

ROLE OF WOMEN IN SHAKESPEAREAN LITERATURE ESSAY

Role of Women in Macbeth by William Shakespeare Essay Shakespeare developed complex and varied female characters in his plays, especially the women.

Charney Maurice suggests that since within Renaissance drama madwomen were 'more strongly defined than madmen', and women's madness was 'interpreted as something specifically feminine', through depictions of madness dramatists were able to give women a chance to express their selfhood - 'make a forceful assertion of their being' - in a way which patriarchal conventions would otherwise have prevented. Despite the relative insignificance of women in Elizabethan social order, Shakespeare uses them in many significant ways. The role women had was teaching and taking care of the children at home, cleaning the house, and cooking and having food ready for the husbands when they come home after work. Continue Reading. Desdemona chose to follow her passion and defied her father to marry Othello. The basis of many of his female characters was brought about by these certain emotions. Women were inferior to the men. With characters such as Goneril and Cleopatra, Shakespeare demonstrates the devastating effects of female rebellion against social order. The important characters of the play, Othello, Iago, and Cassio, each have a woman that stands behind him. So too she embraces Antony's masculinity and the world of Rome by dying in 'the true Roman Fashion'. For instance, the tragedy of Othello is unlike many other Shakespearean plays, in that the leading female characters are wiser and more rational than the main male characters. Women were seen very differently to how they are in the present day. However, in this play the gender roles are inverted and it is Antony who is the true victim. Inevitably he returns to Egypt and Cleopatra, and causes a rift which can never again be cemented between himself and Caesar, which ultimately results in war. The natural stereotype of that time viewed women as weak, fickle, and dependent of the men in their society and subject to the decisions that men make for them. She is loving, virtuous, and forgiving. Cleopatra, unlike Othello and Ophelia, is the dominating force of the play in terms of theme and also her personal presence. For a deeper understanding of Shakespeare's women read our guide to the types of female characters in Shakespeare. We can see that Shakespeare didn't necessarily believe this, by looking at the role of women in other plays of Shakespeare's. Specifically this can be seen in the Elizabethan age. Single women have been the property of their fathers and handed over to their future husbands through marriage. They are shamed for embracing their sexuality and their opinions are not respected or even taken into consideration. In the days of sacred virginity, and honesty of one's word, well off women such as Desdemona were not given responsibility. Desdemona is the prototype of womanhood [1]. In this body of work, associate professor at the University of Portland, Amy Greenstadt presents a compelling argument exploring William Shakespeare's precise use of words in his poem "The Rape of Lucrece". They cook, clean, give birth, and nurture which all are more than necessary jobs. Shakespeare presents Desdemona, Emilia, and Bianca as women in the Elizabethan time where they were judged based on their class, mortality, and intelligence. In passionate disbelief and anger, she draws a knife on the messenger and strikes him with her bare hands. Many women were not allowed to perform in plays during that time period; however, Shakespeare did have very few females act out roles in his play Shakespeare: Sample. The only two women in the entire play are Gertrude and Ophelia, who are consistently used by the current king, Claudius, Polonius, and Hamlet. Shakespeare in his tragedy Macbeth has a very limited assortment of women characters. This is not just a fluke on the part of Shakespeare, for it is very important that the character of Miranda appears by herself. During the duration of this play, the prominent group of people are the men. Emilia has an opportunity to save Desdemona but sneakily remains silent. Emilia is confident, calm, and rational when dealing with the men in this play. There are several different personalities in Shakespeare plays, who assert themselves in very different ways: Cleopatra, Lady Macbeth, Viola, Rosalind, Desdemona, Portia, just to mention a few of them. It always seems that there is a tragic burden and guilt attached to their characters that ends in their deaths. Secondly, Miranda also serves as the ultimate fantasy for any bachelor. Her goal from this murder was to be a queen and her husband a king of Scotland and become wealthier than before. The play, a romantic comedy, portrays the adventures of four young lovers, an amateur actor's group, their interactions with a Duke and Duchess, and with fairies in a moonlit forest. Only men were allowed to act. William Shakespeare integrates his Elizabethan society to create the patriarchal Venetian society in the play. She is a wild and rebellious

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woman for her time, the complete opposite of the perfect elizabethan housewife. Women hold their friendships close to their hearts and go through the best and worst of times together, it could also be the concept of how women need to stick together in order to survive. Emilia repeatedly attempts to teach the innocent Desdemona about the evils of life.