

Mary Wollstonecraft
Pages 736-741

About the Author

1. For what is she recognized?
2. From what did she help her sister escape?
3. What did they do in London?
4. What is considered her masterpiece?
5. What did she do from 1793-94?
6. What was life like for women during this time?
7. What did she argue?

“A Vindication on the Rights of Women”

1. Define didactic criticism.
2. Define metaphor.
3. Define tenor.
4. Define vehicle.
5. According to the first paragraph, what reason was given to support the belief that women cannot acquire virtue?
6. How does Wollstonecraft feel about the contention that women are incapable of attaining virtue?
7. What is blamed for women’s “follies and caprices”?
8. In what state were women generally kept? For what reason?
9. Why did they act this way?
10. Whom does Milton describe?
11. According to paragraph 4, in what state are women kept?
12. What must women be allowed to do if they are to be virtuous?
13. When women are called “innocent,” what does that really mean?
14. Analyze the 2 passages from Milton. What contradictions exist?

15. With which argument does Wollstonecraft agree? Why would some agree with the other argument?

16. According to Milton, what cannot be achieved between unequals?
17. What does Wollstonecraft want for women?

18. What criticism does Wollstonecraft level at Milton? What does she dislike about Milton’s portrayal of Eve?

19. Wollstonecraft uses two vivid metaphors. Identify the tenor and vehicle of each.