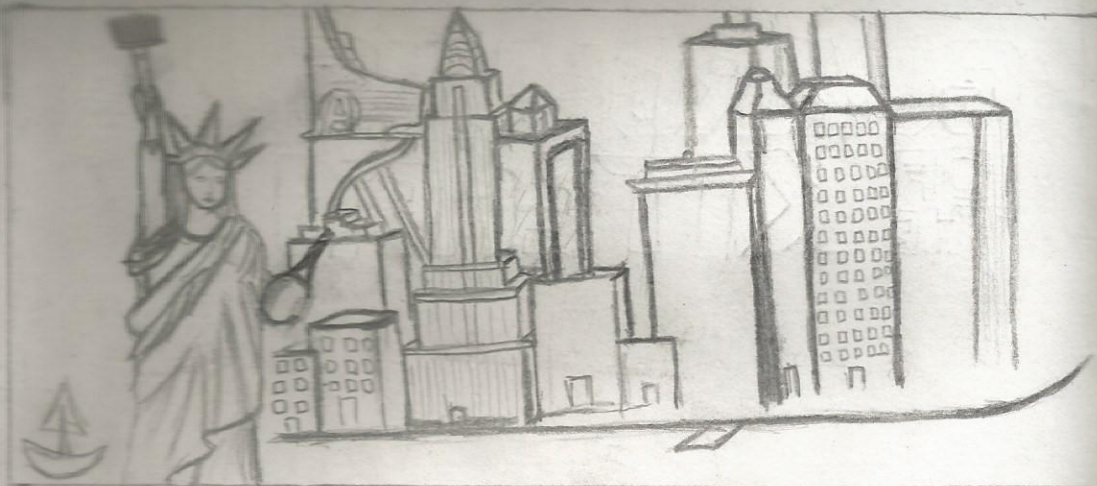


# GUARDIANS OF THE KITCHEN



With Great Power Comes  
Great Chores?!







Cinderella

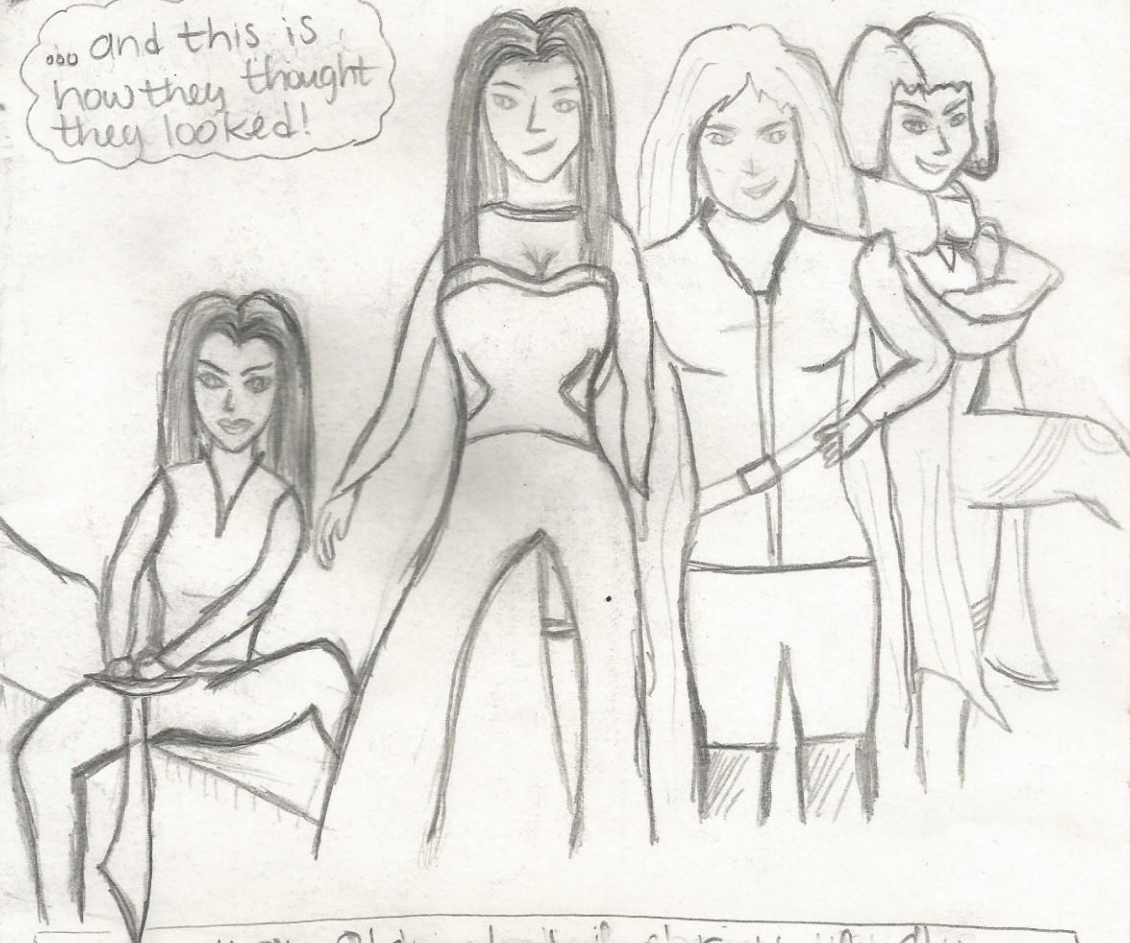
Snow White

Medusa?



And thus a new group of female Superheroes was born!

... and this is how they thought they looked!



Cinderella's plan to bring radical change was by attacking the problem in the private sphere: the home

How they  
actually  
looked!



They were inspired to become more  
than just housewives... and with the  
help of their tools they were to  
bring big change...



We can  
do this!  
ooo

So they made their way  
to the living Room, A company  
filled with Sexist  
men.

Cinderella!  
Bring us beer!

Did you  
watch the  
game?

Hurry  
up!

Just  
a  
second

Get your  
beer now!

And so their civil  
disobedience  
started against  
their men.

Here's  
your  
beer!

What's  
the  
deal

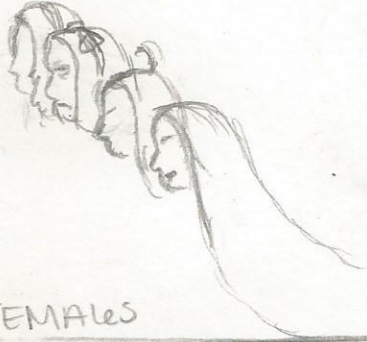




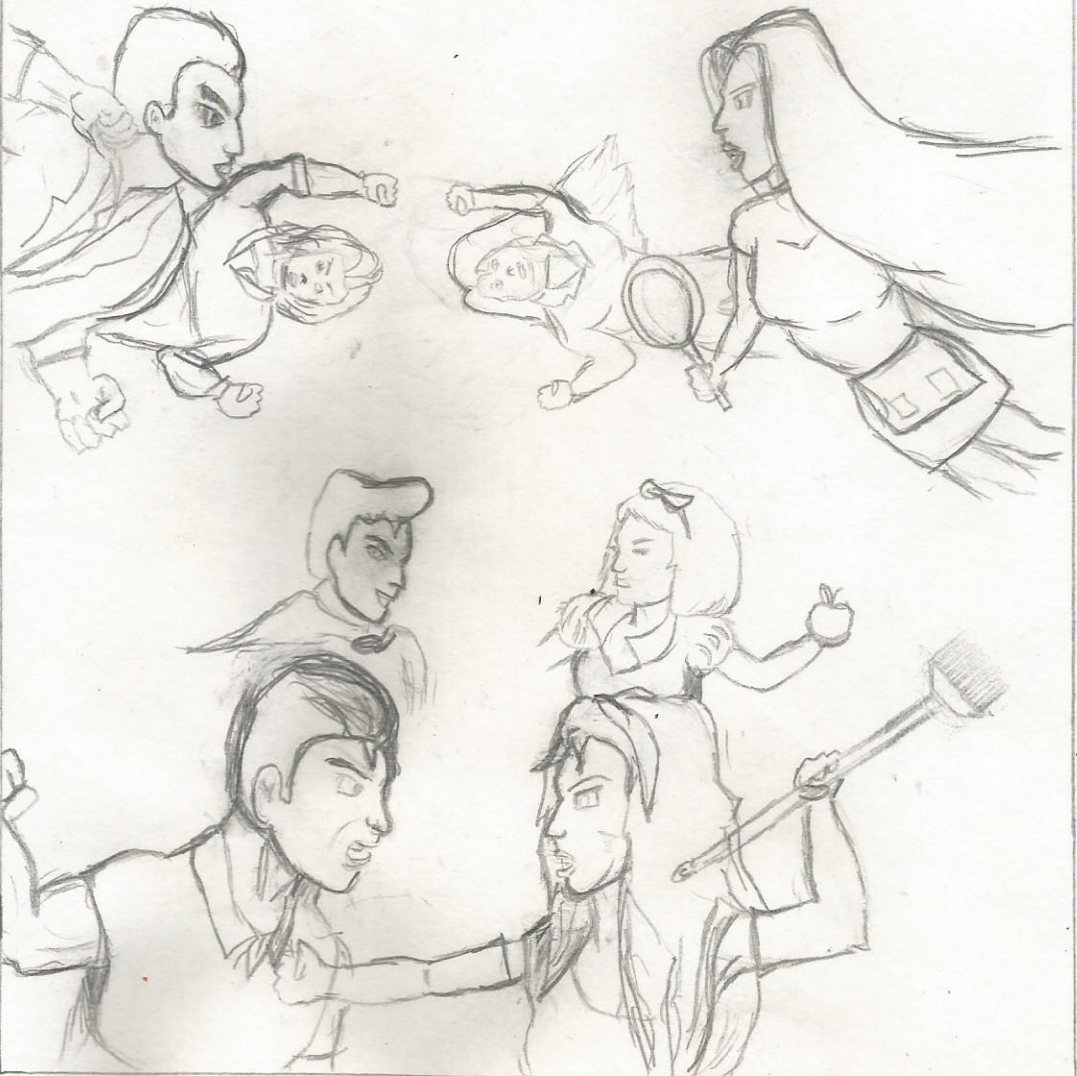
And So the  
Battle of Sexes  
Begun.

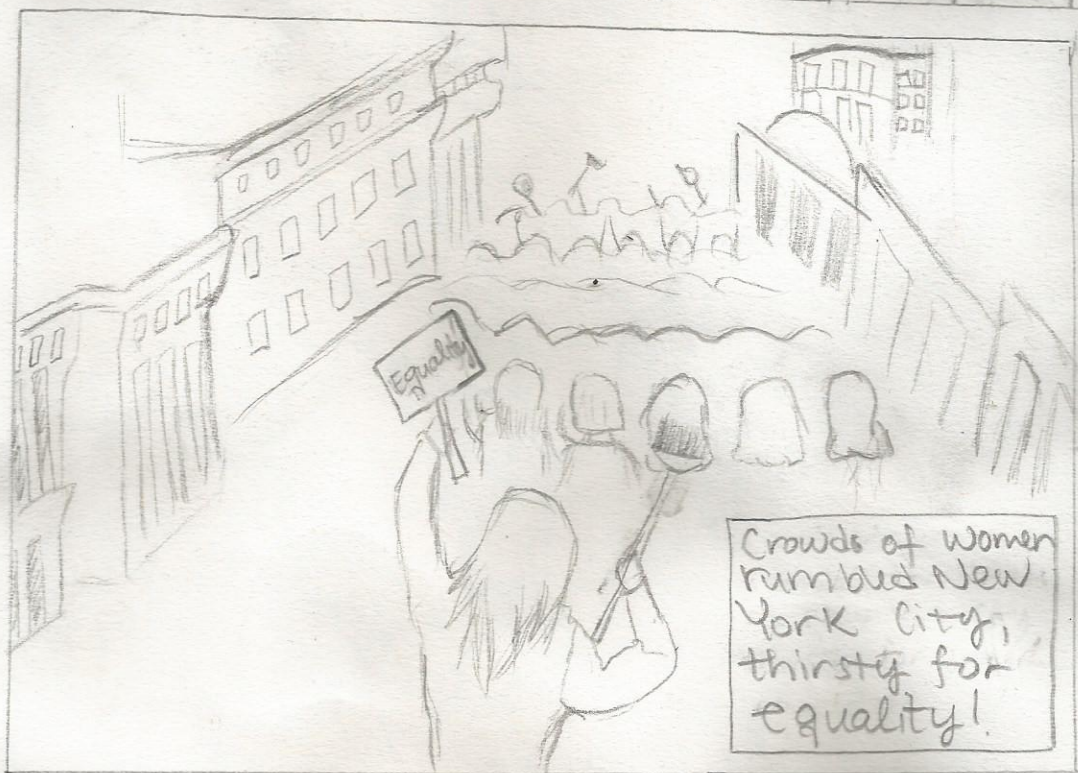


MALES

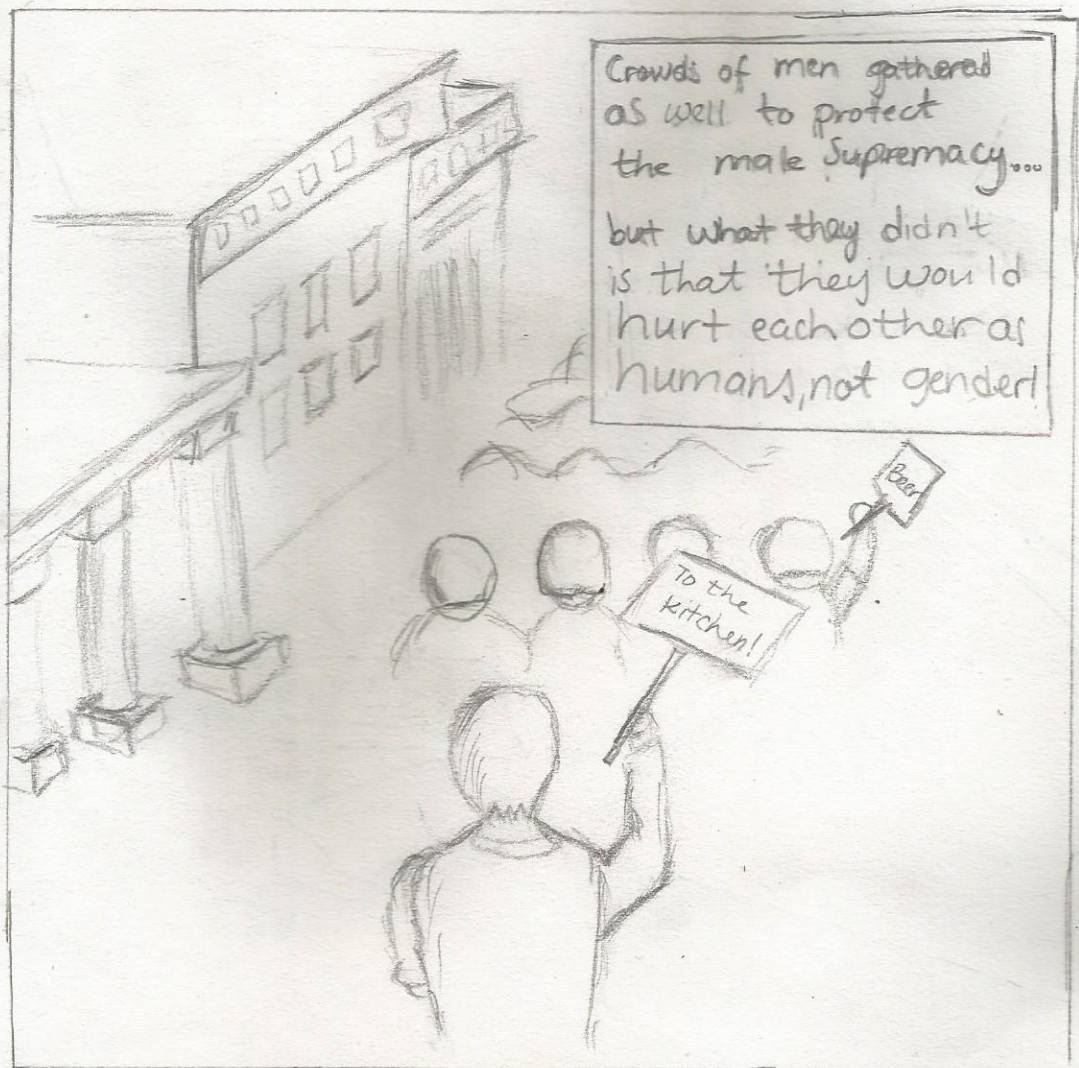


FEMALES







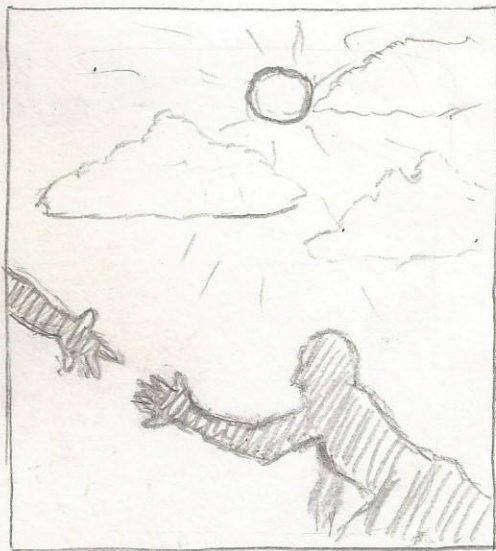


And their  
fighting  
caused  
immense  
devastation





...After noticing of the mass distraction, they had caused, they felt embarrassed and the fighting concluded!



The effects of sexism drove hate and indifference to take the course of our heroes lives and humanity causing them to blind themselves of the damage they had caused. But without their efforts, they would have never changed the way that women were viewed.

Octavio Martin

Dr. Jackie Way

Writing 39B

25 November 2015

### Companion Essay

Comic books offer a great platform to transcend social and political claims that overwhelm our society. These comic books expose young readers to the social unrest, but it does so in a creative and entertaining way, packed with humor and action. For my RIP project, I decided to analyze the convention used in comic books while mocking those of fairy tales. In my comic book, I satirize the sexism encountered in classical fairy tales to address a female audience and perhaps inspire them to be the instigators for change. Marvel comic books during the Bronze Age created superheroes where they emphasized their human attributes and gave them ordinary everyday problems which allowed readers to see that anyone could be a superhero. One example is Spider Man where he faces economic problems and this tells the audience that everyone faces ordinary, everyday problems.

My RIP project aims to the appeal of a young female audience between the ages 15 and 18. To assure that my comic book is picked up by this demographic, I opted for a simple and to the point art style similar to the Golden Age Comic books era.





Another method to appeal to that young audience, I implemented goofiness similar to the one found in the Silver Age comic era.



To draw the attention of a female audience, I created characters that reflect the stupidity of female-based stereotypes. This can be seen in my comic book where Cinderella, Belle, Snow White, and Rapunzel stand against their sexist husbands and armor themselves with domestic items. They are aware that sexist stereotypes are inappropriate for our society today, so I aim for my comic book to be published in the present, where feminist movements popular. So my comic book can help poke fun at those stereotypes, debilitate them, and empower women.

The purposes of my comic book are to amplify the readership of a female fan-base and entertain young teenagers while simultaneously teaching them about effects of stereotyping. My message is that you don't need to be a superhero to bring radical change. The use of satire and parody definitely facilitates the process of trying to get the message across to the audience. This message was inspired primarily by the Bronze Age for comic books where comics progressed from silly themes (during the Silver Age) to darker, morally ambiguous character, to social issues like drug abuse, poverty, alcoholism, and racism. These comic books were centered on character conflict, realism, and cultural relevance. All these Bronze Age conventions can be seen in the X-Men line of comics, where writers Stan Lee and Jack Kirby paralleled the struggle of the mutants with those of African Americans fighting for racial equality. Similarly, I apply these conventions as I strive to break female stereotypes as I hone my team of female superheroes with courage to stand against sexism and fight to break down the gender barrier that still exists today. I also create mature scenarios like the last page of my comic, where both genders realize that they were wrong, thus showing character development.

Some rhetorical strategies that I set forth were the use of simplistic language and short length. Some simple vocabulary that I use is for example "the battle of the sexes begun" and other simple dialogue between the characters. Also, to relate women to "their" stereotypes, I had to choose words like "kitchen," "chores," "make me," "bring us," etc. So by employing such language I was able to appeal to the audience and foreshadow what my comic will be about. The short length can also help me win over my intended audience because nowadays teenagers want to read something that's entertaining and short. So by making it ten pages, any teenager can read it over in five minutes, get a good laugh, and hopefully go on to think about the message afterwards.

By looking at various models from different time periods, I was able to analyze their distinctive conventions and apply them to my own comic to make it rhetorically effective. For instance, I learned how to organize a comic book by creating panels that begin at top left and move across and downward. I



chose to follow simple panel organization because it makes a smooth and simple reading process. I also learned that most comic books are now read online, so hopefully my purpose and message would be appealing to marvel publishers and publish my comic on their Marvel Unlimited Website. This would definitely increase the availability and accessibility of my intended audience and my comic would be more inclined to my chosen young audience.

## Working Bibliography

[http://www.taschen.com/pages/en/catalogue/popculture/all/01133/facts.75\\_years\\_of\\_marvel\\_comics\\_from\\_the\\_golden\\_age\\_to\\_the\\_silver\\_screen.htm](http://www.taschen.com/pages/en/catalogue/popculture/all/01133/facts.75_years_of_marvel_comics_from_the_golden_age_to_the_silver_screen.htm)

This image depicts the art style that I tried to incorporate in my comic which reflects the Golden Age art style.

[https://www.google.com/search?q=spiderman+in+economic+distress&biw=1093&bih=514&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwih6lu6oa3JAhXGOogKHVsAD74Q\\_AUIBygC#tbn=isch&q=silver+age+comics&imgsrc=iMkv6S1uuDBym%3A](https://www.google.com/search?q=spiderman+in+economic+distress&biw=1093&bih=514&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwih6lu6oa3JAhXGOogKHVsAD74Q_AUIBygC#tbn=isch&q=silver+age+comics&imgsrc=iMkv6S1uuDBym%3A)

Image from the Silver Age of comics which depicts the goofiness and silliness depicted in comics.

Jones, Gerard. *Men of Tomorrow: Geeks, Gangsters, and the Birth of the Comic Book*. New York: Basic Books, 2004.

"The Bronze Age of Comic Books / Useful Notes - TV Tropes." *The Bronze Age of Comic Books / Useful Notes - TV Tropes*. N.p., Web. 25 Nov. 2015.

This is just an article that speak of the historical context of comic books. It clearly explains how genre conventions changed from the Golden Age to the Silver age to the Bronze Age, and finally to modern times. During the Golden Age, comics appeared to be lively, simple and direct to the point. After that, the Silver Age made comics silly and goofy and westernized themes. Then the Bronze Age of comic books gets darker and relates themes to real world problems. The Bronze Age was extremely useful and inspiring for my comic because by using satire, I can send a message of self- identity to modern teenagers.

Duncan, Randy, and Matthew J. Smith. *The Power of Comics: History, Form, and Culture*. New York: Continuum, 2009. Print.

This book defines how comic books are a medium that serve economic commodities and art forms. It also explains hoe comic books tend to have a cultural reference that serve many audiences with many purposes. The book also takes you to the process which comic books undergo in order be delivered to the readers. This source is helpful because it assures me that comic books can have a purpose and an audience

"Making Sense of Superheroes: Awareness of Superhero Genre Conventions around the World." *It's Playing Just with Research*. N.p., 12 Mar. 2014. Web. 24 Nov. 2015.

Carrie Lynn D. Reinhard is a an assistant professor with a Ph. D. on communications from the Ohio State University and she focus on research pertaining reception studies, particularly among minority groups. Her research document helped me to become aware of some of the conventions usually found in comic books. By doing so, I was able to apply some of this to my Guardian of the Kitchen to demonstrate my understanding for this conventions. Some conventions were things like female superheroes and her explanation for how this has had effects of society. She also asked groups of people from various backgrounds what characteristic made a superhero. The most common responses had to do with qualities that we human possess like moral codes.



Wright, Bradford W. *Comic Book Nation: The Transformation of Youth Culture in America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 2001. Print.

Bradford Wright is a professor in the department of behavioral and social sciences at Valley Imperial College in California. This book demonstrates how, just like fairy tales, the creators were extremely influenced by the time era and how the emergence of superhero comic books flourished to life. For instance the acts of violence in comic books were influenced by early 20<sup>th</sup> century events. These early forms of comic books also depicted stereotypes, such as the male being the hero and the female the conflicted one. Also the 1930's and the depression era, led to an increase in percentage of teenagers in high school as they became more "independent" and "irreverent." This behaviors in teenagers and children were then redirected by comic book creators, thus making them the primary audience.

<http://www.fanpop.com/clubs/marvel-comics/images/18652583/title/spiderman-comics-fanart>

Ashley Malone is a 25 year old art institute alumni with a Bachelor's in Media Art and Animation. This comic book strip helps me inspire my drawing style. It's Obvious that Malone is using classical marvel characters and depicting them in an "adorable" way to make a solid connection her characters and the humor. This also allows me to examine the ways that she uses images to portray sarcasm and how she uses dialogue to express wit and delineate her message.

Claremont, Chris, and John Byrne. "X-Men: The Dark Phoenix Saga." New York: Marvel Comics, 1980. Print

Chris Claremont and John Byrne are comic book writers and novelists who often times are credited for creating and developing strong female characters within the pool of marvel superheroes. I choose the X-men as a mode for my RIP project because when you get into the story line and think critically about the entire premise of being outcasts of society you begin to correlate the comic book with the time period. The X-men are a group of individuals who are gifted with superpowers due to a mutation in their DNA. This lead for all "normal" humans to look down upon this group of individuals and cast them away. The x-men series started in the 1960's, a time when African American were fighting for their civil rights and thus Claremont and Byrne created a parallel universe where the x-men were analogous to African American while the Government tried to deny their rights as human beings. This Comic book serves as a basis of how pure forms of entertainment can transcend entertainment itself and make a stronger political opinion. In the same way, I will be using stereotypes found in classical fairy tales to make a satirical claim about female stereotypes today.

Tatar, Maria. *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999. Print.

Maria Tatar is an American academic whose expertise lies in children's literature, German literature, and folklore. Used her book to reference my chosen fairy tale: Cinderella by the brothers Grimm. I used this tale to stress how authors incorporate ideas that correspond to their times such as sexism and the woman role in society.

Tatar, Maria. *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999. 353-64. Print.

Donald Haase is Professor of German and Senior Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In his article, Haase attempts to investigate the ownership of fairy tales. In his search he explains how fairy tales belong to everyone because we all adapt them to make them fit our own needs. He also claims that authors do take ownership because they instill in fairy tales cultural ideals that distinguishes them as theirs. I choose this source because it helped support my claim that the Grimms had to incorporate values that were relevant to their culture and times.

Tatar, Maria. *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999. 364-73. Print.

Maria Tatar is an American academic whose expertise lies in children's literature, German literature, and folklore. I used her article "Sex and Violence" to reiterate to the fact that the brothers Grimm had to change from one specific audience to another. This will help me in the RIP because I will be able to examine the sexist innuendoes that were incorporated into their fairy tales due to the influence of their times and how females were defined.

Walker, Stephen, and Len Barton. *Gender, Class & Education*. Barcombe, Lewes, Sussex: Falmer, 1983. Print.

Jean Anyon, was an American critical thinker and researcher in education, a professor in the Doctoral Program in Urban Education at The Graduate Center of The City University of New York, and a civil rights and social activist. In her Article Intersections of Gender and Class: Accommodation and Resistance by Working-Class and Affluent Females to Contradictory Sex Role Ideologies, Anyon describes the role of the gender in our society and she claims that even thou our society has changed, women are still confronted by stereotypes. I chose her article because it helped me describe why the Grimm's fairy tales are relevant to us today in that we still share common ideas such as sexism. This stereotypes will be still included in my RIP, but the difference is that I will be targeting them for a sarcastic effect.