Kate Chopin: Between Feminism and Transcendentalism

By

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Abstract

This thesis aims at examining the development of Kate Chopin's thought and art from accepted dominant modes towards mastery of a separate personal Literary character. First, light will be shed on the formative period when her literary thought follows the dictates of the sentimental tradition and then her use of local color as a means to move beyond that tradition. Then, there will be a discussion of Chopin's movement towards Feminist / New Woman fiction, as she considers the options offered by transcendentalism. Finally, the thesis will focus on the way she succeeds in making a literary identity of her own by blending transcendentalism and feminism.