

adds melodrama and excitement for the reader, as well as portraying the character as a fallen woman. *The Scarlet Letter's* crisis points are used similarly, as well as to add to the idea she is fallen; her husband arrives and threatens her, she is under threat of having her daughter (Pearl) removed and Dimmesdale is sick.

Both have tragic denouements, resulting in the death of the heroines. Tess murders Alec and is hanged for her crime, despite doing it as revenge for her rape. Hardy writes, "*Justice was done*". Hester's love dies, she leaves Boston then dies of old age, alone in the world as her daughter has left her to be wed. She is buried with Arthur and they share a tombstone - "*It was near that old and sunken grave, yet with a space between, as if the dust of the two sleepers had no right to mingle. Yet one tombstone served for both*". However, as the reader is emotionally connected to the characters, this becomes a means to question societal views on women.

Some readers may argue that these women are simply weak, not tragic or fallen, as they allow themselves to be punished for what they believe to be right, as well as depending on men throughout the novels but they are pre-feminist novels that don't show women as independent. They are judged on their looks in the novel instead of their minds. Both writers try to get the audience to reconsider ideas of women, though they still conform to the 'princess' character type. They are stereotypical, weak women and the novelists do not challenge the 'ideals' of women.

In conclusion, tragic heroines and fallen women are used in literature to express author opinions on the subject of women and how society treats them. They want the reader to question what society deems to be 'right' in the hope that they will change their views and have equality.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 3 of 3