

Junior Research Paper Convention: Abstract Form
CCIII/Spring 2025

Lin, Remi. Section D. “Men's Properties: Women's Conformity and Their Resistance to Prescribed Patriarchal Values in *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen”

Abstract

Mansfield Park, one of Jane Austen's most controversial works, touches on the issues of slavery, religion, and patriarchy. Fanny Price, the strict and conservative novel's protagonist, is a character with great complexity. Different from her worldly cousins who pursue external values, such as fluency in French or musical talent, Fanny Price reads and dedicates herself to honesty and righteousness. Nevertheless, despite being a “rational creature” as Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley suggests, Fanny is still limited to the values defined by men. Jane Austen reflects the female cul-de-sac under post-Victorian England, echoing her life experience as an unmarried female writer. Mansfield Park reflects a patriarchal society that shapes female values, through the metaphor of slavery, the characterizations of the female characters, the intertextuality of Lover's Vow by Elizabeth Inchbald, and the idea of “ordination” (qtd. in Karounos 715).

Notes:

1. My RP belongs to the category of: Literary Studies

2. Related websites:

Karounos, Michael. “Ordination and Revolution in Mansfield Park.” *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, vol. 44, no. 4, 2004, pp. 715–36. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3844533>.

Ferguson, Moira. “Mansfield Park: Slavery, Colonialism, and Gender.” *Oxford Literary Review*, vol. 13, no. 1/2, 1991, pp. 118–39. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43973713>.