

actions will hunt her in a long time. After a moment, the warden gave the signal and the people, who were all men, started swarming the window, trying to get a better view. They were described as a centipede for it symbolizes death and decay and also because they came as one, having similar goal of witnessing the death of the convict. The warden said "It's time. Mark the hour.", intending to record the time of death and also signify the last hour of the convict. The executioner willed her hands at the lever. Even if it goes against her principles, she had no choice because she'd already taken the money. Soon, the convict suffered a painful death. Ironically, the one who wet their pants wasn't the convict but the executioner, herself. The burden of having a person's life at hand and forcefully taking it was heavy. The warden, the person who ordered the execution, turned his back to the convict and the crowd as if he had nothing to do with it. The telephone ringing symbolized the hope that the convict was desperate for, however the call was vain for she is already no more.

This short story can be analyzed under feminism because the convict and the executioner, who are females, were the ones oppressed and affected the most. They both had struggled and only tried to survive the cruelty that the economy pushed onto them. The convict had no one believing her; she had no relatives nor friends who came for her. The men watching only came for the show, they were all like beast, preying the weak. Her hope was crushed, forcing the life out of her as it came too late. And the only one who was reluctant to kill her was, unfortunately, the person burdened to take her life. This is the new debt of the executioner. However, in contrast to the previous one, it can never be repaid, the remorse and guilt will accompany her throughout her life. On the other hand, the warden stood on top of all; he is the rule and what he says, goes. And he managed to keep his hands clean because he had the power over the executioner and tasked her to do the dirty job. The main reason for the appeal of this work to the audience is its dark themes; it portrays real life problems and issues such as women oppression and compromising one's principles.

The ideas portrayed in the Clearing Debt by Nadine Sarreal were remorse, desperation, hopelessness, women oppression, and compromising one's principles. These are all dark however those became strengths of the work. In reading the violent part, instead of leaving a bad taste in the mouth, it did a wonderful contribution to the mood because it made the readers imagine the emotions of each character rather than what it is feeling physically. The way that the story is told provided a close connection between the readers and the protagonist as it is open with emotions the character feels and with that, it made it easier for the readers to imagine themselves in that situation. Other than what was said, this is a successful work because of its peculiarity; it's not a typical story that has a happy ending. In addition to that, it's about death penalty which made people curious. It's also short enough to read within a few minutes. Especially, it teaches us a lesson and made us aware of the oppression, forcing us into motion.