

Reflective Reading Journal
Book: Sultana's Dream
Author: Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain

Week 1&2			
Name of the Story	Sultana's Dream	Themes	Equality, Feminism, women's education and freedom
Useful/interesting Quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A lion is stronger than a man, but it does not enable him to dominate the human race." -Sister Sara • "Our religion is based on Love and Truth. It is our religious duty to love one another and to be absolutely truthful."-Sister Sara • "If you cannot save your country for lack of physical strength, try to do so by brain power."-Queen • "An elephant also has got a bigger and heavier brain than a man has. Yet man can enchain elephants and employ them, according to their own wishes."-Sister Sara 		
Vocabulary (5 new words with meanings)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timid: shy and nervous, easily frightened. 2. Tremble: Shake, to shake slightly in a way that you cannot control. 3. Horticulture: The study or activity of growing garden plants 4. Lunatics: A person who is mentally ill, an insane person 5. Acquaintance: A person that you have met but do not know well. 		
Summary (within 150 words)	<p>Sultana's dream was written by Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain in 1905. The story is known as a feminist utopia story. She highlighted the relevance of equality, women's education and freedom. The story is all about Sultana's dream. In her imagination, she reaches a place called Ladyland. In Ladyland women had the freedom to study, work, and create inventions like flying air cars and controlling rain from the clouds. They had been sent to seclusion. Their aggressive guns and other weapons of war were defeated by women. Women use their brain power to defeat them. As Sultana travels in the</p>		

	<p>Ladyland, she awakes suddenly and becomes disappointed to see the reality.</p>
<p>Course Content Focus:</p>	<p>Q1. Why was the concept “Mannish” so distant to Sultana? Explain your views with reasons and examples.</p> <p>In Sultana’s Dream “Mannish” means shy and timid like men. But this concept was too distant to sultana. As she did not see such things in her life. She was a purdahnishin woman, she was not accustomed to walking about unveiled. She was afraid of coming across a man here. But, the Ladyland is totally different because women had full freedom, on the other hand, the men had no freedom at all. So, for not knowing about Ladyland the concept “Mannish” so distant to Sultana</p> <p>Q2. What were some of the difficulties faced by women at that time? Discuss your answer with examples from the story.</p> <p>At that time, women faced so many difficulties. Among them lack of education, gender discrimination, unequal rights, not being able to go to outside for work etc. Men dominate women as they think women cannot do anything. Women were looked down on as the weaker gender. Nobody respects them at all. Women were only expected to bear children and do all household chores.</p> <p>Q3. Mention some gender stereotypes that you find in the story. Do you think those stereotypes still exist in society? Why or why not?</p> <p>Yes, of course. I have found some gender stereotypes in the story. It is shocking but it exists in our society. As people believe that men are stronger than women, that's why they do not give equal rights to women. They believe that women should bear children and do all household chores. Women do not need to go outside for work. I think because of the illiteracy problem and some of the rules of our society these kinds of gender stereotypes still exist.</p>

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