

# Kate Chopin

“The Story of an Hour” p. 227

1. Originally titled “The Dream of an Hour”— how does this title differ in meaning?
2. What is the conflict in this story?
3. As a story about a symbolic journey, where does Mrs. Mallard “travel”?
4. Do you think there is significance in the name “Mallard”?
5. Why is the open window a crucial element in the story?
6. What is significant regarding the symbol of the armchair?
7. Like Poe, Chopin limits the setting to one major scene; in her case, it is confined largely to a room, a staircase, and a front door. How does this limitation help to express the themes of the story?

# Charlotte Gilman

“The Yellow Wallpaper” *supplemental handout*

1. What strategies does Gilman utilize in this story which echo Poe’s techniques in “The Cask of the Amontillado”?
2. What is the conflict in this story?
3. What was your first reaction to paragraph 31 when Jane describes her room? How does Gilman increase a sense of suspense with this description?
4. What is relevant regarding the bars on the window and the rings embedded in the walls?
5. Is Jane a reliable source of information?
6. What characteristics portray John, the husband? Do you think his actions are from lack of perception, or a lack of love? (Compare paragraph 41 and 124.)
7. In what mannerisms are Poe’s unnamed character in “Tell-Tale Heart” and Gilman’s alike?

Compare the rooms from both stories: how are the scenes similar in function?