



Compare-Contrast Texts

Historical Women: Rachel Carson vs. Jane Addams

Part to Part

Introductory Information

The text below describes two famous American women from the past. They each made the world a better place, but in different fields. There are several other things that are the same between them, and some that are different. The underlined words are defined in the glossary.

Passage

Jane Addams was born in 1860. Rachel Carson was born in 1907. Both of them went to college at times when going to college was not common for women. Both of them challenged women's roles. But each did it in a different way. Addams had a strong personality and spoke out a lot on issues that were important to her, including women's rights. Carson was a shy woman who did not speak out. However, she challenged the role of women by working in the sciences--an area that was mostly men at that time.

Although they worked in different fields, both of these women had things happen in their early life that affected their careers. When Addams visited London at age 27, she found the cause to which she devoted her life. She brought back to America a type of social service agency called a settlement house. This type of agency helped poor people who lived in cities. Carson became a writer, scientist, and ecologist through her love of nature. She was affected by the death of birds from pesticides in a friend's bird sanctuary. Because of this, she used her writing to help people learn the importance of protecting nature.

Both of these women wrote about the problems they worked on. Addams wrote about the life of poor people and the settlement house she started. She showed others that the growth of industry created many problems, such as unsafe and unhealthy workplaces and homes, unemployment, and poverty. Carson showed that the growth of science could cause problems. For example, DDT and other chemicals used to help crops grow were poisoning rivers, lakes, oceans, and people.

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Both Addams and Carson challenged society's views because they wanted to make the world a better place. Addams spoke out as a feminist and a pacifist. She believed that women should have the right to vote and do new and different things to make the world a better place. During World War I she spoke out against America entering the war. Although the newspapers attacked her views, years later she was given the international Nobel Peace Prize. Carson was attacked by chemical companies and some people in the government for her views. However, years later her work led to the beginning of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Historical Women: Rachel Carson vs. Jane Addams

Whole to Whole

Introductory Information

The texts below describe two famous American women from the past. They each made the world a better place, but in different fields. There are several other things that are the same between them, and some that are different. The underlined words are defined in the glossary.

Rachel Carson

Rachel Carson was born in 1907. She went to a women's college and studied the sciences. Carson was a shy woman who did not speak out. However, she challenged the role of women at the time by working in the sciences, which was mostly men.

From her love of nature, Carson became a writer, scientist, and ecologist. She was influenced by the death of birds from pesticides in a friend's bird sanctuary. Because of this, she used her writing to help people learn how important it was to protect nature. Carson wrote in a way that made it easy for everyone to understand. She showed that the growth of science could cause problems. For example, DDT and other chemicals used to help crops grow were poisoning rivers, lakes, oceans, and people.

When Carson wrote books about the environment, many people did not like her views. She was attacked for her views by chemical companies and some people in the government. But she continued to fight for what she believed in to make the world a better place. Finally, her work led to the beginning of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Jane Addams

Jane Addams was born in 1860. She was one of the early American women to go to college. Then, she started to study medicine but left that field because of poor health. Addams had a strong personality and spoke out a lot on issues that were important to her, including women's rights.

When Addams visited London at age 27, she discovered the cause to which she devoted her life. She brought back to America a type of social service agency called a settlement house. This type of agency helped poor people who lived in cities. Addams spoke and wrote about the life of poor people and the settlement house she started. She showed others that the growth of industry created many problems, such as unsafe and unhealthy workplaces and homes, unemployment, and poverty.

Addams also challenged society's views by being a feminist and a pacifist. She spoke out for women to have the right to vote and do new and different things to make the world a better place. During World War I she spoke out against America entering the war. The newspapers attacked her views. Some people thought she was dangerous. However, years later she was given the international Nobel Peace Prize.

Glossary

ecologist: a person who studies the relationship between all forms of life and their environment

environment: the conditions that are around someone or something. Rachel Carson studied the natural environment, which is the physical, chemical, and biological world in which we live.

pesticides: a chemical used to kill pests, especially insects

bird sanctuary: a place out in nature where birds live and are supposed to be protected from being hurt by people

feminist: a person who believes that women and men should have equal rights

pacifist: a person who supports peace rather than war or other types of violence for settling disagreements

social service agency: an organization that helps people deal with problems in their life related to things like health, mental health, housing, food, work, and money

settlement house: a type of social service agency that helps poor people deal with their problems, especially people who live in cities

Chart of Attributes

Historical Women: Rachel Carson vs. Jane Addams

Attributes	Rachel Carson	Jane Addams
Year born	1907	1860
Personality	Shy, did not speak out	Strong personality, spoke out a lot on issues important to her
College	Went to a women's college	One of the early American women to go to college
Field of interest	Science, ecology	Social work
Early events that influenced the cause they pursued	Death of birds from pesticides in friend's bird sanctuary	Visit to London, including settlement houses
How they influenced other people	Mainly through writing	Mainly through speaking and some writing
How they challenged women's roles	Worked in mostly male field	Spoke out for women's right to vote and to take on new roles
The problems they helped people see	Environmental, problems caused by growth of science	Unsafe and unhealthy workplaces and homes, unemployment, poverty; women's rights; peace vs. war
Positive long-term effects of their work	Books on environmental problems, beginning of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Start of settlement houses in U.S., writings about settlement houses and lives of poor people
Did they work to make the world a better place even though their views were unpopular?	Yes	Yes