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and Literature

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**ELIT 476 WOMEN AND
WRITING
“Building a Room of Your Own”**

Öğrencinin | Student's

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A Woman in the House

Sat down by the window, began to type
There came a loud cry, calling “Mum!”
In a hurry she left, ideas floating around
There came an Angel sweeping and weeping
No ideas left behind..

Sat down by the window, began to type
There came a knock, this time for the Wife
Rushing to the door, pages left blank
There came an Angel to collect..

Sat down by the window, began to cry
Where to begin or what left behind,
Asked herself “Why can't I write?”

Angel came to whisper, “Don't try hard!”
Then realized what needs to be done..

In order to write, kill the Angel in the house.

Bengisu Yergök

Reflection

While writing my poem, I get my inspiration from Virginia Woolf and her Angel that she had to kill. Woolf in her essay, *Professions for Women*, criticizes Coventry Patmore and his understanding of an ideal woman. As Woolf stated in her essay, female writers come across many obstacles while writing, obtaining a pen and a paper is not the only obstacle anymore. Based on this problem, I tried to reflect the typical day of a woman figure, who wants to produce but cannot focus on her writing. Since housework is seen as an innate duty of a woman, it is not possible for a woman to obtain a room of her own and started to write. The Angel figure in the poem symbolizes the responsibilities of the woman, constantly get in her way, and remind her that writing is not her responsibility but cooking and taking care of her baby is. Every time leaving her room, the woman gets distracted from her writing, her ideas flutter around and Angel is there to collect her ideas so that she can easily give up. However, at the end of the poem, we do not see a woman who is ready to give up. Contrarily, she realized she has to kill the Angel so that she can write. Killing the Angel does not represent running away from her responsibilities, rather it displays that housework isn't just for women. While making the animated version of this poem, I preferred yellow wallpapers to reminded me of Mary in *The Yellow Wallpaper*. This represents that like Mary, women in the house are also trapped behind walls.