

After You Read

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Making Meanings

READING CHECK

- Why have the narrator and her family rented a mansion?
- What major event can you infer has recently happened in the family?
- What treatment does John prescribe for the narrator?
- What image does the narrator see within the wallpaper?
- What does the narrator do at the end of the story?

First Thoughts

1. What is your reaction to the narrator? Is there anything about the narrator that you can sympathize with?

Shaping Interpretations

2. Which quotation that you selected from the story for your double-entry journal did you find most significant in understanding the story? Explain why.
3. Find specific references in the story that portray the nursery (the room with the yellow wallpaper) as a prison.
4. Is the narrator's husband portrayed as a villain or well-meaning? Support your opinion with evidence from the text.
5. Although the story tells about one woman's experiences, what larger message, or **theme**, might Gilman be communicating?

Challenging the Text

6. Is the story dated, or does its portrayal of women still ring true today? Look back at your Quickwrite notes and give specific reasons to support your opinion.

Choices: Building Your Portfolio

CRITICAL WRITING

Describing Distress

How does the author communicate the narrator's increasing illness and agitation as the story progresses? Write an essay that includes a discussion of the style of writing, strange images, and descriptions of feelings that the author uses.

ART

Draw the Wallpaper

While reading the story, did you imagine what the wallpaper actually looked like? Try drawing it as you imagine the narrator saw it. Then draw it as John or Jennie might have seen it. Display your work in class.

CREATIVE WRITING

Dear Diary

What if the narrator continued to keep a type of journal—maybe a diary—after the events described in the story? Imagine it is a year later and you are the narrator. Write down in a diary entry your thoughts about what happened in the rented house, why, and how you feel now.

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