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Rebellion and Change on the Road Poster

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Rebellion and Change on the Road

By: Natalie Rude



An old car
Source: Pinterest.



Rebellion is often associated with large, world-changing events, but a rebellion can be as simple as taking to the road and doing anything out of the ordinary with the goal of personal change. The issue with these rebellions is that they often end as the journey ends, but this is not always the case. While men are able to rebel and change wherever they please, women can only rebel while on the road. Furthermore, all the changes a woman makes disappear as soon as she returns home or reaches her destination.

A Route 66 Sign
Source: VectorStock



Free Air
By: Sinclair Lewis

Claire:

Claire drives her father to Seattle and learns about the struggles and thrills of travel. She spends most of the novel rebelling against the gender norms of the day and changing into an independent woman who speaks assertively and is unafraid to speak her mind. After arriving in Seattle, she reverts back to being the pampered, empty-headed woman she was in Brooklyn and is unsure of whether traveling again is a good idea.

Milt:

Milt is a successful poor mechanic who is unsatisfied with his life. After seeing Claire at his garage, Milt rebelliously packs up and follows her to Seattle. While befriending Claire, Milt begins to change his physical appearance to one that is more refined. Once in Seattle, Milt continues his rebellion against his old life by selling his garage and enrolling in a college.



Picture of a woman driving her children in a 1920 Ford Model T Automobile.
Source: American Automobiles.

This is largely due to the constructs and cultures of any given region.

Hope's Highway
By: Dorothy Garlock

Margie:

Margie rebelliously quits her job and joins three other families on a migration to California so she can accomplish her dream of working in Hollywood. Half way through the trip, Margie realizes that she is tired of being completely dependent on her unloving father and boldly acts to gain independence. This changes when she falls in love, inherits a vast fortune, gives up her dream for said love, and ends the trip before reaching California, happily settling to depend solely on her husband and dead father's money instead.

Brady:

After the tragic death of his brother and sister-in-law, Brady promises himself that he will never fall in love. Brady joins Margie on the journey to relinquish his niece to her aunt in California. Brady begins the story as a fairly poor rancher who has no confidence in raising a small child. After meeting and falling in love with Margie, Brady marries her, inherits her fortune, confidently adopts his niece, and lives happily ever after while continuing to love both Margie and his niece fiercely and with complete confidence.



Illustration of Route 66 at dusk.
Source: <https://wallpapere.wallpaperstock.net>.



A Tornado.
Source:
pngtree.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
By: Frank L. Baum

Dorothy:

Before being catapulted into Oz, Dorothy lives in dreary, grey Kansas with no other children her age. After accidentally killing the Witch of the East, Dorothy is sent to the city of Oz to inquire about going home. While it is implied that Dorothy is supposed to travel alone, she befriends the Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and the Lion and travels with them for her entire trip. Once she is sent home, her friends remain in Oz and she keeps nothing but the memories of her travels.

The Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, and Lion:

This trio begin their journeys as completely useless creatures. The Scarecrow doesn't scare birds, the Tin Woodsman is immobile, and the Lion is such a coward that he can barely fend for himself. After meeting Dorothy and completing their journey, the Scarecrow becomes the ruler of Oz, the Tin Woodman takes over the Wicked Witch of the West's castle and minions, and the Lion becomes the King of the Forrest. While they began as being useless, Dorothy made them useful and they will continue to be useful even after she is gone.



Picture of the 1939 movie adaptation of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.
Source: Columbia Pike.