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## Appendices: Different Samples of Writings of the Subjects

### Appendix 1

Trifles is a one-act play written by Susan Glaspell in 1916. The play is based on a true event that occurred in the early 1900's long before the modern women's movement began. Trifle is a murder mystery that deals with relationships between men and women and takes a dramatic form. It has the urge of finding the truth. In this play, a woman murders her husband, and the women are the ones who solve the crime. Glaspell shows how women's opinion could be very important, while searching the farmhouse, the women are the ones who found the evidence in the farm's wife baking, cleaning and sewing, which men will never notice because they don't care about women's world. Minnie Wright is never seen in the play, but the audience can learn a lot about her character in Glaspell's representation by use of symbols such as the house, Minnie's quilt and the way she quilted it and the bird.

1. The play has so many important symbols, and these symbols helped the women in solving the case, which the men thought are not important. Opening the play with a description of the place which is the "kitchen" showed the deep connection between it and the women. Also, one of the symbols is the rocking chair. The rocking chair symbolizes calmness and peace, which does not make sense because Mrs. Wright tells Hale that her husband is killed while she was sitting in the rocker. And this shows that she how unstable and nervous she is. Another symbol is the cherry preserves, it symbolizes Mrs. Wright's life, and that's why she was worrying about her preserves. It also shows how disturbed she is; a woman who is held for murder and cares only for her preserves is for sure mentally ill, and somehow she managed to block her emotions from the real world, so she could not feel guilty or have any type of remorse. The jars had cracked as a result of the cold weather, which is also a symbol, looked just like Mrs. Wright who cracked and broke under her husband's coldness and harshness. The dead canary is a major symbol as well in *Trifles*. Just as Mr. Wright literally choked the life out of Minnie Wright, he also destroyed his wife's spirit. Mrs. Hale mentions that Minnie "used to wear pretty clothes and be lively. "One of the town's girls

singing in the choir." After marrying Mr. Wright, she lost her voice--the ability to be cheerful--and, more importantly, she lost who she was.

The death of the bird symbolizes the death of Minnie Foster--who she was before marrying Mr. Wright. The bird is found dead with a broken neck.. Mrs. Wright didn't bury her husband neither the bird, she had relief watching them both dead. Killing the bird triggered her desire to kill her husband, she found peace and satisfaction in seeing the bird calm and quiet, so that is another reason for her to kill her husband; she wanted him to stop abusing her.

Women here tried a lot to hide many evidence that they figured them out, so we can say that they were pounding together against their men although the frightened feelings inside them. This main symbol, that all the play went around showed us how women can be more powerful, realistic and that they can beat the men in their own specialized. In regards to symbolism, the quilt pieces also play a major role. The women's reaction to the poorly sewn quilt piece demonstrates the difference between men's and women's perception. The women realize that the piece is significant, but to the men, the sewing represents the trifles that usually occupy the minds of women. The County Attorney asks the women in a tongue-in-cheek manner, "Well, ladies, have you decided whether she was going to quilt it or knot it?" Their answer of "knot it" illustrates the secret knowledge they have gleaned from paying attention to detail; and it also hints the manner in which Minnie murdered her husband. "Mrs. Hale's clever, sarcastic remark, "We call it — knot it, Mr. Henderson," suggests the audience should endorse, even applaud these women for their shrewdness and loyalty to their sex".

Glaspell used symbols to illustrate the standing of women in this time; and the details represent how small women were considered to be. Before they all left the Wright house, the men had taken the last stab at ridiculing the women's concern over trivial things, but that one "trifle" could have solved the whole case for them.

Trifles, basically, issues the differences between genders; men and women, the play shows that men tend to be aggressive while women are more sensitive. These differences between men and women are the reasons that allow Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale to find the evidence that solves the crime. Glaspell wanted to prove that women could be useful more than men, sometimes, and they want to be heard <sup>listened to</sup> as well as men. The symbols in the play have deep meanings. The dead Canary is a very significant symbol, it tells a lot about Mrs. Wright's personality, she didn't feel guilty for killing the bird, and so for killing her husband, instead it is like she found peace after the murder.



## Appendix 2

Susan Keating Glaspell<sup>is</sup> an American Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, actress, director, and bestselling novelist. She was one of the most important collaborative in the development of modern drama in the United States. Her novels and plays are committed to developing deep, sympathetic characters, to understanding 'life' in its complexity. Though realism was the medium of her fiction, she was also greatly interested in philosophy and religion. Many of her characters make principled stands. She graduated from Drake University and worked as a journalist on the staff of the Des Moines Daily News. When her stories began appearing in magazines such as Harper's and The Ladies' Home Journal, she gave up the newspaper business. Much of Glaspell's writing is strongly feminist, dealing with the roles that women play, or are forced to play, in society and the relationships between men and women. She wrote more than ten plays for the Provincetown Players, including Women's Honor (1918).

Trifles is a murder mystery that explores gender relationships, power between the sexes, and the nature of truth. The play about the life of Mrs. Wright, who was living with her husband in a village. She faced many problems from her husband and the play shows how Mr. Wright was abusing his wife. In this paper, I will talk about the symbolize, especially the symbol of bird.

<sup>be</sup> Birds in the play is a symbol of freedom, as Ms. Wright was <sup>leading a happy life</sup> living before she married; she was happy, cheerful, and her clothes were more colorful than now. Another thing, the bird is a symbol of weakness, submission and loneliness because Ms. Wright changed after she get married. She became alone, silent, and not comfortable without her apron, and she lives in a gloomy farmhouse where Minnie couldn't see the road. Also, the bird is a symbol of identification and compensating love. So Ms. Wright used to sing like a canary that she bought and probably loved, but, After her marriage, she was prevented from singing and she <sup>did</sup> does not have a children. So the canary was one of her only sources of joy and her husband, of course, but he killed the only other life in the house is her bird.

<sup>which</sup>

In my opinion, I think the symbol of bird is clear and suitable to explain the relationship between Ms. Wright and her husband. he doesn't allow her to visit her Neighbors, and the nature of life in farm area not appropriate to her. if he killed the songbird that she loved leads to the murder of the husband. we should not focus on the fact that her husband killed her bird, but how her husband killed the bird. he broke its neck. Ms. Wright has been emotionally strangled by her husband. she did not kill her husband for being a cruel but she killed him cause he was killing her only happiness is the songbird. when the husband killed the bird, he killed Mrs. Wright's freedom; so, she killed him in revenge for that. I like that image that the writer describe the way that Ms. Wright killed her husband.

To sum up, I think that the writer described us the characters properly and enjoyable. She succeeded to use the appropriate symbols in the play. She is able to explain the small details in the crime and how the women can analysis and find the min evidence more than men in trifles. I really enjoy to read this play and i discovered something new about the ability of women to collecting information, arriving to conclusions, and the ways of thinking. So, I hope other students read this play to discover other symbols that the writer explain it.

### Appendix 3

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Drama 343

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#### Critical Review about the Significance of Symbols in Trifles

Trifles by Susan Glaspell is a play written in 1916. She is an example of the late nineteenth-century women writer. She was <sup>active in</sup> about the same time American writing moved from regionalism to modernism. Her most writing focus <sup>is</sup> on women and their lives. Trifles is typical of this focus. It shows the lives of women. This play reflects the author's preoccupation with culture-bound notions of gender and sex roles. It also shows how men are important but women are not. The play-wright wants to change this idea about women. The play Trifles is a true murder mystery. It talks about Minnie Foster <sup>or</sup> being accused of murdering her husband. Moreover, it shows the terrible life of a farm wife who isolated and dependent on her husband for her physical and emotional needs. In this play, the playwright uses a lot of symbols to make the reader understand the play's meaning. In fact, symbol means "a figure of speech in which something means more than what it is". In this critical review, I want to highlight the significance of the bird and the kitchen symbols in Trifles which reflect Mrs. Wright <sup>or</sup> character and her relationship with her husband.

One example of symbols is the bird. Just as Mr. Wright literally **choked the life** out of Minnie Foster, he <sup>in</sup> also destroyed <sup>ed</sup> his wife's spirit. Minnie Foster, in the past, was beautiful, <sup>in</sup> wore pretty clothes, full of life and singing in the choir. Mrs. Hale mentions that Minnie "used to wear pretty clothes, be lively... <sup>was</sup> <sup>lost</sup> one of the towns girls singing in the choir". After <sup>was</sup> marrying Mr. Wright, she lost her voice. The ability to be cheerful, actually, <sup>was</sup> she lost who she was. When she bring <sup>ed</sup> a bird to her home, she wants to remember her past, that beautiful days that she <sup>was</sup> lived in. Also, the bird represent her freedom and her identity. In my opinion, Minnie Foster wants to live with Mr. Wright because that she bring a bird to entertain her and make her happy in this isolating home, <sup>but</sup> when her husband killed her bird, she does not want him to live any more. The death of the bird is another example of symbols. It symbolizes the death of Minnie Foster. I think that Mr. Wright killed the bird



because he love<sup>s</sup> his wife so much. <sup>Maybe: one word (adv)</sup> May be he saw that she care about the bird more than himself. He does not want anything to take her from him. I agree with the playwright when she take<sup>s</sup> the bird and it's death to symbolize the freedom of Minnie Foster and the death of her life.

The kitchen and what was in it <sup>it are</sup> is a significance symbols. It is a mirror that reflects the psychological choice, confusion and puzzlement. Although it is a restricted and limited place for women's talent. <sup>the</sup> The kitchen stands as a symbol of women's inferiority. The dirty towels and the unfinished tasks reflect the confusion of Mrs. Wright. She was confused because she killed her husband. The coldness of the kitchen reflects the coldness of their relationship. He was so <sup>fought on</sup> tuff with her. They do not have children. He does not let her to communicate with others. So, these are the motive for her to kill him. In my opinion, the playwright <sup>ceded</sup> succeeded to show us why she killed her husband and she had a right like other women in the society by using this symbol.

In my opinion, the bird and the kitchen are strong and clear symbols that Glaspell uses to make us understand the play well. Also, they <sup>are</sup> really reflect Mrs. wright's character and her relationship with her husband. I agree with the playwright when she choose the bird as a symbol of freedom and <sup>its</sup> it's death as a death and <sup>of</sup> loses the identity of Mrs. wright. Moreover, the <sup>uses</sup> use of the kitchen is very strong symbol which reflects the talent of women.

Susan Glaspell is an important feminist writer because she was <sup>ed</sup> concern about women's issue. In my opinion, she worked well to force the culture to give women their right. Also, she helped found the modern movement in American drama. Her interest was really on drama. As I mention<sup>ed</sup>, she was about the same time American writing moved from regionalism to modernism.

## Appendix 4

### Introduction

Susan Keating Glaspell was an American novelist and dramatist who has a great impact on the development of American literature. The era of nineteenth century saw emergence of several prominent female literary figures, two of which included Kate Chopin and Fanny Fern. These two women <sup>wrote</sup> about the gender equality issues and men dominating. Glaspell was <sup>ed</sup> influence by them, and start to write about the similar themes and concerns. One of her best dramas is "Trifles" which revolves around the inequality of the sexes and the inability of women to live their own lives without men's control. In fact, "Trifles", as one-act play, is based on a real murder incident in Iowa on December 2, 1900 when Glaspell was a news reporter. She <sup>ed</sup> represents her reflection of this incident with the murdered John Wright and his imprisoned wife Minnie in the play.

The officials, Mr. Peters (the Sheriff), the County Attorney and the neighbor Mr. Hale, search <sup>ed</sup> for evidences in this house to convict Minnie of the murder. At the same time, the Sheriff's and Mr. Hale's wives, Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale, <sup>were</sup> are supposed to collect clothes for Minnie. While they are in the kitchen, they <sup>were</sup> encounter the important evidences to draw conclusions of Minnie's miserable life, her deed and, hence, take the opportunity to influence the case by concealing the most crucial evidence from the men. The play is innovative in its extensive use of symbols which give great deal of information about John Wright and his wife and their relationship. This <sup>ed</sup> creates a second explanatory level which shows evidently Minnie's misery and why she surely kills her husband. Susan Glaspell <sup>ed</sup> use many symbols in the play that give clear hints about John Wright, his wife, their relationship and the motives for the murder.

To start with, symbol is defined as "something visible that by association or convention represents something else that is invisible". Many writers deal with the significance of the

symbols in the play like Suzy Clarkson Holstein who thinks that symbols enrich the drama, and personally, I think symbols really enriches the play. Moreover, the first important symbol which Glaspell used is the title itself. There are many trifle things in life but in their essence they are really significant. The title is <sup>the</sup> symbol of the need for equal rights for women because men think women are trifles. In addition, the rocking chair is a sign that Mrs. Wright is confused and trying to calm, but she was very nervous. She is sitting in the rocker when she tells Hale that her husband "died of a rope around his neck." She was finally <sup>in</sup> at peace. The rest of symbols are <sup>were</sup> introduced through the conversation between the two women Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters while they are in the kitchen. They realize many clues which prove that Minnie surely kills her husband and which men cannot understand. For example, the bird is <sup>the</sup> symbol of Minnie who likes to sing before marriage. Mrs. Hale's words show this "when she was Minnie Foster... one of the town girls singing in the choir."

Also, the bird cage is <sup>the</sup> symbol for the strict rules in the life with John Wright which suppresses the poor Minnie from singing like a free bird. However, the women observe the broken birdcage and the dead bird. Mrs. Peters says "Somebody-wrung-its-neck." The bird symbolized the true essence of Minnie's spirit and joy. The bird was an embodiment of Mrs. Wright who was, in a sense, a "caged-bird" herself confined to only the house and ~~prevented~~ <sup>from</sup> communicating with others. Moreover, the cherry preserves as Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale observe were broken from the cold.

In conclusion, the use of symbols in this play adds a deep meaning to the play and its main Idea about the man's oppression to the woman. Personally, I think the richness of this play lies in its symbols because they show definitely that Minnie kills her husband because he suppresses, and repressed her. As Mrs. Hale concludes, women "all go through the same things--it's all just a different kind of the same thing." For Mrs. Hale, Minnie Wright's murder of her husband is the ultimate rejection of her husband's imposed identity in favor of the memory of the person Minnie Foster used to be. In my opinion, there is many issues that deals with men <sup>domination</sup> dominates over women and controlling them, especially here in our community in Saudi Arabia <sup>there are</sup> till nowadays. There is a lot of women <sup>who</sup> whom they are complaining and suffering from their husband over control.

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## Appendix 5

The play "Trifles" by Susan Glaspell (1916) is about a true and mysterious murder of John Wright and the investigation by the sheriff Peter and the county attorney George Henderson. Through these events, the play introduces the theme of the treatment of women in that time and the cruelty and oppression of males. Glaspell uses numbers of symbols to support these themes, and to serve to build characters, also to emphasize her main points.

First of all, I will define the term symbol. Symbolism is a term used to illustrate different meanings. The use of symbolism in "Trifles" is very crucial to convey the status of females in the early twentieth century in rural country. In the play, the symbols of bird and cage are highly symbolic for Mrs. Wright's life. Actually, the bird is representing her life and spirit. It describes her life before she met and married to Mr. Wright, who was the first reason of her isolation. Also, reveals how her spirit was

spec  
missing



beautiful and very nice in the past, and how she was free and there is nobody bothering her life. The second symbol is the cage. This symbol is representing the Mr. Wright's oppression. He was immured and deprived from her simplest rights. Glaspell used these two symbols in highly convincing way to illustrate the theme of inequality between males and females in the twentieth century. They are more appropriate than other symbols and they serve the play and its ideas.

Finally, Susan Glaspell is one of the famous women writers who focus on the points of politics of gender and the cruel treatment of males for females. There were two women playwrights who paved the way for Glaspell who are Kate Chopin and Fanny Fern. So, Glaspell inherited these themes from the playwrights before and her play "trifles" has been influenced by them.



