

St. Joseph's College of Arts & Science (Autonomous)

St. Joseph's College Road, Cuddalore – 607001

PEN911 - GENDER AND LITERATURE

SECTION - A

1. From where is the poem 'How Do I Love Thee' taken? What is the significance of the title?
2. With what victims does Sylvia Plath compare herself to?
3. What sort of mother does the poet describe in the poem 'The Mother'?
4. To whom does the "she" and "you" refer to in the poem 'Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law'?
5. What sort of society does Mahaswetha describe in her drama?
6. Define 'Gynocritics'.
7. "It would have been impossible, completely and entirely, for any woman to have written the plays of Shakespeare in the age of Shakespeare." – Annotate.
8. Why does Celie's husband marry her?
9. How does Elizabeth describe Love?
10. What is the 'it' referred to in the poem *Lady Lazarus*?
11. At whose presidential address did Angelou read the poem "On the pulse of the morning"?
12. What sort of person is the daughter-in-law?
13. What does the term 'species' mean?
14. What sort of man was Verti?
15. According to Showalter, what are the two distinct varieties into which feminism can be divided?
16. A woman must have money and a room of her own, if she is to write fiction. Explain the context.
17. To whom the question 'How do I love thee?' is addressed?
18. What is the message in Brooks' poem 'The Mother'?

19. What does Maha Sweta Devi focus in her play?
20. Give any two characteristics of 'Little Fox.'
21. What is meant by 'feminist poetics'?
22. What does 'room' in the title 'A Room of One's Own' imply?
23. What does 'the Namesake' stand for?
24. How is Celia presented in 'The Color Purple'?
25. Why did Elizabeth Barret Browning title the sonnets as Sonnets from the Portuguese?
26. What does Gwendolyn Brooks convey through her poem *The Mother*?
27. What is the name of the Mother and the son in the Drama *Mother of 1084*?
28. Where does the play *The Little Foxes* take place?
29. What are the three phases Elaine Showalter describes in her work?
30. *Call me Mary Beton, Mary Seton, Mary Carmichael or any other name you please — it is not a matter of importance.*
Give the reference to context.
31. Name the couple who set off to The United States to lead their life?
32. How many stories does *A Purple Sea* consists of? Give a note on the story *Once again*.
33. What is the theme of the poem *How do I Love Thee*?
34. Who narrates the poem *Lady Lazarus* to whom?

35. Name the protagonist of the work *Mother of 1804*?
36. What does Leo plan with Oscar?
37. Write any two works of Showalter?
38. Who is Mr. A?
39. Whose name does Ashoke choose for his son?
40. Who wrote letter to God? Why?
41. Mention the dominant figure of speech in the poem *How do I love thee*.
42. How does the narrator begin the poem *Lady Lazarus*?
43. What does Angelou talk about in the first stanza of *On the pulse of morning*?
44. What are the four different possibilities with regard to women's narrative?
45. Where and when does the *Little foxes* take place?
46. Whom does Oscar want his son to be married?
47. Define Gynocritics.
48. Who is the Beadle?
49. Why does the poet ask the question 'How do I Love Thee?'
50. What does the poem 'On the Pulse of Morning' signify?
51. Does Toru Dutt glorify Sita?
52. What does the number 1084 suggest in the title 'Mother of 1084'?
53. What does the satiric element of the play 'Little Fox' consist of?
54. How does Showalter classify feminist criticism?
55. Why does Celia want to protect her sister from her father?

56. What is the central idea in the story 'Once Again'?

SECTION - B

1. How would the poem be different if the opening line was "Why do I love thee?"
2. What do the rock, the river, and the tree symbolize in the poem 'On the Pulse of Morning'?
3. What is the tone of the poem 'Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law'?
4. What are the symbols used in the poem 'Sita'?
5. Comment on the character of Vetri.
6. Describe the period of evolution by Showalter.
7. Who is the Beadle?
8. What do Sewing and Quilts symbolize?
9. What does the Phoenix in the poem 'Lady Lazarus' represent?
10. Does the poem 'Mother' talk about female experience?
11. 'Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law' by Adrienne Rich is a feminist poem depicting a woman of the period of transition. Give a brief analysis.
12. Narrate the incident that happened in the police station.
13. Who is Addie?
14. Describe Woman as writer.
15. Give a character sketch of Judith Shakespeare.
16. Comment on the cyclical nature of Racism and Sexism.
17. What is 'Lady Lazarus' about?
18. How does Toru Dutt present 'Sita'?
19. Give the characteristics of the mother as sketched by Maha Sweta Devi.
20. Discuss the plot movement in 'Little Fox.'
21. How does Showalter highlight the feminist criticism?

22. Why does Ambai project the kitchen in her novel?
23. Why does Lady Lazarus almost always refer to death as "it"? Why does not she use the word "death"?
24. Discuss Rich's views of female individualism in *Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law*.
25. Comment on the character Sujatha in the drama *Mother of 1084*. Is she a true caring mother? Give reasons to support your answer.
26. Why does Oscar propose marriage between his son Leo and Regina's daughter Alexandra?
27. What is the first phase according to Elaine Showalter?
28. How does Woolf treat the question of the female body? What does she mean when she says at the end of Chapter 4 that "the book has somehow to be adapted to the body"?
29. Comment on the power of Narrative and voice in Alice Walker's *Colour Purple*.
30. Write a note on the patriarchal society that prevails in India with reference to *A Kitchen in the Corner of the House*.
31. What was the reaction of Elizabeth's father to her marriage to Robert Browning?
32. Write a note on Brook's *The mother*.
33. Write a brief note on the economical independence of Sujata.
34. What are the two things Birdie wants to restore?
35. Explain the central theme of *Once Again*

36. Explain the three phases of Feminism
37. Sketch the character of Gogol.
38. Examine the relationship between Harpo and Sofia.
39. Write a note on figures of speech in the poem, *How do I love thee*.
40. "Death is performance" Explain.
41. "Discourse of healing" Substantiate.
42. Write a paragraph on the character of Sujatha.
43. Write a note on the relationship between Mr. Marshall and Regina
44. Define Feminist Critique mode according to Showalter.
45. Bring out the dramatic setting of *A Room Of One's Own*.
46. Sketch the character of Ashima.
47. How does Gwendolyn Brooks portray the mother?
48. What picture of the daughter-in-law is given by Adrienne Rich?
49. What is the theme in Maha Sweta Devi's 'Mother of 1084'?
50. Account for the title of the play 'Little Fox.'
51. How does Virginia Woolf bring out the prejudices against women?
52. Explain Jumpa Lahiri's title 'The Namesake.'
53. Explain the character of sujatha in mother 1084.
54. Bring out showalters argument towards feminist poetics.

SECTION – C

1. What is the effect of all of the Holocaust references in the poem? Do they trivialize Lady Lazarus's pain? Do they amplify it? Are they a legitimate way to talk about her feelings?

2. Write an analysis of the poem “The Mother.
3. Why does Vetri join the naxal movement? Is his mother aware of his activities?
4. What is the thematic statement of the play ‘The Little Foxes’?
5. How would you describe the form of the essay ‘A Room of One’s Own’? Is it an argument? If so, how does it differ from more conventional forms of argumentation, and to what effect?
6. How does the way the community react to Shug’s illness, say about the status of women?
7. How many ways of loving does the speaker identify in ‘How Do I Love Thee’? Do these ways of loving overlap, conflict, or complement one another? Explain.
8. Maya Angelou's poem ' On the Pulse of Morning' relates to diversity, change over time, and equality. Elucidate.
9. Write a critical analysis of the poem “Of Female Species”.
10. Comment on Mahasweta Devi’s ‘Mother of 1084’ as a narrative of healing.
11. What are the topics Showalter discusses in her essay ‘Towards Feminist Poetics’?
12. Woolf claims that the particular social realities in which women live create distinctively female values and outlooks. Does she think this -is a good thing or a bad thing?
13. Bring out the theme in Adrienne Rich’s poem ‘Snapshots of a Daughter-in-law’.
14. How does Gauri Deshpande characterize the female species?
15. Attempt a critical analysis of Maha Sweta Devi’s play ‘Mother of 1084.’
16. Attempt a characteristic sketch of ‘Little Fox.’
17. How does ‘the Color Purple’ illustrate the dehumanization of women?

18. Give an explication of any one of Ambai's short stories prescribed for you.
19. Analyse the sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Explain in detail the literary terms used and the theme of the poem.
20. Sujatha faces multiple oppressions in the drama *Mother of 1084*. Elucidate the struggle she undergoes due to the patriarchal dominated society.
21. Is *The Little Foxes* a feminist play? Give reasons.
22. In *Toward a Feminist Poetics* Showalter divides feminist criticism into two sections. Explain.
23. How would you describe the form of this essay *A Room of One's Own*? Is it an argument? If so, how does it differ from more conventional forms of argumentation, and to what effect?
24. How is Gogol's name tied to his identity in the novel *The Name Sake*?
25. Write an essay comparing and contrasting Elizabeth Barrett Browning's love poetry with that of her husband, Robert Browning.
26. Consider *Lady Lazarus* as a confessional poem.
27. Write an essay on Sujatha's multiple oppressions within familial patriarchal and feudal order.
28. Attempt an essay on Hubbard's disputes and retaliation.
29. Explain Showalter's Female centered theories?

30. Attempt an essay on Celie as abused and tormented soul.
31. Bring out the central theme of *Snapshots of a Daughter in law*.
32. Consider *Mother of 1084* as the awakening of "an apolitical mother"
33. Justify the title *Little Fox*
34. Showalter concerned by stereo types of Feminism – Explain.
35. Bring out the comparison of Virginia woolf and Judith Shakespeare using the work *A Room of One's Own*
36. Consider Celie as troubled spirit.
37. Examine Sylvia Plath as a confessional poet.
38. Describe after Gauri Deshpande the condition of the female species.
39. Consider Maha Sweta Devi as a feminist playwright.
40. Sketch the character donning the role of 'Little Fox.'
41. What are the feministic theories advanced by Showalter?
42. How does 'the Color Purple' promote the feminist ideology?