**Similarities and differences of gender and gender roles in Henry James’s “Daisy Miller” and in Washington Irving’s “The legend of Sleepy Hollow”.**

Washington Irving’s story “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” first appeared in 1819 while

“Daisy Miller “ Henry James’s novel appeared in 1878. Early American society’s norms,

the gender roles, and the different approach to gender norms gives the identity of the

characters and explains the reasons behind their actions.

Irving’s characters are stereotypical rugged labourer, a socially constructed norm of

gender typical of early American Literature. Henry James explored the differences in

gender roles, manners and cultural values, during the Victorian period of the nineteenth

century, America’s growing identity of independence and how the cultural differences of

America and Europe are beginning to diverge.

In Washington Irving’s time period, the women’s individualism did not exist the men

were the dominant in the household. Woman’s legal rights were incorporated into, those of

her husband when she married, and she was not recognized as having rights or obligations

distinct from those of her husband. Before the Civil War, the colonial American

housewife’s occupation included roles as mother and wife:” his busy fancy already

presented to him the blooming Katrina, with a whole family of children”.

The Civil War not really made change for both sex’s role in society. In 1848, The

declaration of sentiments states; “all men and women are created equal; that they are

endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty,

and the pursuit of happiness”.

Along the “Daisy Miller” story we get the sense of the American in the European scenery, we find out the sickness bubbling within the Americans that remain too long in the

European continent, that it’s not meant for them. There is always something trying to burst

its way out from beneath the surface – the great tension between the “old” and the “new”-

the gentle, mild mannered Europeans and the rowdy, disorderly, non -conformist way of

the Americans. In the story, we see a clash of both cultures and genders. We see an un

exemplary American born European as being portrayed by Winterbourne and an American expatriate in Europe Daisy Miller. She and Randolph represent the new-wave- a breeze

that its tide breaths all the way to the “old country”. America is being depicted as a

newfoundland -where adventure starts, where every citizen is born free and can be very

well in this exciting place, where opportunities and future prosperity is just right around

the corner. Europe on the other hand represents the archaic, unimaginative, sickly,

tormented past- that hold nothing in store…but death as it is epitomized in the storey by

Daisy Miller’s miserable and tragic demise and perishing.

Meanwhile in Washington Irving’s’s story we are brought -fort by the author a matter involving a dichotomy between two major faculties of existence – mystery and passion. The story’s focus shifts between cortile and cliché balls and between, greed, grossness,

mystery and fantasy. We are introduced to the Van Tassel estate and family, putting our

focus on Katherine Van Tassel. We see a showdown between two different types of

American males.

Both authors explored the gender roles of their main persona, the suggestive romantic

trifecta between Katrina Van Tassel, Ichabod Crane and Brom Van Brunt in” The

Legend of Sleepy Hollow |”: “She was withal a little of a coquette, as might be perceived

even in her dress, …, as most suited to set off her charms. She wore, …and withal a

provokingly short petticoat, to display the prettiest foot and ankle in the country round.”

The gender conflict is due by Katrina Van Tassel’s strategy to keep both men without

discouraging either of them and brings Ichabod Crane and Brom Bones in to conflict with

each other.

Similarly, Henry James depict the flirt triangle between Daisy Miller, Winterbourne and

Giovanelli in “Daisy Miller”: “flirting is a purely American custom; it doesn’t exist

here”,” a pretty American flirt”.

The women characters Daisy Miller and Katarina Van Tassel are both beautiful young

women: Daisy, “she is wonderfully pretty, and, in short, she is very nice”, “she was the

most beautiful young lady I ever saw, and the most amiable”; Katarina “a blooming lass of

fresh eighteen; plump as a partridge; ripe and melting and rosy cheeked”,” a country coquette”. While Katrina’s” pretty youth and flirtatiousness”, Daisy is a flirtatious American who is quickly enchanting the men of Europe. They both attract their suitors by their appearance. But their beauty are appreciated by different ways.

In Washington’s story, all about Katerina was told by the narrator, she doesn’t say or do anything and is hard to know something about her character. For a woman, in 18th-century America, she was a little independent and use her beauty to flirt with men and choose by herself a husband. Katrina is a fairly flat character, not really more than the stereotypical farmer’s daughter.

In opposite to Irving Washington, Henry James gives to Daisy’s the freedom of

expression, a rebellious behaviour, a feminist approach toward change and self that women

in Europe didn&#39;t see or experience. Daisy doesn’t adhere to society’s (particularly

European society, but also American society wasn’t that different either and had pretty

much the same level of restrictiveness in matter of civility and mannerism) rigid and fixed

in place, and hereditary law. Daisy is said to be known for her friendship and closeness to

men (a speculative amount), that seem at odds with 19 th century middle -class bourgeoisie

code of conduct. The unalterable rules and restrictions been put on the female gender in

that time, would make in an almost impossible thing for women to thrive and by

Victorious in achieving “… pursuit of happiness” section of the declaration of

independence.

The private sphere for women and society gender expectations was not relevant for

Daisy:” “very fond of society, and [has] always had a great deal of it”, “the young ladies of

this country have a dreadfully poky time of it”. Attempting to change the beliefs of

individuals like Daisy is near impossible because she is insistent that she should not

“change my habits for them”. “I have never allowed a gentleman to dictate to me, or to

interfere with anything I do” describes Daisy’s power as a woman, making understand

that she is an American woman who cannot be cultivated. The restrictions of the male

dominant society didn’t apply to Daisy and the private sphere for women was irrelevant for

her that represent a feminist approach toward change.

Both writers create mental strain between their two male characters engaged in affection of a female impossible to understand. Irving creates two characters whose forms of

masculinity are contrasted. The scholarly, day-dreamy, rational male and the jockey, boot-

strapping, robust male authority figure- duking it out to win the heart of Katherine Van

Tassel. A Connecticut educated man, Ichabod Crane is perceived by the women as

unique and superior to the locally bred Sleepy Hollow men: &quot;The schoolmaster is generally

a man of some importance in the female circle of a rural neighbourhood....&quot; because he is

presumed to be a gentleman of superior tastes, and to have many accomplishments, and be

&quot;inferior in learning only to the parson.&quot; Ichabod is portrayed as some that wants

Katherine Van Tassel only for her money to get out his sub-par living and semi- nomadic

life style.

Irving’s creation of Brom Bones as a stereotypical masculine character, at this time

society defined masculinity through one’s physical appearance and strength–like that of

Brom Bones.

Winterbourne relies on nothing but his own experience with women, that have “worked

“on European women that more interested in their partying and keep a foot hold on their

status in society. On other hand, we have Daisy – which is very much so radically different

and exuberant, far more than the rest of the female cast of the story. Daisy molests and

shatters every one of the social etiquette and demeanour -one should have to abide by

(especially a young unmarried woman, that has not earned her society just yet). Gradually

Winterbourne steps back a little and trays to find his north – but faith pulls him ever close

to Daisy; with flowery style or rather choice of words to the sound of harps. We also get a

very baffled narrator one that seems to mimic and report back to us the thoughts and

feeling of Winterbourne regarding Daisy. The men who seemed to arise the most question

is Winterbourne, meanwhile Giovanelli, Mrs. Costello calls him a &quot;fortune hunter&quot;.

The reason that I choose these two stories are the reflective contrast of different literary

trends in comparison and because of their similarities. “Daisy Miller” by Henry James, is

a presentation of Realism and brought upon the changes to the descriptions of the gender

roles. &quot;The Legend of Sleepy Hollow&quot; by Irving Washington is a regional legendary tale

story keeping the line clear between fiction and reality of a socially constructed norms of

gender.

On a personal note: fairly enjoyed the stories-and pricked through them with my

alpenstock several times over already. These stories pictify in an intimate unreserved way-

the truth of both patriotism and gender roles in society – and how to challenge and dispel

their nation through observation and ruminating over them in an adequate measure of

Description.

**A few notes on writing**

There are some good books to look at for how to structure your argument. One of them is *They Say/ I Say* which Professor Handelman has on her google drive. If you go to the file called “Templates”, it gives some nice examples for how to introduce different parts of your argument. Another one is *The Brief Bedford Reader* which might be in the library on Dr. Shupak’s shelf. There is a good section in there about how to form an argument when comparing to texts. Lastly is Strunk and White’s *Elements of Style* which Smadar has behind her desk in the library. It goes through all sorts of rules about grammar, punctuation, etc.

Also, make sure that your language fits the situation. The argument you are making is somewhat complex and in order for the reader to follow what you are saying, using simple language can be the best choice. On the other hand, there is that desire to make yourself sound sophisticated and scholarly so you need to be able to strike a balance that doesn’t distract the reader from the point of your writing.

Formatting your essays-

* You need a header on the first page with all the information and a page number. I marked this in the text.
* Indent each new paragraph.
* No need for an extra space between paragraphs. There is a setting for this on Word.
* Watch out for extra spaces between words

Grammar-

* Use of commas- this is something Strunk and White explains very clearly.
* Full sentences- reread your writing to make sure words and phrases are not missing.
* Titles- Book titles are in *italics* while short story titles are “in quotations”. No need for both.
* Watch on on singular vs. plural. Again, take a look at Strunk and White.

Citations and Bibliography-

* In text citations looks like this: “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog” (Lakin 6). There are other kinds but that is the main format. You can look inProfessor Handelman’s google drive for more information on MLA citations.
* Bibliography should follow the MLA format.

Logical Argument-

A good way to think about essay writing is think of a large essay made up of many smaller essays which are paragraphs. Your larger essay has an argument and each of the smaller essays/paragraphs are points to that argument. Most essays you write follow a standard format which I’m outlining below.

Introduction-

* This is informative: you mention the work or works you will be discussing, the authors and date/s so the reader knows all of the basic information needed to understand the argument.
* Thesis sentence: this is the summary of the argument you will be explaining in the rest of your essay.

Body-

* The body is made up of the paragraphs which explain the points of your argument.
  + Summary- You should include a brief summary of the work/s you’re discussing in case the reader forgot the story. It also helps provide background for the argument you are about to make. In the essay you are writing for Dr. Shapira, you need to summarize both Irving the James so that’s 2 paragraphs.
  + How to structure a paragraphs: in this type of writing, the paragraph is made up of three parts.
    - Topic sentence- this is like a mini-thesis statement about one part of your argument.
    - Proof/Quotation- to show how your point relates to the text, bring in a quotation.
    - Explanation- explain how that specific quotation relates to your argument for the paragraph.

Conclusion-

* Restate your thesis statement and summarize your argument.