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Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2006 4:52 PM
To: RomanticGender@listproc.sjsu.edu
Subject: presentation for 2/16/06

Hi Everyone,
I'll have this info in my handout for tomorrow's class.

Sha, Richard C. "'Keeping Them Out of Harm's Way': Sketching, Female Accomplishments, and the Shaping of Gender in Britain." *The Visual and Verbal Sketch in British Romanticism*. Philadelphia: U Penn P, 1998. 73-104.

In chapter 2, "Keeping Them Out of Harm's Way": Sketching, Female Accomplishments, and the Shaping of Gender in Britain, Sha argues that the increase in leisure time for women created the fear that they would suddenly abandon their domestic duties to become professionals. Sha traces the evolution of sketching and its contribution to the shaping of gender and femininity in 18th century Britain. Distinctions are made between female "sketching" and men "drawing" and the social implications of both activities, as well as the social, religious and economic limitations that women endured. Sha also touches on the general population's reception of female artists in the late 18th century. References to literary works, instruction manuals and women's sketches are made to support Sha's argument.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is masculinity and femininity portrayed in *A Simple Story*, and do any of the figures evolve in displaying or suppressing masculine and/or feminine characteristics?
2. The novel ends with the phrase "a proper education". How does the "education" portrayed in this work support or refute the definition and purpose of an education as we have seen discussed by Wollstonecraft, Barbauld, and Polwhele?
3. "Why do [female writers] poison the minds of their own sex, by strengthening a male prejudice that makes women systematically weak?" (from Anonymous, Review of *A Simple Story* in *The Analytical Review* (May 1791), pp. 101-102). How does Inchbald portray strengths and weaknesses in both male and female characters? Are these portrayals stereotypical or revolutionary in the context of the times that the book was written?

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