

Feminist Criticism

Feminist Criticism examines images of women and concepts of the feminine in myth and literature; uses the psychological, archetypal, and sociological approaches; often focuses on female characters who have been neglected in previous criticism. Feminist critics attempt to correct or supplement what they regard as a predominantly male-dominated critical perspective.



- A. How are women's lives portrayed in the work?
- B. Is the form and content of the work influenced by the writer's gender?
- C. How do male and female characters relate to one another? Are these relationships sources of conflict? Are these conflicts resolved?
- D. Does the work challenge or affirm traditional views of women?
- E. How do the images of women in the story reflect patriarchal social forces that have impeded women's efforts to achieve full equality with men?
- F. What marital expectations are imposed on the characters? What effect do these expectations have?
- G. What behavioral expectations are imposed on the characters? What effect do these expectations have?
- H. If a female character were male, how would the story be different (and vice versa)?
- I. How does the marital status of a character affect her decisions or happiness?