

## Lesson 12: Gender: Female and Male

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What's on for today and why:

This novel really focuses a lot on the relationships between men and women. The title promises that the book will explore the answer to the implied question of what is *A Woman's Place*? So for the next couple of days we will be looking at the gender roles of the characters and hopefully be able to have an answer to that question.

What to do:

1) Ask the students the question "What is a woman's place?" Both according to their own opinions as well as according to the novel. Give them a few minutes to cite examples from the novel to prove their answers.

2) Then ask them for their answers and start writing them on the board. Once you have quite a few ask them which place sounds like the best one to be in. Ask them if they could choose, which woman from the novel would they most prefer to be and why?

3) Then please repeat the above steps in conjunction with the male place instead of the female. Since you have two days to complete this lesson don't worry about running out of time.

4) Now compare the lists of female and male places? Are there any similarities or differences? Which gender gets the better end of the deal and why? If you have time you can set up a quick debate where the students may get into groups depending on which place they believe to be the best and argue in favor of it.

How did it go?

This lesson can very easily fall into silliness so it is important to keep the students on track. Keep asking them over and over again what their preferences are. The point of the exercise is not really to define a woman's place, but to figure out if any person has a choice about their place in life. You want to try and make this point clear, but subtle because it in itself is a question that probably cannot be answered.