

Read pages 50-51 from Chapter 3 of Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* (from "But for my part, I agree with the deceased bishop" to "or the length of the winter's night").

1. How does Woolf's claim that it is "unthinkable that any woman in Shakespeare's day should have had Shakespeare's genius" (p. 50) develop Woolf's point of view?
2. In addition to women, what other groups does Woolf suggest lack literary genius?
3. Determine the meaning of *servile* by looking at its word parts and the words surrounding it.
4. What is Woolf's point of view about why genius rarely exists among women?
5. How does Woolf refine her point of view in this portion of the text?
6. What is "it" referring to in the sentence that begins "How then could it have been born" (p. 50)?

7. What rhetorical device does Woolf use here?

8. What does Woolf accomplish by using this device?

9. Why does “genius” have to “blaze” to “prove its presence” (p. 50)?

10. What does Woolf suggest is the connection between “a woman possessed by devils” and “a suppressed poet” (p. 50)?

11. Explain what might make “some mute and inglorious Jane Austen” feel or act “crazed” (p. 50).

12. What is the connotation of the word *torture*? What is the effect of Woolf’s use of the word *torture* on page 50 to describe a woman’s experience of being gifted?

13. What does Woolf mean that “Anon ... was often a woman” (p. 50)?