

Lesson 3: Defining the Players

What's on for today and why:

Now that we've begun reading the novel we need to make certain that we understand (to the best of our abilities) each of the three main characters. To do this we will concentrate on what we can glean from the first three chapters, each in a different voice. We will begin to use what we know about personal narratives to help define the characters.

What to do:

1) Ask the students if they have any questions about what they just read. Find out now if anyone is going to get confused by the changing narrators and address the problem early on.

2) Now ask the students to write each character's name on a separate page in their notebooks and note down the most important characteristics they found about each woman while reading. Make three boxes on the board to mimic the students' pages. After giving them few minutes ask for ten volunteers for each woman (depending on you class size) and ask them to try their best not to repeat any characteristics in any one character. Note these on the board. Then ask for volunteers to fill in any gaps and be certain to concentrate on any characteristic that can be gleaned from the tone and emotion of each narrator.

3) Homework: Read pages 28-52 in *A Woman's Place* and ask the students to continue their journals.

How did it go?

By asking them not to repeat you should have made a few students sweat, but you also should have made them think a little deeper than just some of the more superficial characteristics that can be gleaned from text. By forcing them to think harder and look deeper into the text the students should begin to see the advantages of reading the first person narrative.