In Western literary works, female characters often play an essential role, whether in terms of the plot, significance, or even the poetics of literary works. In Western literature before the Renaissance, there are several famous women, including Helen, Penelope, Clytemnestra, Dido, Medea, and Beatrice. For this essay, select **THREE** of these characters and explain the role they have played in the Western literary tradition. What do the differences among the three characters you have chosen reveal about changes in the views of women’s place in society? Your discussion should begin with a statement illustrating your main idea, and your analysis should draw on literary works that might include The *Iliad*, *Odyssey*, *Aeneid*, Greek tragedies, St. Augustine’s *Confessions*, and *Divine Comedy*.

\*Please write the essay on your own. Do not plagiarize or you will be disqualified.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |