

Abstract: “Young Female Activism and Agency in their Creative Process”

Children may utilize a creative voice as they navigate their personal experience in predominately adult forums within our social and political spheres. As some children take control of their own artistic agency they reinvent their own placement in society. This becomes incredibly important when entering into a discussion about the young female experience. Roberta Seelinger Trites argues in *Waking Sleeping Beauty* that “Feminist children’s *Künstlerromane* demonstrate protagonists who recognize their agency because of their writing,” and “emerge as an artist who participates in her community without sacrificing her art” (79). Thus, we can take a closer look at the use of writing and art to investigate the importance of young girls taking control of their agency in order to facilitate their own creative process. In this paper I will draw upon Trites’ definition of a children’s *Künstlerromane* and Perry Nodelman’s deep analysis of picture books to explore the use of picture books or graphic novels as a means of empowering young girls. I will utilize their theoretical concepts to illustrate how Özge Samancı’s autobiographical graphic novel *Dare to Disappoint* (2015) is an example of a feminist children’s *Künstlerromane*, while exploring how Samancı disrupts the cultural expectations of her community. Specifically, analyzing how she utilizes her art and writing to counter her father’s claim that a woman can only obtain a stable future by studying engineering or medicine at a prestigious university or she faces the consequence of becoming a zero.