Women’s Education in the Age of Jane Austen

“Her novels defined the era’s novel of manners...” - Britannica on Jane Austen
Conduct Manuals


Sarah Fielding

Sermons to Young Women (Title Page)
James Fordyce

John Locke. 1697, Hermitage, St. Petersburg. Oil on canvas.

Sarah Fielding

The Governess; or The Little Female Academy (Title Page)

Phillips, Thomas. Canon Thomas Gisborne, Art Collection, Durham University. Oil on canvas.
Female Accomplishments


Broadwood, John and sons. Grand Piano. 1808.
“It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of good fortune, must be in want of a wife.” - Pride and Prejudice
It is a truth universally acknowledged that a young woman, in possession of many accomplishments, must be in want of a husband.
A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)

Mary Wollstonecraft

A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (Title Page)


