

Elements of Female Gothic

1. Sub-genre of Gothic
2. Explores themes of entrapment of women within traditional domestic settings such as the kitchen, bedroom, or garden
3. Explores the notions of the subjection of female figures to a patriarchal authority
4. These notions of course enable an expansion of symbolism from one focal character to the full female gender
5. Requires female author, female protagonist, audience primarily set for women

Discussion Questions

After reading "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, answer **all** of the following discussion questions. **For each question you should have a 3-5 sentence response.**

- A. Describe the protagonist as you see her, in detail. Use in-text evidence. Cite pages.
- B. Consider who is the primary antagonist: John, society, or the narrator herself. Clarify with in-text evidence. Cite pages.
- C. Often with the different types of Gothic literature the setting can symbolize the protagonist's motivations and physical nature. How can the room represent the attitudes and personality of the narrator? Clarify with in-text evidence. Cite pages.
- D. Why is the narration most effective in first person? Who is she talking to? Clarify with in-text evidence. Cite pages.
- E. List as many Gothic elements you can find in the story. (Review the list provided from last week's discussions on William Faulkner and his story "A Rose for Emily." Clarify with in-text evidence. Cite pages.
- F. Finally, create t-chart or Venn diagram showing the contrasts and comparisons of Faulkner's Miss Emily against Gilman's narrator. What observations can you conclude about the two women?