Woolf Seminar / Evan’s 10 minutes of fame

Played music from *The Hours*.

Absent: Bugada

Evan gave us a background of Woolf’s life and her use of modernism in her writing, then…

* Explained her ethos: “I am a woman,” “I am employed”
* Gave background: “Abbreviated version of a speech for the National Society for Women’s Service (1931)
* Went into the “Angel of the House” by Conventry Patmore.
* Angel Allusion: Included a description of the angel and the “past tense,” the thought of the past. This sets up the change that she recognizes in society.
* Kyle Zimmerman: Figuratively, she killed her? (Evan: Could have been…)
* Discussed the claims: Fact (women were in the past) and Policy (“Kill the phantom” and continue to explore intellectual freedom”. Asked class… is she the fisherman?
* Bruns: She’s the fisherman…
* Evan spoke through the fisherman metaphor very well… what’s keeping women from discovering big truths, what they can do are the preconceptions of what a woman can do.
* Quincy: She’s a fisherman… men can do this, can cast their lines and not worry about the big smash that she endures. Women can’t talk about sex…
* Eble: Writer-centric metaphor?
* Quincy provides text from Woolf (**excellent work here**).
* Evan: She’s only going to talk about certain things because she’s going to talk about them. Part of the claim of policy = to get rid of all of those notions. Phantoms are more difficult to kill than reality.

QUESTION: What does Woolf say about the professions for women?

1. How does her use of verbal irony at the beginning affect her claim at the end?
2. What is the purpose of the fisherman metaphor?
3. How does she show the difference between inward desires and outward expressions of women?
4. Where do men lie in all of this? (the speech, and Woolf’s view of society)

Fritz: Men’s expectations hurt women… (to the last question)

* Evan questioned.
* Fritz: Men are the obstacles…
* Schlueter: I don’t like that kind of attitude.
* KZ: What kind?
* Schlueter: Men are in our way.
* Tyler Himes: Men perpetuated the view on women. Not necessarily a man’s fault. Could have been the men being the obstacle…
* MELEE… Jamie tried to get after it!
* Schlueter: Women should look at men with collaborative efforts.
* Rieger: Societal norm = obstacle… not men…
* Eble / Verrilli: Women could too?
* Williams: The scratch of a pen couldn’t disturb the family purse… but a woman who wants to be a doctor can “scratch the family purse.” Norm: Not wanting to pay for school. Fathers and mothers. She doesn’t mean men as much as she means society in general.
* Fritz: Where do we fit here?
* Kyle: People could blame for men, who weren’t fighting for women’s rights. Innocent bystander…
* Tyler Himes: I’m sure there were women, too.
* Rieger: My grandma is against women doing anything. Anti-feminist view.
* Quincy: Woolf brought up women being boxed in when expressing their sexual points of view. Shared an exemplification of men / women sharing sexual attitudes, the gulf between the two. In some ways, this societal norm has been destroyed… “The Angel in the House.” But women aren’t allowed to express themselves freely.
* Tory: They’re supposed to be pure.
* Quincy: Women still at a disadvantage.
* Schlueter: Women don’t think about sex as much.
* Danny went to my ideas…
* Eble: Think about Gould… what did he say about stereotypes…
* Schlueter: Boys are more willing to say this… more boys thing
* MELEE
* Quincy: Societal norm point of view. That’s unattractive for women…
* Schlueter: Is it though?
* Jamie tried to talk, Evan jumped in…
* Schlueter: Someone talking about sex…
* Jamie: A woman saying things to the public. She’s deemed a whore…

Evan Verrilli: Focused on his third question (inward desires and outward expressions of women).

* Fritz: The phantom…
* Quincy: The fisherman metaphor is apt…
* Eble: The metaphor is about tapping the deep…

Fritz: What verbal irony for question #1?

* Evan: Read from the text. Paragraph 2…
* Danny: It’s simple…
* Kyle: Bloggers versus this representation of writing…
* Verrilli: She’s telling the truth, then?
* Quincy: As a writer… her ethos…

Eble: Why the shift in pronouns from feminine to masculine in paragraph 5?

* Fritz: Most men are writers…
* Jamie: Standard English…
* Himes: Professional women…
* Quincy: She’s trying to be witty…
* Kyle: Her notoriety was already high, so…
* Eble: Question… she follows this too… recapped the ideas expressed… but could this set up the inherent difference?
* Verrilli: This builds up to the fisherman metaphor…
* Fritz: Back to verbal irony…
* Bruns: Before Fritz… she discusses women “being there,” not doing anything. Connecting the part of the Angel in the House with writers… women have to break the mold.
* Evan: Women can’t be in that normal way of thinking.
* Eble: Question for Danny about the phantom…
* Danny clarified… she left a part out about women having to write… versus men…
* Eble: Provided an analogy to show people shedding femininity…
* Nick: George Eliot…
* Quincy: Hilary = a bitch according to society. The same behavior in a man elicits negative comments.
* Eble: Michelle Bachmann= her stupid comments are attributed to her gender.
* Quincy: Stupidity of one person put on the entire gender; parallels between race and gender, especially with an underrepresented minority.

Verrilli: Back to… where do men lie in all this?

Eble: A similar specter?

* Kyle: Machismo…
* Quincy: Lumberjack…
* Himes: Bugada…
* Kyle: *Stepbrothers*…
* Quincy: Men should be viral / virile… disciplinarians… to the point about defeating our ghosts / machismo. People in writing who do so find success.
* Verrilli: Struggle that many guys have. Homosexuality = similar to defining femininity. Attack for being gay…
* KZ: Shared an anecdote about brother, Taft—“the greatest homophobia ever.” At Moeller, we have a tolerance for touching. We’re not homophobic at all.
* Quincy: We’re not homophobic. Shared a Corryville Catholic anecdote of kids calling each other homos. The black community definitely isn’t as open as the white. Definitely more machismo. Environment of always being tough or you’re capitalized upon. Where machismo abounds, there’s more intolerance for homosexuality.
* Evan interrupted a bit—there are definite homophobes.
* Fritz: Brother graduated in 2010; he shared a different perspective.
* KZ / Schlueter: That’d be tough.
* Quincy: A guy came out last year… shared a name of a senior last year who struggled with his decision. The words “gay” and “fag” have been removed.
* Eble: Have other words been used to replace them?
* Verrilli: The words feminize others…
* Quincy: People recognize stupidity …
* Eble: Peer pressure slices both ways.
* Schlueter: The “N-word”
* Quincy: Anecdote about African Americans… our culture = using the N-word regularly among white kids. Racist tinge of word is removed. Generational change…

Eble: We’ve discussed homophobia, racism… what about sexism?

* Kyle: In an all-male environment, sexist comments are like gray area…
* Quincy: The C-word. The nuclear bomb word.
* Verrilli: Can’t say another word like it…
* Himes: I want to take a shower after I say that word. The P-word…
* Quincy: The cacophony of the word…
* Verrilli: F word…
* Quincy: Co-opting words, approving a word as a term of kinship.

Eble read from the end of the Woolf article… the “room” metaphor. Why?

* Bruns: How women individualize “the room,” fill their role in society.