



Colorado Book Club Resource

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE YELLOW WALLPAPER AND OTHER STORIES OF LIBERATION

BY CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN ET AL

1. How does the first-person narrative style contribute to the reader's understanding of the protagonist's mental state? In what ways is the narrator unreliable, and how does this impact your interpretation of the story?
2. What does the wallpaper symbolize in the story? How does the narrator's perception of the wallpaper change over time, and what does this suggest about her mental and emotional state?
3. How does the story critique the gender roles and patriarchal attitudes of the time? What impact do these societal expectations have on the narrator's mental health and sense of identity?
4. How does the enforced isolation contribute to the narrator's psychological decline? What does the story suggest about the dangers of ignoring or misdiagnosing women's mental health issues?
5. How does John, the narrator's husband, embody the attitudes of the time regarding women's health and autonomy? To what extent is he responsible for his wife's deterioration?
6. How does the story explore the themes of liberation and confinement, both physical and psychological? What does the narrator's final act in the story suggest about her desire for freedom?
7. How does the story reflect the treatment of mental illness, particularly in women, during the late 19th century? How might the story be interpreted as a critique of the "rest cure" prescribed to women during that period?
8. How can *The Yellow Wallpaper* be seen as an early feminist text? What aspects of the story resonate with contemporary feminist thought?
9. What are the common themes of liberation in the stories? How do the protagonists in each story seek or achieve freedom, and what obstacles do they face?
10. How do the stories explore the dynamics of gender and power? Are there patterns in how female characters respond to oppression or control by male characters?
11. How do the stories address issues of mental health and autonomy? What parallels can be drawn between the protagonists' struggles for liberation and their mental well-being?
12. How do social expectations shape the lives of the characters? In what ways do they conform to or rebel against these expectations, and what are the consequences?



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13. How do the authors use symbolism and imagery to convey themes of confinement and liberation? Are there recurring symbols across the stories that represent freedom or oppression?
14. How do the stories address the intersectionality of gender, class, and other social identities in the context of liberation? Are some characters more constrained by their circumstances than others?
15. In *The Yellow Wallpaper*, the act of writing becomes a form of resistance for the protagonist. How do other characters in the collection use creativity or intellectual pursuits as a means of liberation?
16. How do the stories reflect the historical and social contexts in which they were written? How do they challenge or reinforce the norms of their time?
17. How do the stories resolve the tension between confinement and liberation? Are the endings clear or ambiguous, and what might this ambiguity suggest about the nature of freedom?
18. What emotional or intellectual impact do these stories have on you as a reader? How do they challenge your perceptions of freedom, gender roles, and mental health?

Discussion questions generated by ChatGPT.



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