Text: *Herland* (a novella by Charlotte Gilman)
You may access this novella by Gilman at this website. If you’d prefer a hard copy of the novella, please see Ms. Perkins

https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/32

Essay Question: What’s the problem with utopia, as Gilman presents that “perfect” “outer” world in this story?

a) As you’re reading *Herland.* “flag” (highlight if you’re using a hard copy or copy paste the significant quotes from the ETEXT to a Quote Journal (google doc) you’ve created for this assignment.) passages that “seem” important or significant either in establishing the utopian nature of Herland, the place, or in disclosing the problem of no problems, no struggle. You’re looking for quotes that suggest Herland’s “perfection,” high function, efficiency, and high standards for education and ethics. (basically to prove you’re considering a land, a “world” that practices “perfection”. Additionally, given the essay question, you’ll need to find (copy/paste) those passages that suggest maybe “perfection” isn’t the best practice, environment, or place to satisfy human nature.

b) Looking over your quote piles for your “answer,” formulate a thesis (an assertion/opinion) that answers the question, “What’s the problem with utopia, or a “perfect” world, as Gilman presents that world in *Herland?”

c) How you present your argument in support of your claim is up to you, but a solid route might be first to establish the “perfection” or the utopian qualities *Herland* as a country presents. In the 2nd half of the essay (body paragraph 2), look over your “problem” quotes and assert what the problem is with a perfect world, lining up your most obvious example followed by your strongest example to seal the proof for the paradox that a perfect world is actually, to some degree, problematic in terms of satisfying human nature.

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