

The Flappers: A Conflict and Compromise

JUNIOR DIVISION

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The flappers were around during the 1920's. A flapper was free-spirited woman, who was viewed as wild and disgraceful by the older generation. As we are in our generation are busy on our phones, the flappers were busy attempting to empower young women and being as free as they could. A flapper would usually be depicted as a bobbed-hair, white women with fancy jewelry and shoes, with short, frilly dresses. Unfortunately, some people would view these flappers as prostitutes instead of women who were trying to make a better world.

What was their lifestyle?

During the day the flappers would go to work, just like most people did. Then after they worked they would go to the nearest bar or party. There they would live the life while not being judged by men. They would also drink and dance all night long before going to work the next day.

What did they wear?

Before the flappers, women wore long, floor touching dresses. Typically they had long hair, because men liked it that way. Both their arms and legs were completely covered, and waists were squeezed. And all of this was because that's the way that men wanted to see women. Of course women would not go and fight about this because they had no right to. Unfortunately, if women did not follow these rules they did not fit in with the other women. That is where the flappers stepped in. They created a whole new revolution. They chopped their hair so it was above shoulders and in curly bobs. Instead of having draping dresses, they decided to wear dresses that came above the knee or right at the knee. The dresses were in vivid, beautiful colors, and they were sequenced and frilly. They did not have their waists pushed in, because they didn't care if men did not like them that way. Of course, because of these changes they were stared upon and looked at as boisterous. But they did not care, they danced and drank all night. Eventually, men loved the idea, mostly because some women were more attractive this way. The men would play on the piano and sang as the women would dance singularly or in groups. Women no longer had to listen to what men had to say and only follow their rules. This is just one way how the flappers were an empowerment for all women.

Conflict and compromise

Flappers were free-spirited, living like there's no tomorrow. Usually flappers were between the years of 20-30. Because of the men who did not like the women as they were, the flappers were independent. This meant that no man could boss them around, and they couldn't tell them when not

to go out and when to. The flappers would dance until their heart's content. Their new short dresses made it easier for them to dance all night, and they were not forced wear heels, so their feet did not ache. The flappers always had new views of living and how to improve their daily life styles. With the flappers, anything to them was possible. But one problem that the Flappers faced was there change to society which many people did not like. Many men and women did not believe they were going to do anything. Although the Flappers did want all people to have freedom and confidence. They worked hard and had to show courage to change the face of all women and what people think of them. Soon people noticed the Flappers weren't going to change for anyone no matter the situation.

What else happened during the Flappers Revolution?

The 19th Amendment to let women vote was finally passed. Women were also finally allowed to attend college, which now is something I bet we all take for granted. World War 1 had ended so men wanted their jobs back. While the men were at war, the women were able to join the workforce, which gave them a peek at a life outside of the house. This gave women hope that the future would soon hold more than just work as a housewife, and that just one day, they could be free from cooking and cleaning and them too could work alongside men without being judged. All these factors gave a bigger push towards equality.

These ways were how The flappers changed and inspired Eva's life.

The Flappers were a huge impact in my life. My great-grandmother and her mom were both flappers. The flappers showed a example of individuality and uniqueness. They would fight for what they knew was right by dancing and drinking their night away, which i thought was kind of cool. They broke boundaries and showed the men who doubted them and only saw them as cooks and cleaners whos boss. To me, the flappers did not only change the was us women were treated, but they helped us get to where we are today. If it were not for the Flappers, I may not be even competing in this history fair. So I thank my great grandma and her mom, for my my life a whole lot better and a whole lot special.

How the Flappers changed and inspired Mykiyah's life.

There are many ways the Flappers have inspired my life. One way they have done this is to not think about what others think about me, because when they first started dancing and not following the "dress code" people had many side comments and stares but the Flappers knew what they were getting themselves into and they knew what they had to do. This goes into the topic of confidence i say this because they could have stopped doing what they were doing but they wanted to show all women if you put your mind to it you can achieve it. Lastly is bravery these women didn't have to do the things they did they could have been just another ordinary women but they didn't want to be ordinary they wanted to be extraordinary.

How did the flappers affect us now?

Thank you to the flappers, women are no longer forced to cover themselves to bottom. We are not forced to live up to men's expectations, and we are finally free from judgement. Or are we? Sure the flappers helped us get closer to an equal place but we still have work to do. And this time,

we have to do our part. We have to know that we do not have to live up to the world's expectation, that women are more than housewives and that we are strong, confident, and as free as any other man. We can be equal if we try. We are strong. We are beautiful. We are independent. We are women, and all women can make a change.

Bibliography:

The resources that we used to help complete our project included ushistory, prezi, History on Flappers, and thoughtco.

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