

Moll Flanders awareness on the importance of her status begins at an early age. Defoe depicts her as a particularly resourceful woman, which doesn't fit in with the typical expectations of her gender of the time. She is the daughter of a convicted felon, she is born poor, but is adamant that she will not spend the rest of her life as a servant; therefore she is already set to avoid her predestined life of servitude. Moll is prepared to work hard to achieve her financial independence, but in her quest to become a "gentle woman", the other women of higher status laugh at her (Defoe Daniel, 1993, p.8); this emphasises how unrealistic and absurd this notion is: due to Moll destitute upbringing she couldn't possibly elevate her status. As Talbot M. Mary states: "From the beginning of her entry into social life she is positioned within varied institutional and societal structures, which bestow upon her specific roles" (Talbot, 1999, p.156), however, in spite of being born in a prison and being an orphan, Moll does whatever it takes to elevate herself financially and socially. She believes that she is worth something, and maybe this is what sets her apart from most of her peers: she is an individual. On the other hand, she is marginalised even more so as a result of trying to follow less "traditional" venues in her quest to become financially independent. Moll thinks (and perhaps this also reflects Defoe's views), that women should not be forced into marriage because it is a lower position; the above is clear when she states:

*"I cannot but remind the ladies here how much they place themselves below the common station of a wife, which, if I may be allowed not to be partial, is low enough already; I say, they place themselves below their common station, and prepare their own mortifications, by their submitting so to be insulted by the men beforehand, which I confess I see no necessity of."* (Defoe, 1993, p.271).