

Name _____



Breaking Traditions

In *Twilight*, Bella Swan is not a typical heroine. Unlike many traditional female characters in literature, she is quiet, thoughtful, and prefers reading over socializing. She does not care much about fashion or popularity, and she often challenges the idea that girls must always be cheerful and outgoing. Instead, Bella is

independent, choosing to live with her father in Forks and make her own decisions about love and danger.

However, Bella also follows some traditional gender roles. She often needs protection, especially from Edward Cullen, the vampire she falls in love with. Edward is strong, fast, and always watching over her, making sure she is safe. In many scenes, he carries her, saves her from danger, and even warns her to stay away from things he believes are too risky. This makes Bella seem like the classic "damsel in distress" who needs a hero to rescue her.

But Bella is not completely helpless. She makes bold choices and refuses to let others decide for her. Even when Edward tries to keep her safe by leaving her, she does not give up on what she wants. She actively seeks out danger to understand the supernatural world, and she stands up for her love, even when others tell her it is a bad idea. Her bravery and determination show that she is not just waiting to be saved—she is choosing her own path.

In many ways, Bella challenges traditional gender roles by making her own decisions and following her heart, even when it puts her in danger. At the same time, she conforms to some expectations by relying on Edward's strength and protection. This mix of independence and vulnerability makes her character complex and interesting. Bella is not just one thing—she is a blend of tradition and change, making *Twilight* a unique and thought-provoking story.