

Differences in Freedom

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## Differences in Freedom

There are different kinds of freedom. There is emotional freedom, and there is physical freedom.

When in lies, the drama *Trifles* by Susan Glaspell that explains in two women's views on the tolls of not having emotional freedom in a time where women did not have many freedoms at all. Control was given to another person to tell women when to talk when not to, when, and where she could do anything. For one to, need to put one beneath, to control another gender, just to show their superiority, and size.

There is of course physical freedom, where there is a restraint for whatever reason preventing one from moving, or getting away. To be in jail, for instance, where you are in a cell, where you are told, what you can do and when. In this dark and dismal place, where nobody wants to be, in this story it was a welcome alternative. To be in a marriage and a home that jail is a welcomed alternative, we have to figure out what the alternative was.

Furthermore, there was an emotional jail, where Mrs. Wright was put down, mistreated, and made to feel inferior. "I don't think a place'd be any cheerfuller for John Wright being in it" (Glaspell 2011). This is implying that he wasn't a cheerful man. Then to explain, how she was once happy, and did things with the choir, and wore pretty dresses, to where now she did not. To be told where you can go, to be told who you can talk to, to be ordered what you can wear. The emotional jail is a very dark place, a very lonely place. The emotional jail is a very dismal place, without much hope. To even look in the direction of a light at the end of the tunnel, would be a betrayal, would bring shame, which would be punished.

Which explains, the very little happiness, which this tiny little bird, gave her? That light that must have come from her heart that lit up her face. That happiness that meant she found a glimpse in something, especially something other than Mr. Wright. Mr. Wright being the man he was, and needing that control, took it, took her joy, took the life, and took that meaning of hope. He liked to keep her unhappy, compliant, and having that control over another living, breathing human being. When he took that hope, she saw the man he was, she saw her future.

However, woman of that time still did feel the need to stick together, knowing how things on that side of the fence can be. They found the bird cage, thinking with how sad this place was, weird to have a singing beautiful creature in this dark dismal place. Then to realize that the door had been ripped open and the bird killed. To see what he had done, just to exert control over this poor woman. To show he could take her happiness whenever he wanted to. He was in control. "But, Mrs. Peters-look at its neck! Look at its neck! It's other side to" (Glaspell 2011). Somebody wrung its neck (Glaspell 2011).

Never the less, the definitive moment was a moment in a moment, the decision between the women, to help, one of their own that being mistreated, and stood up for herself, and her future. Where their eyes meet to say this is a "woman's place", we have to help her. Telling the men the cat ate it; the cat ate the

bird and then ran off. Not giving the men motive, on why she stood up for herself, that the men would never understand. They would just see it as a female going crazy, and stepping out of her role, just Crazy. The men could not understand her fear, her unhappiness, her torture, her lack of hope. She thought that jail would be better, than living like this one day longer. The moment when the women could see the changes in Mrs. Wright, and could see she needed help, and there was no one else to help. That is the way Mr. Wright wanted it. So the women were going to help.

There are far worse fates than that of a physical jail. There are privileges there; you can voice your opinion. You don't have a man telling you, this is how to do this, this is how you should talk, and this is how you should walk. This is what u can think, and this is not. Oh u can have your own thoughts; you can have your own actions. That little bit of happiness, and I might be all right, will not be ripped right out of your grasp, just as you try to hold it. There is an emotional freedom that was what the women's movement was all about. I can think for myself, I can do things for myself, Let me be myself. We might not always understand each other, yet we are all given the right to be a person, to have our own thoughts, our own feelings. This right has been fought for many times, from slavery, to civil rights, to the women's movement, and more. The world will be a lot better place when the human race evolves from a place of intolerance, and cruelty, to a place of understanding, a place with Humanity

## References

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### **Glaspell's Trifles**

Direct quote with in-text citation:

"Nothing here but kitchen things" (Glaspell, 2011, p. 141).

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Glaspell, S. (2011). *Trifles*. In D.L. Pike and A.M. Acosta (Eds.) *Literature: A world of writing stories, poems, plays, and essays* [VitalSource digital version] (pp. 139-145). Boston, MA: Pearson Learning Solutions.