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feminist literary criticism has its origins in the intellectual and political feminist movement it advocates a critique of male-dominated language and performs resistant readings of literary texts or histories feminist criticism is a critical approach to literature that seeks to understand how gender and sexuality shape the meaning and representation of literary texts feminist literary criticism is literary criticism informed by feminist theory or more broadly by the politics of feminism it uses the principles and ideology of feminism to critique the language of literature feminist literary criticism recognizes that literature both reflects and shapes stereotypes and other cultural assumptions thus feminist literary criticism examines how works of literature embody patriarchal attitudes or undercut them sometimes both happening within the same work a modern tradition of literary commentary and polemic devoted to the defence of women's writing or of fictional female characters against the condescensions of a predominantly male literary establishment in this authoritative history of feminist literary criticism leading scholars chart the development of the practice from the middle ages to the present the first section of the book explores protofeminist thought from the middle ages onwards and analyses the work of pioneers such as Wollstonecraft and Woolf the impact of feminism on literary criticism over the past thirty five years has been profound and wide ranging it has transformed the academic study of literary texts fundamentally altering the canon of what is taught and setting a new agenda for analysis as well as radically influencing the parallel processes of publishing reviewing and this book offers a comprehensive guide to the history and development of feminist literary criticism and a lively reassessment of the main issues and authors in the field it is essential reading for all students and scholars of feminist writing and literary criticism feminist criticism comes in many forms and feminist critics have a variety of goals some are interested in rediscovering the works of women writers overlooked by a masculine dominated culture outlines the development of feminist literary criticism from the 1960s to the late 1980s and defends American sociohistorical feminist criticism from its detractors feminist literary criticism is a method for the analysis and interpretation of literary texts and other cultural productions through the lens of feminist theories feminist criticism the first consisted of the critique of images of women as portrayed in literature by men intended to expose its sexism in the second stage feminist critics recovered whole traditions of writing by women which conventional literary criticism had forgotten or undervalued in the third feminists are focusing not only on it begins with a review of early twentieth century feminism first wave feminism and then provides a detailed account of second wave feminism illustrating different critiques of observed instances of women's oppression feminist literary criticism looks at literature assuming its production from a male dominated perspective it re-examines canonical works to show how gender stereotypes are involved in their functioning it examines and often rediscovers works by women for a possible alternative voice feminist criticism or gender studies focuses on the role of women or gender in a literary text according to feminist

criticism patriarchy in its masculine focused structure socially dictates the norms for both men and women feminism is a broad term that investigates women s position in society and fights for their rights and opportunities the study of how literary texts depict or disregard women support or challenge prejudices has been the core activity of feminist criticism as we enter the 1 990s feminism enters its third decade in the academy and the united states constitution enters its third century without an amendment for equal rights on the basis of sex let us have no illusions about the causes effects or limits of feminist criticism s success feminist criticism this criticism has brilliantly helped to compel both feminism and criticism to remember the push and joy of language its theories and insights matter to any analysis of language politics and power despite such achievements in its growing maturity feminist criticism may defang its feminism feminist literary criticism as criticism schools is marked by gender widespread gender awareness and feminine consciousness is its elementary characteristics this study introduces the different phases of feminism through various insidious social and cultural mores feminist literary criticism examines how literature reflects and perpetuates the oppression of women and seeks to challenge and change these representations it focuses on analyzing the portrayal of female characters the role of gender in storytelling and the influence of patriarchal norms on literary works

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feminist literary criticism recognizes that literature both reflects and shapes stereotypes and other cultural assumptions thus feminist literary criticism examines how works of literature embody patriarchal attitudes or undercut them sometimes both happening within the same work

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a modern tradition of literary commentary and polemic devoted to the defence of women s writing or of fictional female characters against the condescensions of a predominantly male literary establishment

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it begins with a review of early twentieth century feminism first wave feminism and then provides a detailed account of second wave feminism illustrating different critiques of observed instances of women's oppression

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as we enter the 1990s feminism enters its third decade in the academy and the United States Constitution enters its third century without an amendment for equal rights on the basis of sex let us have no illusions about the causes effects or limits of feminist criticism's success

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