



# WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS:

CYCLICAL AND SIMULATED EXPERIENCES IN  
"THE CRIMSON PETAL AND THE WHITE"

# VOCAB

- Simulate: To imitate the appearance of something or someone else.
- Cyclical: To happen repeatedly.



# CYCLES OF JUXTAPOSITION

# Sugar's Matrix

Materially and fiscally, she has completely ascended in class, yet she is still brought down by thoughts from her past.

“Virgin, suggests a phantom prompter in Sugar’s head, a sly devil with the voice of Mrs Castaway. Virgin. ‘Ah . . .’ (she looks around for inspiration) ‘window.’ Kept intact especially for you, sir. ‘Door.’ Whore.” (p. 573, Kindle Edition).

# Sugar Arrives as the New Governess


- “Sugar shyly reaches out to stroke the back of the child’s hair, but the candle-flame enlarges the shadow of her hand grotesquely, and she withdraws with a jerk.” (p. 604, Kindle Edition).
- Sugar begins to wrestle with her childhood and with who she wants to be.

# A Quote That's 10 Lines Long

- “‘A horr—’ she begins, her voice rough with malicious glee, before she manages to clamp shut her mouth. Her stomach abruptly revolves inside her, her face flushes blood-red. It has taken her nineteen years to reach this understanding, that she is Mrs Castaway’s daughter—that the brain which nestles in her skull, and the heart which beats in her breast, are replicas of those same organs festering in her mother. ‘N-nothing happens,’ she stammers, stroking Sophie’s shoulder with a shaky hand. ‘Nothing at all. And you’ll be asleep before you know it, little one, if only you close your eyes.’” (pp. 660-661, Kindle Edition).

# William's Matrix

His life as an active father.



“Very good, Sophie,’ condescends William, meeting his daughter’s wide blue eyes for the merest instant before moving on.” (p. 619, Kindle Edition).

# William's Breakdown Is Imminent

- “So much to do, and his life is falling apart at the seams! He sits heavily in his chair, and covers his face in his hands.” (p. 639-640, Kindle Edition).
- His cycle of going to Sugar for whatever he wants has been upended significantly.
- “Sick with grief and regret, William turns from her, shuts the window, and hurries from the bedroom.” (p. 660, Kindle Edition).
- William exert his power over the defenseless.

# Thoughts?

- “‘I never meant to hurt you, on that first night,’ he assures her, stroking her tenderly. ‘I was . . . made hasty by urgency. The urgency of love.’” (p. 658-659, Kindle Edition).

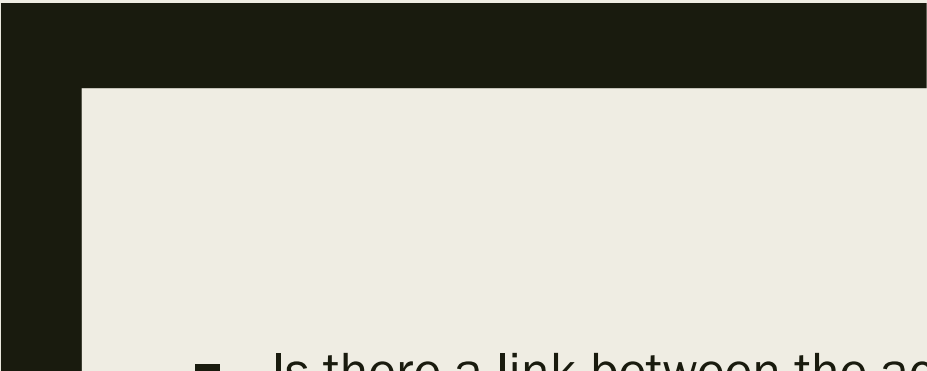

# Agnes' Matrix

Her role as a wife under Victorian standards.

"It smells . . . It smells of people trying terribly hard to be happy, without the slightest success."  
(p.690, Kindle Edition) – Agnes.

# Agnes

- "William will be angry with me,' Agnes frets, as they walk along the carriage-way, their four feet going krift, krift, krift and fro, fro, fro. 'He isn't here,' says Sugar. 'Nor is Clara.'" (p. 689-690, Kindle Edition).
- Agnes has finally begun her path toward freedom, with help from Sugar.

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- Is there a link between the actions of Sugar, William, and Agnes and the cycles that they seek to break (i.e. Sugar is nurturing towards Sophie, William loses himself, Agnes runs away)?
  - Of the three characters, do any of them break the cycle that they are in?
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## Discussion



The image features two large, thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner. They are oriented towards each other, framing the central text.

# SIMULATING LIFE:

Learning by Reading

# Agnes' Diaries (William Had Charm?!)

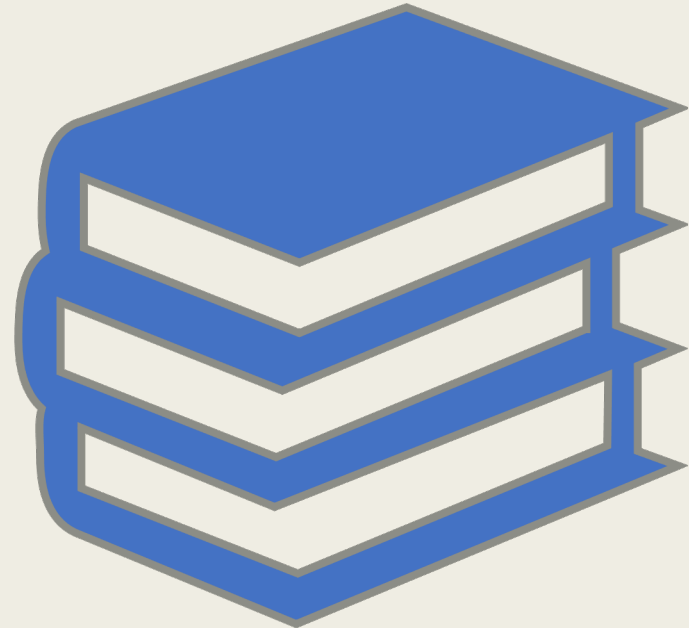
- Literature that plants an image(s) in Sugar.
- Why does Sugar steal them in the first place? Does she not want the worms to have them?
- Do these entries reveal a truer version of Agnes?

# Sugar Arrives as the New Governess (cont.)

- “Sugar steps back, confused: if she’s so superior in rank to the household servants, where does she get her deep-seated notion that governesses are lowly and despised? From novels, she supposes—but aren’t novels truth dressed up in fancy clothes?” (p.542, Kindle Edition).
- More literature has given Sugar an image of what something or someone is.

# I'm Running Out of Slides

- Can literature act as a vessel of simulation? Is this good, bad, maybe both?
- What is Faber trying to do/say by making these literary references?



# Works Cited

Faber, Michel. *The Crimson Petal and the White: A Novel*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Kindle Edition.