

HIST 309, Spring 2017

Essay #3, due Tuesday, May 30, 2017 by noon

Choose one of the following. Your essay should be 4 pages long, double-spaced. Please don't forget to include your name and number your pages. If you quote directly from the text, please include page references.

No matter which essay you select, read the documents carefully, use specific extracts and examples to illustrate your points, and proofread.

1. Molly Bolt, the main character in *Rubyfruit Jungle*, is/is not a feminist heroine. Make a case for either argument. As you do, consider Molly's experiences in light of 1) the goals articulated in the NOW Statement of Purpose in 1966, and 2) what you know about the evolution of the feminist second wave.
2. As Molly Bolt narrates her childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood during the 1950s and 1960s, she reflects on the significance of class and race as well as gender and sexuality. Identify a few specific instances where she does this and explore what they mean. Do you think that *Rubyfruit Jungle* is a political novel?
3. The title of *Rubyfruit Jungle* is a term that Molly Bolt used to refer to female genitalia. Compare the way Molly described women's bodies and lesbian sexuality to the way that Tee Corinne visualized women's bodies and lesbian sexuality.
4. Molly Bolt's observations about how girls and women are treated in families, schools, and workplaces often take the form of commentary about heterosexual roles and expectations. Do you think her opinions about heterosexuality had anything to do with her own lesbian coming-of-age story? Why or why not?

Guidelines

Here are three questions to keep in mind as you write because we will keep them in mind as we read.

- Are you addressing the questions and/or comparison completely? (Can you identify the author's perspectives and claims accurately?)
- Are you addressing the questions and/or comparison persuasively? (Do you formulate an argument and offer concrete evidence to support it? Is your essay organized in a way that is easy for the reader to understand and follow?)
- Are you addressing the questions and/or comparison clearly? (Are your grammar, punctuation, and spelling free of errors? Is your word choice as effective as possible? Is your sentence construction smooth?)

Grading Rubric

- A-range papers: These papers will be complete, persuasive, and clear. They will address all the issues raised in the prompt above; they will not leave out any significant elements. They will back up arguments with evidence. And they will be well written.
- B-range papers: We will be able to answer two out of the three questions above affirmatively. The essay may, for example, leave out one critical element. Its arguments will be persuasive but not complete and the essay will be well written. Or the essay may be complete and persuasive, but the writing may have some problems.
- C-range papers: We will be able to answer at least one of the questions above affirmatively. The essay may address the prompt completely, but lack evidence and clarity. Or the essay may not be complete or well written, but offer concrete examples.
- D-range papers and below: We will not be able to answer any of the questions above in the affirmative. Essays will be incomplete, lacking in evidence, and poorly written.