

The yellow wall paper – reader response



**ASSIGN
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Composition and literature II Reader response ??“ The yellow wallpaper The story ??? the yellow wallpaper??? written by Charlotte Perkins Gilman depicts the story of an insane woman and how psychiatric treatment of the late nineteenth century affected her and her family . a brief description about her husband would be that he was a physician who was a very caring and loving man . and despite his wife??™s mental illness he , not even once expressed a sign of coldness toward her . John , his wife and her sister moved temporarily into another house where John thought his wife would get the ample amount of rest and air she needed . evidence from the story which further supported the fact that John??™s wife was having a slight hysterical tendency is when John tells her that ??? if I (the wife) don??™t pick up faster , he shall send me to Weir Mitchell in fall???.(Gilman 426) .

Weir Mitchell was a well known 19th century Physician who was known for his treatment methods for psychosomatic illnesses . As a way of getting a lot of air , John allotted themselves the nursety at the top of the house where there would be a rather obstruction free flow of air . one of the major things that this woman observed and disliked was the yellow wall paper that covered the walls of the room . In the beginning she rather found it repulsive and repugnant . the wife began to see weird inanimate patterns on the wall at first , which to her , seemed to move later on in the story .

when she expressed her feeling to leave the house her husband informed her of her steady healing since she??™d been to the house. The husband also adds that ??? No one but myself can help me out of it , that I must use my will and self control and not let my fancies run away with me???. (Gilman , 427). Soon the weird looking patterns revealed a woman , who , to her,

crept about during the day and was behind bars . she soon found that the woman was shaking the bars vigorously , hoping to climb out . some of the other weird patterns also gave way to other heads who were trying to escape just like the woman .

and the woman who she thought , was creeping about during the day , was spotted by her numerous times outside , while looking through the window. Something else that added to the mystery was the fact that the wife noticed the woman getting behind the bushes every time a carriage passed by . this condition soon advanced to a state where she didn't want Jennie nor John in the room , claiming that she wanted to be alone . it was that night that she found the woman trying to escape again as soon as the moon light hit the wall . the wife ran to her rescue. By dawn , a good deal of the yellow wall paper was pulled off.

Then the wife began to reason to herself saying that she didn't want to go out anymore , as everything would appear green and not yellow. She wanted to remain inside as creeping against a wall would assure her that she would never lose her way ; it is at this point that the story takes a giant leap . The wife locked herself in the room and threw away the keys. Then , both John and Jennie , were outside the door begging her to open it . she wouldn't . instead she told John where she had disposed the keys for him to go retrieve it . when John did, he entered the room only to find his wife creeping about on the floor declaring that she pulled off most of the wall paper and that no one could put her back (433).

Her husband fainted . from the story it is understood that the wife soon pictured herself as the woman behind the bars and that she had liberated herself from it ??“ the possible shock that knocked her husband unconscious. From a reader??™s point of view , the story aimed at showing how a mentally ill person channels their thoughts and arrives at conclusions . this story also showed how the life of such a person??™s family members would be affected also . the change in perception of the yellow wallpaper reflects the wife??™s change and advance in her mental condition .