

American Literature
Study Guide - The Story of an Hour (Chopin).tgt

Name: _____ Date: _____

Recall the events in Chopin's short story and then answer the questions in one or two sentences.

1. Why is Josephine especially careful about the way she tells her sister of Mr. Mallard's death?

2. Describe Mrs. Mallard's first response to the news, and explain why she reacts this way.

3. The day before, Mrs. Mallard "had thought with a shudder that life might be long." Why had the thought of a long life made her shudder?

4. When Mrs. Mallard leaves her bedroom, she has a look of triumph in her eyes. Why?

5. How do the doctors explain Mrs. Mallard's death?

Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the story. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

6. How do you feel about the surprise ending to this story? Why do you suppose the author chose to end the story this way?

7. Why do you think Mrs. Mallard has difficulty, at first, recognizing the realization that she is free, and why does she resist it when she begins to recognize it?