

1/27

C&T Notes

David Wood

Poem: Stephen Duck

(The Thresher's Labor)

- Winter=relief
- Life cycle of work (Pg. H4, "But soon as winter hides...")
- Poem begins in the fall
- Negative attitude towards work
- Daily grind (Pg. H4, "Our native color, as from work we go...")
- Master and Thresher= schoolmaster and boys
- "Bittersweet Summers"
- Portray women as worthless

Poem: Mary Collier

(The Women's Labor)

- Response to Duck's poem and refutes his claims about women
- Claims women work harder (Pg. H8, "When Evening does...")
- Women get little sleep (Pg. H9, "While we, alas! But little sleep we have...")
- No time for themselves
- Imagery of slaves, women feel as if they were enslaved to men

Questions/Discussion:

1.) WHO DO YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH AND WHY?

-Collier b/c

- She has housework and fieldwork
 - Women feel inferior to men
- (Majority of the class sided with Collier)

-Duck b/c

- Women may bring bad attitude home
- Women's work isn't as hard

2.) HOW DOES 18TH CENTURY LABOR COMPARE TO TODAY'S?

-8 hour days (today) vs. 12+ hours (then)

-the fact that work days are busy and repetitive holds true today

-more mental exhaustion (today) vs. physical exhaustion (then)

3.) WHAT EXACT ROLES DO MEN AND WOMEN HAVE IN POEMS?

-men

- Transport grain to baskets
- Strip wheat
- Cut wheat down

-women

- Gather bundles of wheat
- Rake- "haymaking"
- Household work- washing clothes, caring for children cleaning, preparing meals