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Clothing Construction

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Project Description
for
Honors Special Studies

Area of Study:
Clothing Construction

By:
Jill Starnes

Presented to:
Mrs. Frances Ellelge

Fall Semester, 1973

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For my honors project I chose to make a pantsuit. However, since it would be rather difficult to file a pantsuit I will try to write down for the honors project file a description of this project and why I chose this particular one.

I wanted to do a project that I would enjoy but I also wanted it to be one from which I would benefit. One reason I chose to do one in the area of clothing is that I am a senior and will be doing my practice teaching next semester and I may do part of that in clothing because I am a Home Ec major. I realize that I am far from being an expert seamstress and felt like I needed another class in clothing before I started teaching. Taking this through the Honors Program gave me the freedom to choose what I wanted to make and more practice in sewing and also the advantage of having my work evaluated by my sponsor, Mrs. Elledge.

I feel like just about anyone can put a garment together, but I don't think that just anyone can put a garment together and make it look like it was done by a professional. This takes a lot of time and patience. There is more to sewing than just picking just any pattern or any fabric you see and starting to sew. I think that patterns, fabrics, and even trimmings should be carefully chosen after shopping around to see what you have to choose from. I spent a few hours

just looking for the pattern I wanted before I ever started working with the fabric. I decided that I wanted to make a jacket and pants and I chose this pattern because it involved some sewing techniques (such as topstitching, button-holes, pockets) that I especially felt like I needed to practice on. I chose a knit fabric because it is so easy to care for. At the end of this report I have included a sample of my material.

If I had gone to a store and bought a garment comparable to the one I made it probably would have cost approximately \$45.00. The material that I used was given to me so I just had to buy the thread, zipper, pattern, and interfacing. These cost me less than \$5.00. I feel like I can sometimes save a considerable amount of money by making my own clothes. But even the money saved is not worth it to me if the garment is not well constructed. This is why I feel that the practice is so important -- it's the only way to become a better seamstress.

Along with my sewing I also did some reading from the book Creative Clothing Construction by Mleyne Rayne. I suppose the reason that I enjoy her books so much is that I completely agree with her philosophy about sewing. I really feel that sewing is creative because it gives you a way to express your individuality by the styles and fabrics that you choose.

So I do feel like I have benefited from this project. I have accomplished my main goal -- to learn more about

sewing techniques which will help me in teaching. Some of this I learned on my own and some from Mrs. Elledge. Also, and maybe more important than the other, this has given me more self-confidence --which may help me more in teaching than just knowing the right techniques.

An example of my fabric.



*Information too general -
specific conclusions and
more detail would improve
this project -
Grade B.*