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THE POSITION OF WOMEN

Thomas Hardy's 'Jude the Obscure': PROSE

-Sue is expected to be the "property" of the man she marries

Thomas Hardy's 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles': PROSE

-Tess = symbol of fertility, nature and purity. Linked with the lushness of Talbothays (setting) and the fertility ritual of May-Day

-Hardy emphasises the power of men over women in society and strength. Alec gives her the "kiss of mastery" and rapes her; Angel also wields power over the dairy women, driving Retty and Marian to a suicide attempt and alcoholism

-Tess then assumes an autonomous, writing angrily to Angel and is only able to escape her male oppressor by killing him (extremism), leading to her own execution, showing that there is no place for women to escape the subjugation