

Name _____
Hour _____ Date _____

The Yellow Wallpaper
by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

We will be reading this famous story of a woman whose “cure” leads her into insanity. Prior to reading the story, we will read an article the author published in response to questions from her readers. Please complete this packet carefully as we read and study this famous story.

Vocabulary:

1. felicity
2. untenanted
3. lolls
4. querulous
5. impertinence
6. delirium tremens
7. fatuity
8. frieze
9. florid arabesque
10. derision

Notes from “Why I Wrote *The Yellow Wallpaper*”

1. What did Gilman intend the story to do?
2. What cure was prescribed for Gilman?
3. How did she overcome her cure?

4. What did her “great specialist” do years later after reading her story?

Responding to *The Yellow Wallpaper*

1. Why did John choose the room they are in? (Give three reasons)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

2. Which room did the narrator want instead? Why?

3. What detail about the windows is odd? What does it make you think of?

4. There are **four separate views** from this room, which makes it seem as if the room is alone at the top of the house with windows in all four directions. What is seen from each view? Describe each view in the spaces below. Then, in the space to the right of each description, record the emotional quality of that view.

	View 1:	
View 4:	The room	View 2:
	View 3:	

5. What are John's reasons for not wanting to repaper the room?

6. According to the narrator, what is the personality of the wallpaper?

7. In the table below, comment on **John's attentiveness** in each category. Give examples.

To his wife's health	
To her creative spirit	
To her social needs	
To her wishes/wants	

8. How is the act of writing both stressful/harmful and freeing/helpful?

9. Who is the person in the wallpaper? What does she do?

10. Near the end of the story, the narrator says of the woman behind the wallpaper, "It must be humiliating to be caught creeping by daylight!" What does she mean? (Literally and figuratively).

