

ABSTRACT

Woman as Storyteller
in
The Wife of Bath's Tale
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman
Sophie's Choice
and
Wide Sargasso Sea

Valerie Patrica Roper

This dissertation examines the concept woman as storyteller in a poem and three novels. The importance and effectiveness of the concept are demonstrated in its exploration of the theme of domination but it is especially significant in what it reveals about woman.

Woman is not only the medium through which each story is told, she is also the subject of her own story. During the process of storytelling one comes to know each woman's essentially feminine self which was submerged within the male image of woman and to understand that woman's experience of domination and her reaction to it are inextricably linked to her concept of self.

This analysis further reveals woman operating as symbols which are very significant. Woman is seen on one level as the consciousness and conscience of society and on the other as the symbol of oppressed classes, races and countries at different stages in their search for self and its potential.....