

Contents

Preface ix

Acknowledgements xi

1 Finding a Female Tradition

Introduction 1

Extracts from:

A Room of One's Own VIRGINIA WOOLF 7

Literary Women ELLEN MOERS 8

A Literature of Their Own:

British Women Novelists from Brontë to Lessing ELAINE SHOWALTER 11

'What Has Never Been: An Overview of

Lesbian Feminist Literary Criticism' BONNIE ZIMMERMAN 15

'Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence' ADRIENNE RICH 22

'Saving the Life that is Your Own:

The Importance of Models in the Artist's Life' ALICE WALKER 28

'In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens' ALICE WALKER 31

Women's Oppression Today MICHELE BARRETT 34

'What Women's Eyes See' VIVIANE FORRESTER 34

'Women and Madness: The Critical Phallacy' SHOSHANA FELMAN 36

'French Feminism in an International Frame'

GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK 36

2 Women and Literary Production

Introduction 40

Extracts from:

A Room of One's Own VIRGINIA WOOLF 47

'Professions for Women' VIRGINIA WOOLF 51

Silences TILLIE OLSEN 53

'When We Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision' ADRIENNE RICH 57

*The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and
the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination*

SANDRA M. GILBERT and SUSAN GUBAR 63

'Emily Brontë in the Hands of Male Critics' CAROL OHMANN 71

'Paradoxes and Dilemmas, the Woman as Writer' MARGARET ATWOOD 74

Toward a Black Feminist Criticism' BARBARA SMITH 77

'Black Woman Talk' BLACK WOMAN TALK COLLECTIVE 81

'Writing Like a Woman: A Question of Politics' TERRY LOVELL 83

'Women and Creativity: The Demise of the Dancing Dog' CYNTHIA OZICK 85

Thinking About Women MARY ELLMANN 86

3 Gender and Genre

Introduction 88

Extracts from:

- Feminist Literary Studies: An Introduction* K. K. RUTHVEN 93
A Room of One's Own VIRGINIA WOOLF 94
Literary Women ELLEN MOERS 96
The Rise of the Novel IAN WATT 98
Women: The Longest Revolution JULIET MITCHELL 100
 'The Impact of Feminism on the Theatre' MICHELENE WANDOR 104
 Introduction to *Shakespeare's Sisters: Feminist Essays on Women Poets* SANDRA M. GILBERT and SUSAN GUBAR 106
 Introduction to Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Aurora Leigh and Other Poems CORA KAPLAN 112
Literary Women ELLEN MOERS 115
Fantasy: The Literature of Subversion ROSEMARY JACKSON 117
 'The Buried Letter: Feminism and Romanticism in *Villette*' MARY JACOBUS 119
 Introduction to *Daring to Dream: Utopian Stories by United States Women, 1836–1919* CAROL FARLEY KESSLER 120
 "'Spiritual Whoredom": An Essay on Female Prophets in the Seventeenth Century' CHRISTINE BERG and PHILIPPA BERRY 124
 'Representation vs. Communication' ELIZABETH COWIE, CLAIRE JOHNSTON, CORA KAPLAN, MARY KELLY, JACQUELINE ROSE, MARIE YATES 127
 'Women Read the Romance: The Interaction of Text and Context' JANICE A. RADWAY 128
 'Mass Market Romance: Pornography for Women is Different' ANN BARR SNITOW 134
 "'Returning to Manderley" — Romantic Fiction, Female Sexuality and Class' ALISON LIGHT 140
Female Desire: Women's Sexuality Today ROSALIND COWARD 145

4 Towards Definitions of Feminist Writing

Introduction 149

Extracts from:

- '"'This Novel Changes Lives": Are Women's Novels Feminist Novels? A Response to Rebecca O'Rourke's Article "Summer Reading"' ROSALIND COWARD 155
 'Feminism and the Definition of Cultural Politics' MICHELE BARRETT 160
 'New Directions for Black Feminist Criticism' DEBORAH E. McDOWELL 163
 'American Feminist Literary Criticism: A Bibliographical Introduction' CHERI REGISTER 169
 'Naming the Fictions' ELIZABETH BAINES 175
 'Feminism and the Literary Critic' ALISON LIGHT 177
 'Speaking/Writing/Feminism' CORA KAPLAN 180
Mirror Writing: An Autobiography ELIZABETH WILSON 181
 'Dancing Through the Minefield: Some Observations on the Theory, Practice and Politics of a Feminist Literary Criticism' ANNETTE KOLODNY 184

- 'Towards a Feminist Poetics' ELAINE SHOWALTER 188
Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory TORIL MOI 191
 'Women's Writing: "Jane Eyre", "Shirley", "Villette", "Aurora Leigh"'
 MARXIST-FEMINIST LITERATURE COLLECTIVE 194
 'Sexual/Textual Politics' TORIL MOI 197

5 Do Women Write Differently?

Introduction 200

Extracts from:

- 'Is There a Female Voice?' JOYCE CAROL OATES 208
Literary Women ELLEN MOERS 209
Thinking About Women MARY ELLMANN 210
Literary Theory: An Introduction TERRY EAGLETON 213
 'The Difference of View' MARY JACOBUS 216
The Sexual Fix STEPHEN HEATH 219
 Introduction to *Virginia Woolf: Women and Writing* MICHELE BARRETT 224
 'The Laugh of the Medusa' HELENE CIXOUS 225
 'For the Etruscans: Sexual Difference and Artistic Production –
 The Debate over a Female Aesthetic' RACHEL BLAU DuPLESSIS and
 MEMBERS OF WORKSHOP 9 228
 'Writing the Body: Toward An Understanding of "L'écriture Féminine"'
 ANN ROSALIND JONES 228
Sexual/Textual Politics: Feminist Literary Theory TORIL MOI 231
 'Variations on Common Themes' EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE OF
 QUESTIONS FEMINISTES 233
 'Enslaved Enclave' CATHERINE CLEMENT 235
 'Language and Revolution: The Franco-American Dis-Connection'
 DOMNA C. STANTON 235