

American Literature
Study Guide - The YellowWallpaper (Gilman).tgt

Name: _____ Date: _____

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

1. Why do the narrator and her husband rent a house in the country?

2. Why must the narrator write her journal in secret?

3. The narrator describes the wallpaper in the bedroom as "committing every artistic sin." Explain what she means.

4. What images does the narrator first see on the wallpaper?

5. The narrator later sees a woman behind the wallpaper pattern. What is the woman doing?

6. When the narrator sees the "wallpaper" woman outside, what is the woman doing, and why does the narrator sympathize?

7. Why does the narrator begin peeling the wallpaper?

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8. What does the narrator say she plans to do with the rope, and then what does she actually do with it?
9. When the narrator's husband unlocks and enters the bedroom, she says to him, "I've got out at last." What does she mean?
10. At the end of the story, why does the narrator's husband faint?

Answer one of the following questions based on your understanding of the story. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (12 points)

11. Why do you think the narrator imagines what she does about the woman behind the pattern in the wallpaper?
12. To what extent do you think John is responsible for the narrator's mental breakdown? Support your opinion with details from the story.