Aissetou Sillah

FIQWS Content/Composition

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 Reflection

With my essay titled, “My Thoughts on *A Clinical Lesson at the Salpêtrière”,* I gave a detailed examination of the portrait, *A Clinical Lesson at the Salpêtrière,* then gave my thoughts on the painting. I explained why I felt emotions and gave background knowledge that would justify my reasonings, such as my indignance towards the painting: knowing how hysterical patients were treated by doctors, I knew the woman in the painting was treated without respect and so I felt indignant. I knew I wanted to start my essay with a detailed description of the portrait, therefore, I would be able to focus on how I felt for the rest of the essay and not switch to details of the portrait that supports it. The reader would know what I am referencing to without me describing the reference. My thesis was women are abused and used for men’s advantage. Then, in my body paragraph, I focused on that relationship and how it’s conveyed in the portrait and through the circumstances surrounding the portrait.

Moreover, what made me want to write about this portrait was the story, “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. In this story, I saw the way the narrator was being patronized and neglected by her husband, who also happens to be her doctor. The narrator had a mental illness but wasn’t treated properly by a doctor just like many women of that time. I saw the connection between the story and the portrait and thought it was something that needed to be addressed. What I hoped to accomplish was to help the reader gain an understanding of how women are mistreated in the era of the portrait and by doing so, I hope the reader is able to form their own thoughts on the subject at hand.