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**Eng101-015**

**Dr. Cooke**

**Sep.12th-Oct.9th**

**A Proposal for My Curated Exhibit Assignment (1st draft)**

**The Twist of Social Inequality & Greed Presented in Lillian Hellman’s The Little Foxes**

**Introduction:**For more than a century, people in this country have been trying to figure out how to live as peacefully as possible with all the social injustice and inequality that we have to face. Lillian Hellman, is known to be brave enough to expose the various forms of evil in her drama. Unlike many other famous authors at her time whose work focused a lot on the political concerns of African Americans, Lillian Hellman challenged the biased and traditional views of homosexuality as well as the abuse of power and its effects through her unique perception. The Little Foxes as Lillian’s signature work that sets the background in the Industrialization period, presents the struggle of a family in which every member has his/her greedy and selfish thoughts. So called “good family” concept is mixed with all kinds of moral conflicts in the play. It is hard to imagine how selfishness and greed could engulf all the affections and what exactly were the factors led the Giddens step by step to the situation they ended up with. Born and grow up in a loving and harmonious family, I am more than interested in exploring the imperfect family Lillian created as well as the unsolved social crisis behind the scenes.

**Statement of Purpose:**

Family transformation has been drastically changed in the past century. The abuse of power and gender inequality is still present: this year’s Forbes report indicates women are normally paid less than men even for the same job position. However, women have become so much more financially independent as they are offered labor market opportunities, resulting in marriage not being the only path to an abundant life*.* In *The Little Foxes*, the background was set in a time during which girls did not have the right to inherit family properties. The suppression of the dissatisfaction towards unfairness twisted the idea of what family meant to the Hubbard. The sister Regina, in order to ensure equal footing with her brothers, who are heirs to their father’s fortune, had to rely on marrying a sickly, wheelchair-using husband. Under the circumstance that social inequality, more or less, forced everyone to achieve what they want by whatever means, Lillian Hellman made up the story of Giddens to show the avaricious and nefarious sides of family.

**Objective:**

Greed and gender inequality seem to be two totally irrelevant topics. But one’s greed, more or less is often provoked under a disadvantageous circumstance.

Lillian Hellman set the plot of *The Little Foxes* to be the sister of the family struggling for wealth and freedom when only the sons of the family were considered legal heirs. The reflection of opportunities not equally provided, however, was used to achieve the focus of how greed teared a family apart. The nefarious sides are hidden within everyone. The overspread of greed within the family, unavoidably made the sister determined to achieve her goal, by fair means or foul, even if the price was hurting everyone around her---including those whom she called family. Love and harmony---the prevalent and constant for family, were off the table long ago when greed first arouse in Regina’s heart. Lillian presented the play to create the awareness that the imparity in society would bring out people’s greed. Domestic violence, as a still prevalently exist social concern, is an example of gender inequality which easily bring out a series of terrifying consequences.

**Plan of Action**

Origin of Source: Emory Databases (EBSCOhost mainly)

1. Take pictures of the play chosen *The Little Foxes* in Rose Library (Sep.14th) ---primary source
2. Search for books and articles that are related to The Little Foxes & Lillian Hellman. (By Sep.28th)
3. *The Foxes in Hellman’s Family Forest (BOOK)*
4. *Another Part of the Forest (PLAY/BOOK)*
5. *Lillian Hellman: a Life with Foxes and Scoundrels (BIOGRAPHY/JOURNAL)*
6. *The Paris Review Perspective. (BOOK)*
7. *The Formation of Lillian Hellman: Radical, Celebrity, and Mythologizer (JOURNAL)*
8. *Lillian Hellman’s The Little Foxes and the New South Creed: An Ironic View of Southern History (JOURNAL)*
9. *The rhetoric of economic agency and gender of leading female characters in selected works of Lillian Hellman (JOURNAL)*
10. Search for nowadays social issues related to the theme of the play. (By Sep.30th)

*The burning bed syndrome*

First draft complete timeline:

(after the peer review & Professor Anthony’s feedback)

Introduction: Sep.16th 2016 (peer review with Nia)

Statement of Purpose：Sep.23rd 2016 (peer review with Dan)

Objective: Sep.26th 2016

Plan of Action: Sep.30th---Oct.7th 2016

Annotated bibliography: Oct.7th 2016

**Annotated Bibliography**

-Secondary Sources:

1. *The Foxes in Hellman’s Family Forest*

Lenker, Lagretta Tallent. "The Foxes In Hellman's Family Forest." *The aching hearth: Family violence in life and literature*. 241-253. New York, NY, US: Insight Books/Plenum Press, 1991. *PsycINFO*. Web. 29 Sep. 2016.

This is a book examines family violence, especially spouse abuse, in Hellman’s literary words. The author pointed out that poverty and lower socioeconomic classes are not always the root cause for family abuse. Instead, the manifestation of aggression, manipulation and violence are affected by the inequality that is ingrained in our society. My objective is to link gender inequality with greed and show how the opportunities not provided equally could inspire greed and tear a family apart. The inequality and its consequences discussed in the book could offer me a broader perspective to understand the play.

1. *Another Part of the Forest*

Hellman, Lillian. Another Part Of The Forest. n.p.: n.d. Play Index (H.W. Wilson). Web. 29 Sep. 2016.

This is a prequel to The Little Foxes written by Lillian Hellman which focuses on the wealthy, ruthless, and innately evil Hubbard family and their rise to prominence. The comparison and contrast between the two plays could be made to get a deeper conception of the social issue Hellman wants to fight against presented in her plays. The selfishness of the mother in *Another Part of the Forest* is just like that of the big sister in *The Little Foxes*. Both of their “lovely” families are enough to make the readers grateful for their own.

1. *Lillian Hellman: a Life with Foxes and Scoundrels*

Binkowski, Carol J. "Lillian Hellman: A Life With Foxes And Scoundrels." Library Journal 130.20 (2005): 132-133.Literary Reference Center. Web. 29 Sep. 2016.

This is the first biography of the iconoclastic playwright written with the full cooperation of her family, friends, and inner circle. How Lillian Hellman committed to writing and politics is presented in the book. Instead of related it directly to the objective of my proposal for the play, I could use this biography to relate the background of the author to better understand why and how she presented the idea in The Little Foxes and what inspired her to write about such a twisted and greedy family.

1. *The Paris Review Perspective.*

Hartford, Anna, and Carl Rollyson. "The Paris Review Perspective." Critical Insights: Lillian Hellman (2011): 25-28. Literary Reference Center. Web. 13 Oct. 2016.

The author offers criticism on the works of Lillian Hellman and looks at the theme of good and evil in her works. Since the nature of the Giddens family is considered “evil”, it would be interesting to see how others perceive the reflection of evil in Hellman’s work.

1. *The Formation of Lillian Hellman: Radical, Celebrity, and Mythologizer*

Dick, Bernard F., and Carl Rollyson. "The Formation Of Lillian Hellman: Radical, Celebrity, And Mythologizer." Critical Insights: Lillian Hellman (2011): 47-62. Literary Reference Center. Web. 29 Sep. 2016.

The article offers criticism on the works of American playwright and author Lillian Hellman, including the book "An Unfinished Woman" and the plays "Toys in the Attic" and "The Little Foxes." The author looks at themes of money and greed in Hellman's writing. The article also discusses family and friends that served as inspiration for characters in her literature. Again, The Little Foxes is all about the greed provoked by the eager for wealth and power. The article could provide me a more open-minded view of Lillian Hellman’s original intention to create her writing that I could get the idea of how the author of the article comprehend the theme of greed created by Hellman.

1. *Lillian Hellman’s The Little Foxes and the New South Creed: An Ironic View of Southern History*

Watson Jr., Ritchie D., and Carl Rollyson. "Lillian Hellman's The Little Foxes And The New South Creed: An Ironic View Of Southern History." Critical Insights: Lillian Hellman (2011): 179-190. Literary Reference Center. Web. 6 Oct. 2016.

The article offers criticism on the play “*The Little Foxes***”** by American playwright and author Lillian Hellman. The author looks at Hellman's depiction of the Old South, the Old South creed, and the history of the Southern U.S. in the play. The article also discusses Hellman's incorporation of irony into the play. The family in The Little Foxes itself looks like a “joke” to the readers/ audience that it profaned the prevalently-accepted social value for the definition of family. The analysis of Lillian Hellman’s style of irony helps to gain the perception of inner ideas of her exclaim upon social inequality. The irony in the Hellman’s plot, for instance in The Little Foxes, was used as satire to reflect the problem of the whole society through the nefarious dispute of a single family.

1. *The rhetoric of economic agency and gender of leading female characters in selected works of Lillian Hellman*

White, Emily. "The Rhetoric Of Economic Agency And Gender Of Leading Female Characters In Selected Works Of Lillian Hellman." Dissertation Abstracts International, Section A: The Humanities And Social Sciences 71.11 (2011): 3861. MLA International Bibliography. Web. 13 Oct. 2016.

This is a scholarly journal discusses gender equality and economic conditions in society that were mentioned in Lillian Hellman’s works. In many of her plays, Lillian Hellman depicts situations related to women and economic equality in American society during the early twentieth century. Many of Hellman's dramatic works focus on family life, demonstrate to readers and viewers the roles of men and women in typical American households during the 1930s and 1940s, and challenge conventional views regarding women, power, and economic agency. My exhibit happens to have a focus on analyzing the phenomenon that women have been attempting to live as independent wage earners even though the society does not offer them the equal labor opportunities, which perfect match the topic presented in the journal. In this case, the arranged marriages and other women studies talked about in this particular journal adds to the twist and struggle I want to show in my presentation.

-Primary Sources:

1. Pictures of every page of the version of *The Little Foxes* collected in Rose Library in my phone

2. Videos & images of The Little Foxes by Elizabeth Taylor, 1981

Step by Step Instructions:

*---The Foxes in Hellman’s Family Forest*

1. Open up any browser and type in google.com
2. In Google search bar, type in Emory database and click on the first result that jumps out
3. Search for EBSCOhost database
4. Select all the databases within EBSCOhost and click on Continue
5. Type in the upper left box “The Foxes in Hellman's Family Forest” and click on Search
6. Choose the second among the three results shown
7. In the tools bar, click on citation
8. Find MLA format and copy & paste the citation

*--- Lillian Hellman: a Life with Foxes and Scoundrels*

1. Open up any browser and type in google.com
2. In Google search bar, type in Emory database and click on the first result that jumps out
3. Search for EBSCOhost database
4. Select all the databases within EBSCOhost and click on Continue
5. Type in the upper left box “Lillian Hellman: a Life with Foxes and Scoundrels”
6. In the right side bar, limit the source type to Books and click on Search
7. Choose the only result shown
8. In the tools bar, click on citation
9. Find MLA format and copy & paste the citation