

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-97)

Vindication of the Rights of Women



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Wollstonecraft



The first women students to be admitted to lectures at the University of Cambridge, 1869
http://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian/topic_2/illustrations/imcambridge.htm

Vindication of the Rights of Women

- First expression of feminism in English
- To be women rather than “ladies”
- Accepts women’s physical inferiority but asks for their rights to cultivate their reason
- Women are friends to men
- Love: a passion subsides into friendship after marriage

Question

- How does Wollstonecraft deal with the concept of "love"? How does romantic and physical love get in the way of a woman's development?