

WOMEN-WRITERS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract

The complex tapestry of women's historical contributions to English literature is explored in this article. It covers the wide range of themes, techniques, and influences of their writings by closely examining well-known authors like Margaret Atwood, Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, Emily Dickinson, Emily Brontë, Mary Shelley, George Eliot, and Agatha Christie. This article tries to shed light on the often-overlooked contribution of women in influencing the literary landscape by examining the societal conditions in which these women wrote and the distinctive views they brought to their narrative. Each writer's voice resonates with a unique power, ranging from Austen's sharp social critiques to Woolf's experimental narrative tactics, and from Brontë's examination of passion and identity to Shelley's groundbreaking journey into science fiction.

Keywords: Women-writers, Agatha Christie, Jane Austen, Feminist Awakening, Mary Shelly, Emily Dickinson.

Introduction.

English literature, with its illustrious history spanning centuries, has been primarily defined and celebrated through the lens of male authors. However, this narrative overlooks a crucial aspect of literary evolution: the profound and enduring contributions of women writers. From the subtle wit of Jane Austen to the radical experimentation of Virginia Woolf, women have played a pivotal role in shaping the literary landscape, challenging societal norms, and illuminating the human experience through their works. Despite facing systemic barriers and societal constraints, women writers have persisted, carving out spaces for their voices to be heard and their stories to be told. In this article, we embark on a journey to uncover the diverse voices and perspectives of women writers in English literature, exploring the themes, styles, and impacts of their works. Through a comprehensive examination of key figures and their seminal contributions, we aim to unveil the richness and complexity of women's literary endeavors, ultimately highlighting their indispensable role in the ongoing

narrative of English literature. The study of women's English-language writing has been characterized in a number of ways. It has been described as the field of writing by women and the literary category that includes writing by women about the discriminatory experiences they have had in society because of their gender. Their experiences have differed according to their social class, race, sexual orientation, and the area and sociopolitical climate in which they were living.

Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976).

Dame Agatha Christie is a detective mystery writer whose novels have sold over two billion copies worldwide, making her the best-selling fiction author of all time according to Guinness World Records. In addition to being the author of the longest-running drama in the West End, *The Mousetrap*, which has been performed since 1952, she is well known for creating the fictitious detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. Even on our list of classic authors to read, Christie's books are still well-liked by aficionados of detective fiction, and many of them have been adapted for television and film.

Among Agatha Christie's well-known works is 1934's *Murder on the Orient Express*. The Orient Express stops due to snowfall during Poirot's journey from the Middle East back to London. After a murder is reported, detective Poirot is tasked with cracking the case. In the 1936 film *The A.B.C. Murders*, starring Arthur Hastings, Chief Inspector Japp, and crime detective Poirot, the characters must deal with a string of murders committed by an enigmatic killer going by the moniker "A.B.C." The longest-running West End production, *The Mousetrap* (1952), is a murder mystery play that was written as a birthday gift for Queen Mary, King George V's spouse. The audience is urged not to disclose the narrative twist when they exit the theater, so people who haven't seen the stage play are still in the dark about it.

Jane Austen (1775 - 1817)

Jane Austen was a pioneering female writer who produced works that scrutinized and questioned the British landed nobility. Austen's plots highlighted women's dependence on marriage or women seeking financial security.

Since many of Austen's writings were thus published under pseudonyms, her lifelong notoriety was little. Her six full-length novels were rarely out of print, and her stature as a writer increased significantly after her passing. Her books have also been adapted into a variety of films, each of which has been accompanied by a number of critical studies and anthologies.

Among Jane Austen's well-known works are:

Sense and Sensibility (1811): Originally published under pseudonym by "A Lady," this novel chronicles the coming-of-age experiences of Elinor and Marianne Dashwood as they must leave their family estate and move in with their widowed mother.

Pride and Prejudice (1813): Elizabeth Bennet, the protagonist of the book, discovers the consequences of making snap decisions and the distinction between genuine virtue and appearances of goodness.

Emma (1815) is a comedy of manners that focuses on marriage, age, and social standing while portraying the worries of refined ladies in Georgian-Regency England.

Jane Austen's Feminist Awakening.

Jane Austen is a significant author in the annals of English literature. She possessed a unique political perspective and a sensitive understanding of reality, and she took a keen interest in the issues that face women today and reflected them in her writing. She tried to challenge traditional wisdom by opposing patriarchy, pursuing social equality with males, and holding unique opinions about society and love. Jane Austen was the first person to awaken women's consciousness and was a superb representative of feminism at the time. She looked at the nature of people from the viewpoint of "man" herself. Her art concentrates on the notion that, as "human beings," women and men are completely equal. In her books, Jane Austen did not alter the stereotype of women as "vases"; rather, she presented them as intelligent, attractive, and mature, just like men. These pictures represent the mature, kind, and perceptive woman—a singular person who has grown from imperfect to ideal. One such woman is Elizabeth from Pride & Prejudice. Because of her wit, intelligence, and sense of humor, she is strong and independent despite her temperament and lack of beauty. The notion that women are inherently less clever than men in society is successfully broken by this representation.

Mary Shelly(1797 - 1851).

Mary Shelley, the well-known author of Gothic fiction, comes in second on our list of notable female writers in history. In addition to being a well-known science fiction author, she was also an editor, specializing in the writings of her husband, the Romantic poet and philosopher Robert Bysshe Shelley.

Born to feminist activist Mary Wollstonecraft and political philosopher William Godwin, Shelley was reared exclusively by her father following the untimely death of her mother. Shelley married young and committed her life to producing fiction and promoting her husband's works, despite receiving a rich but informal education from her father who encouraged anarchist living.

Famous works by Mary Shelley include:

Frankenstein, also known as The Modern Prometheus (1818) - Written by Mary Shelley at the age of eighteen, the narrative centers on Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who, through an unconventional experiment, unintentionally produces a sentient creature.

Valperga (1823) is a historical fiction that recounts the exploits of Castruccio Castracani, a real-life historical person who rose to become the Lord of Lucca and subjugated Florence, Italy, during the Guelph and Ghibelline wars.

Two volumes of travelogue Rambles in Germany and Italy (1844) detail two travels Shelley took throughout Europe with her son Percy and a number of his college pals.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, our exploration of women writers in English literature has revealed a vibrant tapestry of creativity, resilience, and innovation. From the Regency era to the modern day, women have defied societal expectations and patriarchal constraints to produce works of enduring relevance and profound insight. Through their novels, poetry, essays, and plays, they have offered unique perspectives on love, identity, power, and social justice, enriching the literary canon in the process. However, our journey also underscores the persistent challenges and barriers faced by women writers, from limited access to education and publishing opportunities to enduring stereotypes and biases. As we celebrate the achievements of Jane Austen, Virginia Woolf, Emily Brontë, Mary Shelley, Toni Morrison, George Eliot, Margaret Atwood, and countless others, we must also acknowledge the ongoing need for greater recognition, support, and inclusivity within the literary community. By amplifying the voices of women writers, embracing diverse narratives, and challenging gendered expectations, we can ensure that English literature continues to evolve, reflect, and inspire for generations to come.

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