

the yellow wallpaper commonlit assessment

answers

The yellow wallpaper commonlit assessment answers provide insights into the complex themes and characters presented in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story, "The Yellow Wallpaper." This seminal work has garnered significant attention for its exploration of mental health, gender roles, and the oppressive structures of society. The CommonLit assessment serves as a valuable tool for educators and students alike, helping readers to engage with the text on a deeper level. In this article, we will delve into the key elements of "The Yellow Wallpaper," discuss its historical context, and provide an overview of the CommonLit assessment answers to enhance understanding of the narrative.

Understanding "The Yellow Wallpaper"

The story of "The Yellow Wallpaper" revolves around a woman who is suffering from what is presumed to be postpartum depression. Her husband, John, a physician, prescribes a "rest cure," confining her to a room in a rented mansion that features disturbing yellow wallpaper. The narrative unfolds through the woman's journal entries, revealing her gradual descent into madness as she becomes obsessed with the wallpaper.

Plot Summary

1. Setting the Scene: The story opens with the narrator and her husband, John, moving into a secluded mansion for the summer. John believes that isolation and rest are the best remedies for his wife's condition.
2. Isolation and Confinement: The narrator is forbidden from engaging in any stimulating activities,

such as writing or socializing. This enforced isolation exacerbates her feelings of oppression.

3. The Wallpaper's Influence: The narrator begins to see patterns and figures within the yellow wallpaper, which she initially finds repulsive. Over time, her fixation grows, and she believes that there is a woman trapped within the wallpaper.

4. Descent into Madness: As the narrator's obsession deepens, she starts to identify with the trapped woman in the wallpaper. Her mental state deteriorates, leading to a climactic moment where she believes she must free the woman.

5. The Conclusion: The story culminates in a shocking revelation as the narrator tears down the wallpaper in a desperate attempt to liberate the figure she perceives inside it. In doing so, she ultimately breaks free from her own oppressive circumstances, albeit at the cost of her sanity.

Key Themes

1. Mental Illness: The story is a poignant commentary on the treatment of women with mental health issues in the 19th century. It highlights the lack of understanding and compassion in how mental health was approached.

2. Gender Roles: The narrator's experiences reflect the societal expectations placed on women during this period. Her husband's condescending treatment underscores the power dynamics in their relationship.

3. Symbolism of the Wallpaper: The yellow wallpaper itself serves as a powerful symbol of the narrator's confinement and struggle for identity. The patterns and colors reflect her mental state, evolving from repulsion to obsession.

4. The Quest for Freedom: The narrator's journey can be seen as a quest for personal freedom and autonomy. Her ultimate act of tearing down the wallpaper represents a rebellion against societal

constraints.

The Historical Context

To fully grasp the significance of "The Yellow Wallpaper," it is essential to consider the historical context in which it was written. The late 19th century was characterized by strict gender roles and limited rights for women.

Women's Rights Movement

- Emerging Feminism: The late 1800s marked the beginning of the women's rights movement in the United States. Women began advocating for suffrage, education, and the right to work.
- Medical Oppression: The medical community often dismissed women's health issues, particularly mental health, as hysteria. The "rest cure," advocated by Dr. Silas Weir Mitchell, was a common treatment that involved isolating women from any intellectual stimulation.

Impact on Literature

- Literary Realism: "The Yellow Wallpaper" is an example of literary realism, focusing on the inner lives of characters and their struggles against societal norms.
- Influence on Future Generations: Gilman's work has inspired subsequent feminist literature and discussions on mental health. Its influence can be seen in the works of later writers who explore similar themes of identity and autonomy.

The CommonLit Assessment

The yellow wallpaper commonlit assessment answers serve as a guide to help students analyze and interpret the story effectively. The assessment typically includes comprehension questions, thematic discussions, and character analyses.

Comprehension Questions

1. What is the significance of the narrator's writing?
 - The act of writing serves as an outlet for the narrator's thoughts and emotions, providing insight into her mental state and the restrictions she faces.
2. How does the wallpaper symbolize the narrator's mental health?
 - The wallpaper reflects the narrator's growing obsession and confinement. As her mental state worsens, her perception of the wallpaper evolves, mirroring her descent into madness.
3. What role does John play in the narrator's mental decline?
 - John embodies the patriarchal authority that limits the narrator's autonomy. His dismissive attitude towards her mental health exacerbates her feelings of isolation.

Thematic Analysis

- Exploration of Identity: The assessment encourages students to explore how the narrator grapples with her sense of self amidst the confines of her marriage and societal expectations.
- Critique of Gender Dynamics: Students are prompted to analyze the power dynamics between the narrator and John, reflecting broader societal structures.

- Understanding Symbolism: The questions often focus on the various symbols in the story, particularly the wallpaper, and how they contribute to the overall themes.

Character Analysis

- The Narrator: Students are encouraged to explore the evolution of the narrator's character, her psychological transformation, and the implications of her final act of rebellion.
- John: The character of John serves as a representation of the patriarchal society. His well-meaning yet oppressive nature highlights the complexities of gender dynamics.
- The Woman in the Wallpaper: This character serves as a crucial symbol of confinement and the struggle for freedom, representing the narrator's own inner turmoil.

Conclusion

The yellow wallpaper commonlit assessment answers are instrumental in helping readers navigate the rich complexities of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's work. The story's exploration of mental health, gender roles, and the quest for autonomy continues to resonate with contemporary audiences. Through careful analysis and discussion, students can gain a deeper understanding of the narrative's themes and the historical context in which it was created. This engagement not only enriches their literary experience but also fosters critical thinking about the societal structures that persist today. As we reflect on the implications of "The Yellow Wallpaper," we recognize its enduring significance in discussions surrounding mental health and gender equality, making it a vital part of both literary studies and social discourse.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary theme explored in 'The Yellow Wallpaper' that is often assessed in CommonLit?

The primary theme explored in 'The Yellow Wallpaper' is the oppression of women and the detrimental effects of isolation on mental health.

How does the narrator's relationship with her husband contribute to her mental decline in 'The Yellow Wallpaper'?

The narrator's relationship with her husband, who dismisses her feelings and imposes a rigid treatment, exacerbates her mental decline by reinforcing her sense of helplessness and isolation.

What role does the setting play in 'The Yellow Wallpaper' as analyzed in CommonLit assessments?

The setting, particularly the nursery with the yellow wallpaper, symbolizes the confinement and lack of agency experienced by the narrator, serving as a catalyst for her descent into madness.

What literary devices are commonly discussed in CommonLit assessments of 'The Yellow Wallpaper'?

Common literary devices discussed include symbolism, imagery, and irony, particularly how the wallpaper itself symbolizes the constraints placed on women.

How does the ending of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' reflect the narrator's transformation throughout the story?

The ending of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' reflects the narrator's transformation as she ultimately rejects her oppression, symbolized by her tearing down the wallpaper, but also suggests a tragic loss of sanity.

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