

ENC 1102
Instructor Cuda
Sample Annotated Abstract

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Annotated Bibliography

Wilson, Aubry. "The Fur is the Woman." Studies in Short Stories (29): 63-72. SIRS Researcher.
ProQuest Information and Learning. Brevard Community Coll. Lib., Cocoa, FL.
13 Oct. 2006 <<http://www.linccweb.org>>.

Aubry Wilson makes a strong argument that Miss Brill's fur is not only a symbol of the character but also a metaphor for social attitudes towards women and aging in Western society. Ms. Wilson comes to the conclusion that when self-image is based solely on external value, then harsh judgment can dehumanize and isolate individuals to an extreme degree. "When Miss Brill takes her fur from its box, she is excitedly looking forward to another season of 'listening in on other people's lives' (Mansfield, 42); however by the end of her excursion she is placing the fur and her dreams back into the box to be shut away without value" (Wilson 64). This loss of value is also seen in her lack of interest in her usual slice of honey-cake. While Ms. Wilson cleverly uses evidence from the short story, her obvious bias towards a strong feminist agenda weakens her credibility as she states, "Miss Brill has obviously been infected with the same cancer that still eats the soul of women today as they slowly wither into lonely old age: male domination" (Wilson 71). This statement seems an exaggeration based on personal philosophy rather than textual evidence which supports an argument for discrimination against aging more than discrimination against women in particular.