

- I. Introduction: Historical Context
 - A. Elizabeth's reign is a time of great change for England
 - B. Reformation: Abolition of monasteries cuts off means for women to have a full independent life of the mind
 - C. Inheritance laws – 14th-century shift to primogeniture (inheritance by eldest male descendent, even if there are daughters) encourages arranged marriages across social groups, to exchange wealth for title in lineages
 - D. Marriage age – mid to late 20's for men and women
 - E. Literacy – many women learned to read but not write
 - F. Upper class women are taught singing and instruments, but not for public performance

- II. Quotations, and patriarchal assumptions about women
 - A. What should a woman be? (Inferior, weak, silent, compliant)
 - B. Wicked women: Strong, loud, deceitful, sexually promiscuous
 - C. Face-painting: Makeup comes to England, becomes a signifier of beauty and class, and ultimately deception

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Other class-related materials may be made available at <http://drakethebard.com>