

Name _____
Hour _____ Date _____

The Yellow Wallpaper
Charlotte Perkins Gilman
English 11

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 are the four views? Describe each in the spaces below.

	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).

11. There is a sense of urgency at the end, both for the narrator and for John. Each is desperate to do something. Explain the result for each; that is, what does each find at the end?
- a. The narrator: peels the wallpaper off to free the woman/women
 - b. John: unlocks the door to get to his wife
12. Respond personally to this story. How did it make you feel, think, etc. Be specific. For example, you might write, “When John says, ‘_____,’ I think he _____.”