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Artistic Character Reflection

When given a choice of what story to make a representation of, Girl stood out to me the most. Girl really made me see feminism and how undermined females are in this sense. This also felt like a representation I could be the most creative with given the other three choices.

The most influential part of my painting was my use of Black and White. The white background was a starting point where I could choose any direction to take my thoughts and ideas. The Literary piece Girl by Jamaica Kincaid, was very gender and role specific. She is very straightforward with her wording and speaks in a demanding tone that has no humor or sarcasm. My painting also used this same tone with its black and white colors; straightforward with no chance of misinterpretation.

My poster starts off with “On Sundays try to walk like a lady” (Kincaid, 1). The girl is taught that she must walk like a lady to prevent becoming a slut like she was destined to be. I interpreted this as a pair of high heels next to her words across the mirror. The heels represent youth and vitality but the words provide guidance for how a child can walk in them remaining youthful.

“This is how you sew on a button”(Kincaid, 1) was used next to represent a female’s role in society. In this time, a female did all the chores around the house including fixing tattered clothing. The button and string represent the females bond to society. Another line from the story, “This is how you sweep a whole house” (Kincaid, 1), further shows this feminine role in society. Men were never caught sweeping a house, let alone holding a broom in their hand; yet young girls are taught the proper way to sweep a house to fulfill their “job”.

Tea is objectified as a morning ritual and it is one of the most important events to prepare for the older ladies of the house. “This is how you set a table for tea”(Kincaid, 1), reflects this immense need for a proper table setting, and uses the same context with all the other meals in her short story. I placed four cups of tea on my poster represent a full table setting for a drink of tea.

When women are placed in a role to take care of the household, it can mean any number of tasks a man could not fulfill during his day. Included in these tasks is “how to catch a fish”(Kincaid, 1). This short line is followed by saying that if you properly throw back this fish you have caught it will ensure that you will not have anything bad fall on you. ‘Catching a fish’ is means for a meal later on that day, like a women’s role is displayed.

Not included in the short story, but thoughts of my own relate me to an image of an apron and long skirt; keeping with the idea that she needs to cover up so “this way they won’t recognize immediately the slut I have warned you against becoming”(Kincaid, 1).

The main idea of this poem is against feminism and the idea that women and men are created to have equal jobs and equal duties. Underlying meanings state that as a man can go about doing his own thing; women must learn the proper way to behave, and the proper way to do things around the house.