

The Bell Jar

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Winter Trees - Sylvia Plath 2016-11-15

Winter Trees has descriptive copy which is not yet available from the Publisher.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 2002

Get your "A" in gear! They're today's most popular study guides-with everything you need to succeed in school. Written by Harvard students for students, since its inception SparkNotes™ has developed a loyal community of dedicated users and become a major education brand. Consumer demand has been so strong that the guides have expanded to over 150 titles. SparkNotes'™ motto is Smarter, Better, Faster because:

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The Catcher in the Rye - J. D. Salinger
2019-08-13

The "brilliant, funny, meaningful novel" (The New Yorker) that established J. D. Salinger as a leading voice in American literature--and that has instilled in millions of readers around the world a lifelong love of books. "If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born, and what my

lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth." The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 2018

The story, scarcely disguised autobiography, covers six months in a young girl's life, beginning when she goes to New York to serve on a fashion magazine's college-editorial board. It ends when she emerges from a mental hospital after a breakdown.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 1981

An autobiographical novel of Esther Greenwood, a brilliant and talented young woman, who goes to New York to work on the college-editorial board of a fashion magazine and begins a descent into mental illness.

Ariel - Sylvia Plath 1999-02-03

"In these poems...Sylvia Plath becomes herself, becomes something imaginary, newly, wildly and subtly created." -- From the Introduction by Robert Lowell

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath (Book Analysis)

- Bright Summaries 2018-12-13

Unlock the more straightforward side of *The Bell Jar* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an

analysis of *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath, a semi-autobiographical novel which follows Esther Greenwood, a young woman who is undertaking an internship in New York when her mental health begins to decline, leading to stays in a series of psychiatric institutions. The novel is semi-autobiographical: Plath's own struggles with depression are well-documented, and she underwent electroconvulsive therapy as part of her "treatment". *The Bell Jar* is widely admired for its unsparing depiction of the paranoia, stifling conformism and gender inequality that characterised America during the 1950s, and its popularity has not waned in the decades since it was first published. Sylvia Plath was an American novelist and poet. Her best-known works are *The Bell Jar* and the poetry collection *Ariel*, which was published posthumously in 1965 (Plath committed suicide in 1963). Find out everything you need to know about *The Bell Jar* in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you:

- A complete plot summary
- Character studies
- Key themes and symbols
- Questions for further reflection

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Sounds from the Bell Jar - Gordon Claridge
2014-01-14

Madness and creativity - are they related? Two literary scholars and a psychologist bring a unique blend of professional skills to bear on this question, first reviewing the contemporary scientific evidence and then examining in detail the lives and works of ten authors - dating from the Middle Ages to the 20th century - who, as judged here by the latest diagnostic techniques, demonstrably suffered from a psychotic illness. For its material the book draws extensively on the subjects' own written words to illustrate the intimate connection that existed between the authors' creative expression and what they felt and perceived as psychotic persons.

A Study Guide for Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*
- Cengage Learning Gale 2017-07-25

A Study Guide for Sylvia Plath's "*The Bell Jar*," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

The Collected Poems - Sylvia Plath 2016-11-15
Pulitzer Prize winner Sylvia Plath's complete poetic works, edited and introduced by Ted Hughes. By the time of her death on 11, February 1963, Sylvia Plath had written a large bulk of poetry. To my knowledge, she never scrapped any of her poetic efforts. With one or two exceptions, she brought every piece she worked on to some final form acceptable to her, rejecting at most the odd verse, or a false head or a false tail. Her attitude to her verse was artisan-like: if she couldn't get a table out of the material, she was quite happy to get a chair, or even a toy. The end product for her was not so much a successful poem, as something that had temporarily exhausted her ingenuity. So this book contains not merely what verse she saved, but—after 1956—all she wrote. — Ted Hughes, from the Introduction

Sylvia Plath - Raychel Haugrud Reiff 2008
"A biography of writer Sylvia Plath that describes her era, her major works--the novel *The bell jar* and her poetry--her life, and the legacy of her writing"--Provided by publisher.
The Grief of Influence - Heather Clark
2010-12-09

The Grief of Influence follows Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes through alternating periods of collaboration and competition, showing how each poet forged a voice both through and against the other's, and offering a new assessment of the twentieth century's most important poetic partnership.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 2021-05-12
The Bell Jar chronicles the crack-up of Esther Greenwood: brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under—maybe for the last time. Sylvia Plath masterfully draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that Esther's insanity becomes completely real and even rational, as probable and accessible an experience as going to the movies. Such deep penetration into the dark and

harrowing corners of the psyche is an extraordinary accomplishment and has made *The Bell Jar* a haunting American classic.

Crossing The Water - Sylvia Plath 2016-11-15

Crossing the Water is a 1971 posthumous collection of poetry by Sylvia Plath that was prepared for publication by Ted Hughes. These poems were written at the same time as those that appear in *Ariel*. *Crossing the Water* continues to push the envelope between dark and light, between our deep passions and desires that are often in tension with our duty to family and society. Water becomes a metaphor for the surface veneer that many of us carry, but Plath explores how easily this surface can be shaken and disturbed.

Reflecting on The Bell Jar - Pat Macpherson 1991

This feminist study of Sylvia Plath and her novels intends to provide a new approach to one of feminism's most difficult heroines. It traces Plath's work in relation to the history of the feminist movement and the evolution of feminist literature.

The Lightness - Emily Temple 2020-06-16

"A teen thriller in the vein of the '90s horror movie *The Craft* . . . A beautiful meditation on meditation . . . Frequently hilarious, and thoughtful throughout." —The New York Times Book Review "The *Lightness* could be the love child of Donna Tartt and Tana French, but its savage, glittering magic is all Emily Temple's own." —Chloe Benjamin, New York Times bestselling author of *The Immortalists* A Belletrist Book Club Pick! A Most Anticipated Novel by Entertainment Weekly • USA Today • Marie Claire • Elle • WSJ. Magazine • Glamour • Vulture • Bustle • BuzzFeed • The Millions • The Philadelphia Inquirer • Minneapolis Star Tribune • The Daily Beast • Refinery 29 • Publishers Weekly • Literary Hub • Electric Literature • and more! A stylish, stunningly precise, and suspenseful meditation on adolescent desire, female friendship, and the female body that shimmers with rage, wit, and fierce longing—an audacious, darkly observant, and mordantly funny literary debut for fans of Emma Cline, Ottessa Moshfegh, and Jenny Offill. One year ago, the person Olivia adores most in the world, her father, left home for a meditation retreat in the mountains and never returned. Yearning to

make sense of his shocking departure and to escape her overbearing mother—a woman as grounded as her father is mercurial—Olivia runs away from home and retraces his path to a place known as the Levitation Center. Once there, she enrolls in their summer program for troubled teens, which Olivia refers to as "Buddhist Boot Camp for Bad Girls". Soon, she finds herself drawn into the company of a close-knit trio of girls determined to transcend their circumstances, by any means necessary. Led by the elusive and beautiful Serena, and her aloof, secretive acolytes, Janet and Laurel, the girls decide this is the summer they will finally achieve enlightenment—and learn to levitate, to defy the weight of their bodies, to experience ultimate lightness. But as desire and danger intertwine, and Olivia comes ever closer to discovering what a body—and a girl—is capable of, it becomes increasingly clear that this is an advanced and perilous practice, and there's a chance not all of them will survive. Set over the course of one fateful summer that unfolds like a fever dream, *The Lightness* juxtaposes fairy tales with quantum physics, cognitive science with religious fervor, and the passions and obsessions of youth with all of these, to explore concepts as complex as faith and as simple as loving people—even though you don't, and can't, know them at all. "A suspenseful debut." —People Pick *The 100 Best Novels* - Robert McCrum 2015-10-08

Everybody loves a list but this is a list of major ambition: namely, to select the best 100 novels in the English language, published from the late 17th century to the present day. This list has been built up week by week in *The Observer* since September 2013, and selected by writer and *Observer* editor Robert McCrum. With a short critique on each book, this is a real delight for literary lovers.

The Bell Jar, by Sylvia Plath - Janet McCann 2011

The Bell Jar is a highly distinctive and unusual book, and although the era of the 1950's it represents has faded and disappeared into history, the power of this novel does not dissipate. The original essays in this volume each take on a specific angle from which to examine the work. One essay discusses the issue of nature vs. nurture in the novel, while another

discusses the similarities between Plath's work and Susanna Kaysen's *Girl, Interrupted*. The older essays provide some of the finest scholarship on *The Bell Jar* that has been made available over the years, and offer a wide variety of critical approaches to this work.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 2019-09-05

Liberty fabric covered editions bring classics from the Faber backlist together with important modern titles, putting them in conversation and celebrating both the history and the future of Faber & Faber. Sylvia Plath's groundbreaking semi-autobiographical novel offers an intimate, honest and often wrenching glimpse into mental illness. *The Bell Jar* broke the boundaries between fiction and reality and helped cement Sylvia Plath's place as an enduring feminist icon. Celebrated for its darkly humorous, razor sharp portrait of 1950s society, it continues to resonate with readers today as testament to the universal human struggle to claim one's rightful place in the world. In 2019, Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* will be reissued as a special hardback edition with a Liberty fabric from the year of the novel's first publication (1963); *Milkman*, winner of the 2018 Man Booker Prize, will be reissued with a bespoke Liberty fabric cover, created uniquely for Anna Burns. ABOUT THE FABRIC Originally inspired by an impression sheet from Liberty's print works at Merton Abbey. First produced in 1961, this low-colour geometric design features abstract broken lines which almost create a subtle and wavy camouflage effect.

The Cambridge Introduction to Sylvia Plath - Jo Gill 2008-09-11

Sylvia Plath is widely recognized as one of the leading figures in twentieth-century Anglo-American literature and culture. Her work has constantly remained in print in the UK and US (and in numerous translated editions) since the appearance of her first collection in 1960. Plath's own writing has been supplemented over the decades by a wealth of critical and biographical material. *The Cambridge Introduction to Sylvia Plath* provides an authoritative and comprehensive guide to the poetry, prose and autobiographical writings of Sylvia Plath. It offers a critical overview of key readings, debates and issues from almost fifty years of Plath scholarship, draws attention to the

historical, literary, national and gender contexts which frame her writing and presents informed and attentive readings of her own work. This accessibly written book will be of great use to students beginning their explorations of this important writer.

The Bell Jar, a Novel of the Fifties - Linda Wagner-Martin 1992

"Though her life was brief, the American poet and novelist Sylvia Plath (1932-63) exerted a profound influence on contemporary writers, particularly women writers of the sixties and seventies. Just as to her Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry Plath brought a decidedly feminist perspective, so too did she etch in her novel *The Bell Jar* a disturbing vision of life for young women in America at midcentury. *The Bell Jar* - based on Plath's own experiences as a student at Smith College, an intern at *Mademoiselle*, and a young woman battling for her own sanity amid societal mores of the times - was initially published in England under a pseudonym, its American publication stifled for years by the writer's family. When, however, the 1963 novel was finally released to U.S. audiences in 1971, it achieved both critical and popular success, and has since become a classic of feminist literature and a unique vehicle for better appreciating Plath's gifts." "It is through a multifaceted lens that Linda Wagner-Martin examines *The Bell Jar* in this new study. Whereas past critical attention has centered on *The Bell Jar* as autobiography, Wagner-Martin transcends that approach, looking as well at the novel in its larger context of the social and historical forces shaping women's lives in America during the fifties and sixties. Thus eschewing a simplistic reading of the novel, the author plumbs issues of gender, genre, and narrative voice. Arguing that Plath's troubled personal history was the product of her struggle against contemporary social forces, Wagner-Martin reviews the writer's prior work and inspects earlier, partial versions of the novel; explores Plath's use of humor and sarcasm; traces the writer's representation of patriarchal structures in the novel; and ultimately places the novel squarely in the tradition of works about women at odds with a society dominated by patriarchal values. A brilliantly argued, eminently readable approach to this masterpiece, *The Bell Jar: A Novel of the*

Fifties is certain to be lauded by scholars and students alike."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Diary of an Oxygen Thief - Anonymous
2016-05-23

Hurt people hurt people. Say there was a novel in which Holden Caulfield was an alcoholic and Lolita was a photographer's assistant and, somehow, they met in Bright Lights, Big City. He's blinded by love. She by ambition. *Diary of an Oxygen Thief* is an honest, hilarious, and heartrending novel, but above all, a very realistic account of what we do to each other and what we allow to have done to us.

The Significance of Maternal Relationships in Sylvia Plath's Novel "The Bell Jar" - Julia Deitermann 2006-09-18

Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: A, San Diego State University, course: Modern American Literature and Culture, 1 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: "It's quite amazing how I've gone around for most of my life as in the rarefied atmosphere under a bell jar." (Plath, Sylvia: *The Bell Jar*. New York. Harper Collins Publishers 1996, p. 250) Although uttered by Sylvia Plath, this statement fully applies for the protagonist Esther Greenwood in Plath's novel *The Bell Jar*. It exemplifies her feeling of being imprisoned in a world and society she can neither accept nor reject and further reveals the identification of author and protagonist. Both Plath and Esther suffer from living under this sort of glass bell jar which makes it hard for them to breathe and to break free from the regulations of contemporary society. The author Sylvia Plath herself has experienced most of the events in the novel, including psychological disease, depression and suicide attempts. Moreover, most of the characters in *The Bell Jar* are based on people Plath knew and loved, although she often draws caricatures or uses the device of irony when describing them. Plath's intention was "to show how isolated a person feels when he is suffering a breakdown" (p.262) but we never completely come to know why this breakdown occurs, which almost leads to her destruction and drives her into madness and the asylum. What we do know, however, is that Esther doubts the traditional

way of a woman's life in the 1950s which means marrying a respectful man, having children and being an obedient housewife. She can hardly decide which way of life to choose and experiences a strong inner conflict between her wish of leading the life of a poet and that of a loving wife and mother. This conflict leads to a fracture in Esther's inner self, to diminished self-assurance and false made-up selves. Esther's mother, although seemingly playing a passive role in the novel, has a significant influence on her daughter's way of thinking, on her doubt of social values and to a certain extent even on her psychological disease which derives from her inner disorder. In the following, I will try to analyze the importance and influence of Esther's relationship to her mother Mrs. Greenwood in the course of the story. In doing so, I will also examine the meaning of maternal bonds in reference to a couple of further female relationships in the novel. Moreover, I will dwell on Esther's doubt and partial rejection of social and traditional values of her time, most of which are embodied by her mother. [...]

Depression in Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar - Dedria Bryfonski 2012-01-12

Because wherever I sat, on the deck of a ship or at a street café in Paris or Bangkok, I would be sitting under the same glass bell jar, stewing in my own sour air. Readers who are familiar with Sylvia Plath's work may recognize this well-known quotation from her first and only novel, *The Bell Jar*, which tackles issues of depression, mental illness, and the search for individuality. This compelling volume examines Sylvia Plath's life and writings, with a specific look at key ideas related to *The Bell Jar*. A collection of twenty-three essays offers readers context and insight to discussions centering around the pervasive impact of illness, the novel as a search for personal identity, and the autobiographical nature of the work. The book also examines contemporary perspectives on depression, such as the sometimes deadly pressure of perfectionism on gifted teens, and the idea that depression and risk of suicide run in families.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 2018-04-07

Sylvia Plath's shocking, realistic, and intensely emotional novel about a woman falling into the grip of insanity. Esther Greenwood is brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful,

but slowly going under-maybe for the last time. In her acclaimed and enduring masterwork, Sylvia Plath brilliantly draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that her insanity becomes palpably real, even rational-as accessible an experience as going to the movies. A deep penetration into the darkest and most harrowing corners of the human psyche, *The Bell Jar* is an extraordinary accomplishment and a haunting American classic. We are delighted to publish this classic book as part of our extensive Classic Library collection. Many of the books in our collection have been out of print for decades, and therefore have not been accessible to the general public. The aim of our publishing program is to facilitate rapid access to this vast reservoir of literature, and our view is that this is a significant literary work, which deserves to be brought back into print after many decades. The contents of the vast majority of titles in the Classic Library have been scanned from the original works. To ensure a high quality product, each title has been meticulously hand curated by our staff. Our philosophy has been guided by a desire to provide the reader with a book that is as close as possible to ownership of the original work. We hope that you will enjoy this wonderful classic work, and that for you it becomes an enriching experience.

Belzhar - Meg Wolitzer 2015-09-15

Jam Gallahue, fifteen, unable to cope with the loss of her boyfriend Reeve, is sent to a therapeutic boarding school in Vermont, where a journal-writing assignment for an exclusive, mysterious English class transports her to the magical realm of Belzhar, where she and Reeve can be together.

[The Bell Jar](#) - Sylvia Plath 2000-03-01

Chronicles one young woman's emotional breakdown as she journeys from the glamorous world of Manhattan publishing to the isolation of the asylum.

[Ariel: The Restored Edition](#) - Sylvia Plath
2005-10-25

Sylvia Plath's famous collection, as she intended it. When Sylvia Plath died, she not only left behind a prolific life but also her unpublished literary masterpiece, *Ariel*. When her husband, Ted Hughes, first brought this collection to life, it garnered worldwide acclaim, though it wasn't the draft Sylvia had wanted her readers to see.

This facsimile edition restores, for the first time, Plath's original manuscript -- including handwritten notes -- and her own selection and arrangement of poems. This edition also includes in facsimile the complete working drafts of her poem "Ariel," which provide a rare glimpse into the creative process of a beloved writer. This publication introduces a truer version of Plath's works, and will no doubt alter her legacy forever. This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

Depression in Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* -
Dedria Bryfonski 2012-01-12

Because wherever I sat, on the deck of a ship or at a street café in Paris or Bangkok, I would be sitting under the same glass bell jar, stewing in my own sour air. Readers who are familiar with Sylvia Plath's work may recognize this well-known quotation from her first and only novel, *The Bell Jar*, which tackles issues of depression, mental illness, and the search for individuality. This compelling volume examines Sylvia Plath's life and writings, with a specific look at key ideas related to *The Bell Jar*. A collection of twenty-three essays offers readers context and insight to discussions centering around the pervasive impact of illness, the novel as a search for personal identity, and the autobiographical nature of the work. The book also examines contemporary perspectives on depression, such as the sometimes deadly pressure of perfectionism on gifted teens, and the idea that depression and risk of suicide run in families.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 2022-10-04

I felt very still and empty, the way the eye of a tornado must feel, moving dully along in the middle of the surrounding hullabaloo. Sylvia Plath's groundbreaking semi-autobiographical novel offers an intimate, honest and often wrenching glimpse into mental illness. *The Bell Jar* broke the boundaries between fiction and reality and helped cement Sylvia Plath's place as an enduring feminist icon. Celebrated for its darkly humorous, razor sharp portrait of 1950s society, it continues to resonate with readers today as testament to the universal human struggle to claim one's rightful place in the world. A special illustrated edition - the second book in our collection of illustrated Faber classics.

Fahrenheit 451 - Ray Bradbury 2012-01-10

A totalitarian regime has ordered all books to be destroyed, but one of the book burners, Guy Montag, suddenly realizes their merit.

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 1971

"Published by arrangement with HarperCollins Publishers, Inc."--T.p

The bell jar - Sylvia Plath 2020

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath 2005-08-02

The Bell Jar chronicles the crack-up of Esther Greenwood: brilliant, beautiful, enormously talented, and successful, but slowly going under -- maybe for the last time. Sylvia Plath masterfully draws the reader into Esther's breakdown with such intensity that Esther's insanity becomes completely real and even rational, as probable and accessible an experience as going to the movies. Such deep penetration into the dark and harrowing corners of the psyche is an extraordinary accomplishment and has made The Bell Jar a haunting American classic. This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

Red Comet - Heather Clark 2021-09-28

PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST • The highly anticipated biography of Sylvia Plath that focuses on her remarkable literary and intellectual achievements, while restoring the woman behind the long-held myths about her life and art. "One of the most beautiful biographies I've ever read." —Glennon Doyle, author of #1 New York Times Bestseller, Untamed With a wealth of never-before-accessed materials, Heather Clark brings to life the brilliant Sylvia Plath, who had precocious poetic ambition and was an accomplished published writer even before she became a star at Smith College. Refusing to read Plath's work as if her every act was a harbinger of her tragic fate, Clark considers the sociopolitical context as she thoroughly explores Plath's world: her early relationships and determination not to become a conventional woman and wife; her troubles with an unenlightened mental health industry; her Cambridge years and thunderclap meeting with Ted Hughes; and much more. Clark's clear-eyed portraits of Hughes, his lover Assia Wevill, and other demonized players in the arena of Plath's

suicide promote a deeper understanding of her final days. Along with illuminating readings of the poems themselves, Clark's meticulous, compassionate research brings us closer than ever to the spirited woman and visionary artist who blazed a trail that still lights the way for women poets the world over.

Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar - Harold Bloom 2009

An overview of the novel features a biographical sketch of the American author, a list of characters, a summary of the plot, and critical and analytical views of the work.

A Study Guide for Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar - Gale, Cengage Learning 2015-09-15

A Study Guide for Sylvia Plath's "The Bell Jar," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

The split identity of Esther Greenwood in Silvia Plath's "The Bell Jar" - Sarah Schommer 2008-07-18

Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,0, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Department of English and Linguistics), course: Madness in Literature, 7 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: 1. Introduction Madness is an important aspect in literature - especially madness of female writers respectively madness of female chief characters is interesting to deal with concerning the social role of women in the cause of time. It [madness] is that state of mind where a person's feelings or beliefs about himself [...] are completely disrupted, making him unable to function in whatever social role - husband, parent, friend, employee - he might expect to enjoy. It is the state where the sufferer passes beyond the bounds of reality, intelligibility, and rationality as defined by the bulk of society. The psychotic is a stranger among his own people. (Nettle 12) A character consistent to this definition of madness is Esther Greenwood in Silvia Plath's autobiographical novel The Bell Jar which was published 1963. Being a young intelligent woman, Esther

becomes mad as a result of the mental stress to conform to the traditional role of women or to break tradition. Esther Greenwood is passive and unable to be agent of her life. Never having learned how to develop herself as an independent individual, she is dependent on others and follows their ideals of a fulfilling life. She is torn between starting a family and starting a career. According to this, *The Bell Jar* reveals the difficulty of becoming an adult, by breaking tradition to be able to realize one's personal scheme of life. As Susan Bassnett points out, "The Bell Jar is a novel about a suicide attempt that fails; but it is also a novel about a woman who learns how to live with herself and how to come to terms with the world, that world of destruction and horror [...]" (Bassnett 122). As the story of Esther Greenwood's madness is full of interesting symbols and motifs, it is unfortunately impossible to deal with the whole of them. Consequently this paper will focus on few aspects revealing the split identity of Esther Greenwood and show the process of her recovery as well. These basic motifs are: the fig-tree, the fake identity she builds up and the motif of the bell jar. They will be discussed in the context of Esther's mental illness...

Under the Bell Jar - Juliane Hanka 2008-07-23 Seminar paper from the year 2008 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, Dresden Technical University (Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik), course: The 1950s and 1960s in American Literature, 18 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: 1 Introduction Sylvia Plath ended her Life by gassing herself in a stove on February 11th in 1963. This is not the most important fact about the poet and yet the best known detail of her life. Since her death, Plath's work and her life have been irrevocably interblended. Thus, she is either interpreted as a courageous but suppressed female writer or as a dark and mentally disordered summoner of death. In either case she had been mystified as a kind of tragic hero and some critics continue with this kind of blind "Plathophilia" (Bachner 2008) until today. Although her artistic work is mainly composed of poems, her only novel will be the object for the following interpretation of the protagonist's alienation in comparison to

respective events in the author's life. Being so closely connected it is impossible to reflect on the novel without factoring her life into the described events of alienation in *The Bell Jar*. Thus, after introducing the influencing social circumstances of her time, the paper concentrates on Sylvia Plath's degree of authenticity in her writing. On the basis of these findings, two different stages of the protagonist's alienation are to be developed and afterwards her ambivalent relation towards the opposite sex is being discussed as a major consequence to her schizoid attitudes towards her desired social status. Finally, the analysis deals with Plath's strong symbolism, in which the mirror serves as frequent metaphoric means to illustrate estrangement not only from the outside world, but also from her inner self. Another one, the fig-tree, stands for the inability to decide for a certain way of life. Both are crucial problems of the protagonist Esther Greenwood and it is to examine, in how far they reflect on Sylvia Plath's personal experience. This paper discusses Plath's alienating processes from a rather feminine perspective as the 1950s common American values exerted huge pressure on every member of society, but mostly on women.

Study Guide to The Bell Jar and Other Works by Sylvia Plath - Intelligent Education 2020-06-28 A comprehensive study guide offering in-depth explanation, essay, and test prep for selected works by Sylvia Plath, who at an early age won prizes for her poetry. Titles in this study guide include *The Bell Jar*, *Two Views of a Cadaver Room*, *Night Shift*, *Disquieting Muses*, *Spinster*, *Crossing the Water*, and *The Bee Poems*. As a collection of fiction, short stories, and poetry of the late-twentieth-century, Plath's work was largely biographical and confessional as she wrote through her depression and other tragic circumstances. Moreover, critics praised her use of literary devices such as imagery, meter, and voice. This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Plath's classic work, helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons they have stood the literary test of time. Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains: - Introductions to the Author and the Work - Character Summaries - Plot Guides - Section and Chapter Overviews - Test Essay and Study Q&As

The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in-depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature, exploring characters, critical commentary, historical background, plots, and

themes. This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research.