



English Virtual Learning

English IV

April 22, 2020



Lesson: April 22, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- I can determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings using context, affixes, or reference materials.
- I can evaluate the impact of the author's choices regarding developing elements of a text.
- I can explain my thinking in a well-organized and developed written response and include textual evidence.

Bell Ringer:

Think about a time when you've been stuck inside - while sick, or even while quarantined. How did you handle it? What was your relationship like with the people around you while you were stuck inside?

On a piece of paper, write a journal entry about the experience (feel free to discuss current events) or summarize a past experience.



Learn:

- *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is a short story about a woman kept inside due to her mental health. This short story is one known for its stream-of-consciousness narration (a style of writing that mimics the structure of thoughts) and its discussion of mental health issues, particularly those of women.
- Create a T-Chart on a piece of paper, like the one shown to the side.

Beginning of Story	End of Story

- Annotate and read the short story below. It may be easier to print the story to write directly on it, if you are able. As you read, fill out the T-Chart you made and compare the narrator from the beginning of the story to the end, looking specifically at her tone and change of behavior. What word choices by the author make you detect those changes in tone and behavior? Then, complete the practice questions on the following slides.
→ Read: [*The Yellow Wallpaper*](#)

Practice Question 1:

1. Which of the following statements best describes the relationship between the narrator and John?
 - a. John is deeply worried for his wife and is willing to try anything to cure her.
 - b. As both husband and physician, John is very paternalistic when it comes to his wife, the narrator, treating her like a child.
 - c. The narrator loves John and trusts his judgement completely, despite the difficulties of his treatment plan.
 - d. The narrator and John deeply resent one another, though they are attempting to keep up the appearance of a happy marriage.

Practice Question 1:

1. **PART A:** Which of the following statements best describes the relationship between the narrator and John?
 - b. As both husband and physician, John is very paternalistic when it comes to his wife, the narrator, treating her like a child.

Explanation:

- A is incorrect because the text implies that while John might be worried about his wife, he is not “willing to try anything” - he only does what he wants and ignores the narrator’s suggestions.
- C is incorrect because the narrator says multiple times she doesn’t want to do what John says, or disagrees with his “treatment.”
- D is incorrect because the narrator says John loves her very much and refers to him as “dear John.”

Practice Question 2:

2. How does the narrator's room inform both her character and plot?
- a. The room is essentially hidden away from the rest of the house, informing her loneliness and exacerbating her depression.
 - b. The room is on the top floor, in which she is locked away like a fairytale princess, reflecting her tendency towards whimsy and foreshadowing her eventual escape.
 - c. The room is a former nursery with bars on its windows, emphasizing her treatment as a child/prisoner and thus the eventual break from her identity as a sane adult woman.
 - d. The room is described as open and airy, contrasting her mental state and actual situation.

Practice Question 2 Answer:

2. How does the narrator's room inform both her character and plot?
- c. The room is a former nursery with bars on its windows, emphasizing her treatment as a child/prisoner and thus the eventual break from her identity as a sane adult woman.

Explanation:

- C is the correct answer because the narrator calls the room an “atrocious nursery,” makes references to the nursery furniture being removed when they turned it into her room, and even makes references to her own childhood in comparison to her current situation.

Practice Question 3:

- On your piece of paper, respond to the following prompt in a short answer paragraph:
 - ➔ Throughout the story the narrator uses the words “creep” and “creeping” to describe the wallpaper figure’s movements. What does this word choice suggest about the narrator?

Practice Question 3 Answer:

(Answers may vary)

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences and use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer every part of the prompt?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using 3 details from the source text?

Example Answer:

- The words evoke a paranoid tone and reflect the secrecy of the narrator's inner thoughts, since she doesn't feel as though she can share her interests (such as writing) with her husband (paragraph 16). These terms may also suggest something animalistic and lowly, implying that the narrator is projecting her own emotions and characteristics onto the figure. The author even says that it had become difficult for her to think straight and bites at her bed until it hurts her teeth like an animal (paragraph 241).

The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of yellow floral wallpaper. Each repeating unit features a woman's face with long, wavy hair, looking slightly to the side. She is framed by stylized flowers and leaves. The pattern is dense and covers the entire background.

Reflect!

Think back to your bell ringer - while your experience being stuck inside was likely not as extreme as the narrator's experience in *The Yellow Wallpaper*, what comparisons can you make between the two? Do you feel more sympathy for her based on your own experiences with illness or quarantining?

If you want to learn more...

For another take on a woman's internal struggles, compare *The Yellow Wallpaper* to the poem ["I Felt A Funeral, In My Brain"](#) by Emily Dickinson.

