Innominata Born on December 10, 1830, in Amherst, Massachusetts, Emily Dickinson left school as a teenager to live a reclusive life on the family homestead. There, she filled notebooks with poetry and wrote hundreds of letters. Dickinson's remarkable work was published after her death—on May 15, 1886, in Amherst—and she is now considered one of the towering figures of American literature. Emily Dickinson When the book opens, Edna Pontellier is an obedient wife and mother vacationing at Grand Isle with her family. While there, however, Edna becomes close to a young man named Robert Lebrun. Before they act on their mutual romantic interest in each other, Robert leaves for Mexico. Edna is lonely without his companionship, but shortly after her return to New Orleans (where she usually lives with her family), she picks up the male equivalent of a mistress. Although she does not love Alcee Arabin, he awakens various sexual passions within her.

Concurrent to Edna's sexual awakening is her determination for independence. Instead of spending her days concerned with household matters, Edna pursues her interest in painting. Rather than depending financially on her husband, Edna moves into a house of her own. By the time

Robert returns, professing his love for Edna and his desire to someday marry her, Edna can no longer handle societal strictures - particularly marriage. Without finishing the conversation about their future, Robert leaves Edna. Heartbroken, she returns to Grand Isle. Once there, she swims far out to sea and presumably drowns.

Kate Chopin "The Awakening" The Yellow Wallpaper Charlotte Perkins Gilman John Wright has been strangled to death with a rope in his mega-creepy Midwestern farmhouse. The main suspect of the grizzly crime? His wife. As the County Attorney, Sheriff Peters, and a neighboring farmer named Mr. Hale investigate the house for clues, the real sleuths turn out to be Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters. Though the menfolk constantly make fun of the women for worrying about female things, like Mrs. Wright's unfinished quilt, it's the ladies' attention to "woman stuff" that allows them to crack the case.

When the ladies discover Mrs. Wright's pet canary with its neck wrung, they immediately put the mystery together. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters know that the harsh Mr. Wright snapped the canary's neck, and that, after years of neglect and emotional abuse, Mrs. Wright repaid her husband by giving him a taste of what her pet bird got. (And we don't mean birdseed.)

The play comes to its spine-tingling conclusion when the ladies hide the bird from the male authorities, denying them the evidence of motive they need to convict Mrs. Wright. In the end, we're left with lots of juicy questions about the true meaning of justice for women... and oppressed people everywhere.

Trifles by Susan Glaspell She shows the innocence of small children and the cruelty of the society that draws a line between the rich and the poor, higher

and lower status of people. There are five child characters in this story. They are the Burnell daughters and the Kelvey daughters. Besides this, there are grown ups like the Aunt Beryl, Mrs. Kelvey, the school teacher and so on. This story reveals that small children are innocent but they are poisoned by the grown ups and become cruel very slowly. Katherine Mansfield " The Doll's House" This sonnet is fairly well known, probably because it is so accessible and easy to remember. The verse structure makes it a classic sonnet but the content makes it classic Millay. The first part of the poem is often said to be the objective part while the second half is the introspective portion, but knowing what we know about this set of poetry and how it was written largely about her affair with Dillon, it is easy to see that the entire poem is very personal.

The first line is an excellent hook, it pulls the reader in with a general statement of truth. She draws pictures of how love cannot save the lives of people who are ill but reminds us that without love we can suffer greatly as well. Then she uses herself as an example of this fact and asks if there is anything that could force her to give away the feeling of the love they share, or the memory of this night together. She concludes, in her humanizing way, that it is possible. But not likely.

Millay knew how precious love was, and in this little sonnet, with its quaint rhymes and imagery, she reminds us to cherish our loves as well.

The Fatal Interview Edna St. Vincent Millay Toni Morrison's novel 'Recitatif' is the story of two young girls who bond at a shelter called St. Bonaventure, or 'St. Bonny's.' Twyla, who is the narrator of the story, and Roberta meet when

they are eight years old. Roberta is of a different race than Twyla, but Twyla finds that Roberta is sympathetic to her situation. Unlike the other young girls at the orphanage, Twyla's mother dances all night. Morrison positions the girls in the story together so they can stick together against the influences of the older girls. Morrison moves the story forward as Twyla recounts her experiences at St. Bonny's, which include visiting the orchard, remembering the visit from her mother, and eating Easter candy. Time passes when both Twyla and Roberta split up, which sets up Morrison's strategy of further providing a contrast between the women. When the story picks up again with the two characters, Twyla is 28 and married, living in a rundown time; however, Roberta is married to a wealthy executive. Morrison inserts racial tension when busing hits Newburgh, Twyla's town. The contrast between the two women heightens as both are on opposite sides of the law, holding pickets signs against and for busing. By the end of 'Recitatif,' both women are still perplexed about what happened to Maggie, another character they encountered while living at the orphanage.

Recitatif Toni Morrison" Fleur" begins by stating that Fleur Pillager was only a girl when she drowned in Lake Turcot, which is located in Native American reservation in North Dakota. Two men dive in and save her and, not long afterward, both disappear. Fleur falls in the lake again when she is twenty, but no one is willing to touch her. One man bends towards her when she washes onshore, and Fleur curses him, telling him that he will die instead of her. He drowns shortly thereafter in a bathtub. Men stay away from Fleur, believing that she is dangerous and that the water monster Misshepesu wants her for himself.

Because she practices what the narrator calls "evil" ways, Fleur is unpopular on the reservation, and some gather to throw her out. In the summer of 1920, she leaves on her own accord for the town of Argus. Noticing a steeple, she walks straight to the church and asks the priest for work. He sends her to a butcher shop where Fleur works with the owner's wife Fritzie, hauling packages of meat to a locker. Fleur gives the men a new topic of conversation, particularly when she begins playing cards with them.

Pulling up a chair without being invited, she asks if she can join their game of cards. Fleur borrows eight cents from the narrator Pauline and begins to win. The men unsuccessfully try to rattle her, and Tor discovers that she is unable to bluff, but Fleur continues to win. Fleur finally picks up Pauline, who is hiding in the walls, and puts her to bed. The game continues night after night, and each time Fleur wins exactly one dollar. The men are soon "lit with suspense" and ask Pete to join the game. Lily is confounded by Fleur and suspects that she may be cheating for low stakes.

In August, when Fleur has won thirty dollars, Pete and Fritzie leave for Minnesota. With Pete out of the way, Lily raises the stakes in an attempt to shake Fleur. After a long night of going up and down, Fleur wins the entire pot and then leaves the game. The men begin drinking whiskey straight from the bottle and go outside to hide in wait for Fleur. Lily attempts to grab her, but she douses him with a bucket of hog slops and runs into the yard. Lily falls into the sow's pen, and the sow attacks him. He beats its head against a post and eventually escapes to chase Fleur to the smokehouse with the other men. They catch Fleur, who cries out Pauline's name, but Pauline cannot bring herself to help.

The next morning, the weather begins to turn into a violent storm and the men take shelter in the meat locker. Pauline goes to the doors and slams down the iron bar to lock them inside. The winds pick up and send Pauline flying through the air, and Argus is thoroughly wrecked by the storm.

Because everyone is occupied with digging out from the storm, days pass before the townspeople notice that three men are missing. Kozka's Meats has been nearly destroyed, although Fritzie and Pete come home to find that the back rooms where they live are undisturbed. They dig out the meat locker to discover the three men and Lily's dog frozen to death.

Pauline says as a kind of summary, from an unspecified period of time in the future, that " Power travels in bloodlines, handed out before birth," which implies that Fleur was responsible for the deaths of the men. She says that now she is about the only one who visits Fleur, who lives on Lake Turcot and may have married the water spirit Misshepeshu or taken up with white men or " windigos" (evil demons), unless she has " killed them all." Fleur has had a child, but no one knows for sure who fathered it. Pauline emphasizes that old men talk about the story over and over but, in the end, " only know that they don't know anything."

Fleur by Louise Erdrich  
Maxine Hong Kingston begins her search for a personal identity with the story of an aunt, to whom this first chapter's title refers. Ironically, the first thing we read is Kingston's mother's warning Kingston, " You must not tell anyone . . . what I am about to tell you. In China your father had a sister who killed herself. She jumped into the family well. We say that your father has all brothers because it is as if she had never been born." Of course, keeping silent is exactly what Kingston is not doing.

Because she is most concerned with exploring how her Chinese cultural history can be reconciled with her emerging sense of herself as an American, Kingston must uncover just what this Chinese cultural history is, and one way of doing so is by listening to, and then altering, her mother's stories about the family's Chinese past. No Name Woman Maxine Hong Kingston Grace is visiting the Ottawa Valley, looking for the Traverses' summer house. Is Grace a lost housecat? A deranged circus performer? A marauding grizzly bear? These are all reasonable questions, but we soon discover that Grace is a human female, that she's old now, and that the main events of the story take place during a summer when she was just out of high school and working as a waitress at Bailey's Falls.

During that summer Grace meets the Travers family. She dates Maury Travers but is never sure if she loves him. She loves Mrs. Travers, but not in the way that she thinks she should love Maury. She spends a lot of time with the family, including a fateful Thanksgiving Sunday during which she cuts her foot on a clamshell and agrees to accompany Neil Travers (Maury's older brother) into town for a hospital visit—and by "hospital visit" we mean a very brief hospital visit, followed by a bar visit, followed by some drunk-driving and a visit to a bootlegger, all of which occur amid a thick haze of sexual tension and/or impending disaster. Eventually Neil falls asleep and Grace drives him back to Bailey's Falls.

The next morning, Grace learns that Neil died in a car accident the previous night. Presumably she loses touch with the Traverses except for one meeting, later on, when Mr. Travers visits her at work and gives her a check for one thousand dollars.



Passion by Alice Munrol

am she

of your stories

the notorious

one

leg wrapped

around

the door

bare heart

sticking

like a burr

the fault

the back street

the weakness

that's me

I'm

the Thursday

night

the poor

excuse

I am she

I'm dark

in the veins

I'm

intoxicant

I'm hip

and good skin

brass

and sharp tooth

hard lip pushed

against

the air

I'm lightbeam

no stopping me

I am

your temporary

thing

your own

mad

dancing

I am

a live

wildness

left

behind

one earring

in the car

a finger-

print

on skin

the black smoke

in your

clothes

and in

your

mouth

" Love Poem #1"

a red flag

woman I am

all copper

chemical

and you an ax

and a bruised

thumb

unlikely

pas de deux

but just let

us wax

it's nitro

egypt

snake

museum

zoo

we are  
connoisseurs  
and commandos  
we are rowdy  
as a drum  
not shy like Narcissus  
nor pale as a plum  
  
then it is I want to hymn  
and hallelujah  
sing sweet sweet jubilee  
you my religion  
and I a wicked nun

Sandra Cisneros: I the Woman and Love Poem 1Hooks, a pen name for Gloria Watkins, the author of *Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism*, here gathers essays that also focus on being black and feminist in America. She begins by recounting painful personal experiences: growing up in a repressive, Southern, "father-dominated household," attending a segregated high school, struggling to find her own, persuasive voice and become a writer, and learning to deal with racism and sexism while studying at "predominately white universities" in Wisconsin and California. Hooks then moves on to a general discussion of the women's movement and how "white supremacy" in our society adversely affects it. Although the author makes perceptive and provocative observations, they are diminished by redundancy and weakened by her doctrinaire Marxist rhetoric: "In resistance, the exploited, the oppressed work to expose the false reality to reclaim and

recover ourselves. We make the revolutionary history." In addition, the author employs labels such as "got everything White people." Ultimately, she fails to convince or even to use her own voice. Bell Hooks Talking Back Publication date of Awakening April 22, 1899 Publication date of Yellow Wallpaper 1892 Publication of Trifles 1916 Publication of Passion March 22, 2004 Publication of Talking Back January 1, 1989 ON ENGLISH 203 SPECIFICALLY FOR YOU FOR ONLY \$13.90/PAGE Order Now