

THE LUMINARIES OF LITERATURE: WOMEN WRITERS IN ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT.

The outstanding contributions made by female writers to the development of English literature are honoured in this article. It illuminates the difficulties women encountered in a literary world dominated by men and demonstrates their unshakable will to shatter barriers. The article highlights the diverse tapestry of women's voices and viewpoints that have enhanced English literature by examining the works of significant female writers from the 19th century to the present.

INTRODUCTION.

Women have played a vital role in shaping the diverse landscape of English literature, yet their contributions have often remained hidden or minimized throughout history. This article aims to shed light on the significant achievements of women writers in English literature and explores the obstacles they have faced, as well as their enduring impact. The rich contributions made by female authors to English literature are honoured in this article. It examines how women's voices and viewpoints have changed over the course of literary history, showcasing significant writers from the 1800s to the present.

The landscape of English literature is richly adorned with the contributions of women writers, whose pens have etched indelible marks on the canvas of literary history. From the quills of the Brontë sisters to the modern keystrokes of Zadie Smith, women have not only participated in but have also shaped the narrative of English literature.

The pioneers: In the 19th century, a time when the literary world was predominantly male, several women writers dared to express their thoughts and stories. Women writers often encountered gender bias that limited their creativity and subject matter. Male-dominated publishing houses and literary circles often dismissed their work as insignificant or irrelevant. The pressure to conform to societal expectations and adhere to traditional genres further restricted opportunities for women to explore diverse writing styles and themes. Despite these limitations, women writers have persistently sought to break through the barriers imposed upon them. They utilized pseudonyms or published anonymously to gain credibility and escape preconceived

notions about women's writing abilities. By challenging and subverting conventional literary forms, they paved the way for future generations of women writers. In the 19th century, a time when the literary world was predominantly male, several women writers dared to express their thoughts and stories. For instance, Jane Austen's keen observations of domestic life and social mores, combined with her wit and irony, have made her novels timeless classics. Similarly, the Brontë sisters, under male pseudonyms, introduced passionate and unconventional female protagonists who defied the norms of their era.

The Torchbearers: Moving into the 20th century, women's voices grew louder and more diverse. Virginia Woolf's stream-of-consciousness narrative style and her essay "A Room of One's Own" highlighted the need for women's financial independence and intellectual freedom. Doris Lessing, with her wide-ranging works, explored themes from societal norms to science fiction, winning the Nobel Prize in Literature for her profound impact on the literary scene.

Contemporary Voices: Today, the tradition continues with authors like Margaret Atwood, whose speculative fiction often reflects on gender roles and power dynamics. Zadie Smith, with her vibrant and multicultural narratives, captures the essence of contemporary life in London and beyond.

CONCLUSION.

The exceptional originality and resilience of women writers is reflected in their enduring impact in English literature. They have reinvented the parameters of literature and made sure that the female voice holds a prominent position in the canon of literature, from Jane Austen's ageless societal criticisms to Zadie Smith's colourful contemporary narratives.

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