

# Yellow Wallpaper Active Reading Chart Answers

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" ... [http://edSITEment.com/gilman\\_lesson\\_plan.asp?tab=75](http://edSITEment.com/gilman_lesson_plan.asp?tab=75)



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Gilman's "The Yellow Wall-paper" Active Reading Chart

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use the worksheet to take notes on how the narrator discusses the world around her. Pay close attention to her description, noting how her tone and perception of her surroundings and situation change during the story. Use the Reader Interpretation column to offer thoughts about the possible significance of the items you note.

How does the author describe:	Examples/Descriptions from "The Yellow Wallpaper"	Reader Interpretation (possible symbolic meanings, codes in descriptions, etc.)
Her room?		
The wall-paper?		
Her illness?		
Her husband?		
Her other caretakers and/or family?		
Herself?		
Her journal?		
Other notes or observations:		

Permission is granted to educators to reproduce this worksheet for classroom use.

Yellow wallpaper active reading chart answers can be a valuable resource for students and readers seeking a deeper understanding of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story, "The Yellow Wallpaper." This seminal work, written in the late 19th century, offers rich themes and symbols that reflect the struggles of women and their mental health during a time when societal norms and medical practices often disregarded their needs and experiences. By utilizing an active reading chart, readers can engage more critically with the text, analyze key elements, and enhance their comprehension and interpretation of the story.

## Understanding "The Yellow Wallpaper"

"The Yellow Wallpaper" is a first-person narrative that follows the story of an unnamed woman who is confined to a room by her husband, John, who is a physician. She is diagnosed with a "nervous condition" and prescribed the "rest cure," which involves isolation and forbidding her from writing or engaging in any form of creative expression. As the narrative progresses, her mental state deteriorates, leading her to fixate on the yellow wallpaper in her room.

## Key Themes

### 1. Mental Health and Gender Roles

- The story critiques the treatment of women's mental health in the late 19th century.
- It highlights the detrimental effects of enforced domesticity and the lack of autonomy.

### 2. Isolation and Confinement

- The protagonist's physical and emotional isolation leads to her psychological decline.
- The wallpaper itself symbolizes her entrapment and the societal constraints placed on women.

### 3. Identity and Self-Expression

- The narrator's struggle for self-identity is reflected in her obsession with the wallpaper.
- Her eventual rebellion against her confinement signifies a quest for self-awareness and liberation.

## Active Reading Strategies

Using an active reading chart while engaging with "The Yellow Wallpaper" can enhance comprehension and retention of the text. Here are some effective strategies to consider:

## Character Analysis

- The Narrator:
  - Explore her initial state of mind and how it shifts throughout the story.
  - Identify key moments that illustrate her descent into madness.
- John:
  - Analyze his role as both a husband and a physician.
  - Discuss the implications of his paternalistic approach to his wife's condition.
- The Woman in the Wallpaper:
  - Interpret her as a symbol of the narrator's own struggles.
  - Consider how the woman in the wallpaper reflects the broader experience of women in society.

## Setting and Symbolism

- The Room:
  - Discuss the significance of the room's decor and the barred windows.
  - Analyze how the setting contributes to the theme of entrapment.
- The Yellow Wallpaper:
  - Examine the description of the wallpaper and its changing patterns.
  - Reflect on what the wallpaper represents in terms of the narrator's psyche.

## Plot Structure and Key Events

1. Exposition:
  - Introduce the narrator and her situation.
  - Discuss her relationship with John and her feelings of confinement.
2. Rising Action:
  - Identify key moments where the narrator begins to rebel against her treatment.
  - Discuss her growing obsession with the wallpaper.
3. Climax:
  - Analyze the moment when the narrator tears down the wallpaper.
  - Reflect on the significance of this act as a form of liberation.
4. Falling Action and Resolution:
  - Discuss the aftermath of the climax and the narrator's complete breakdown.
  - Consider the implications of her final actions for her identity and freedom.

## Discussion Questions

Engaging with "The Yellow Wallpaper" through discussion can deepen understanding and encourage diverse interpretations. Here are some questions to facilitate conversation:

1. How does the story reflect the societal attitudes towards women's mental health during the 19th century?
2. In what ways does the narrator's relationship with John contribute to her mental decline?
3. How does the symbolism of the wallpaper evolve throughout the story?
4. What are the implications of the narrator's final act of tearing down the wallpaper?
5. How can we relate the themes of the story to contemporary issues regarding mental health and gender equality?

# Critical Perspectives

Analyzing "The Yellow Wallpaper" from various critical perspectives can enrich the reading experience. Some perspectives to consider include:

## Feminist Criticism

- Discuss how the story critiques patriarchal authority and societal norms.
- Explore the implications of the narrator's struggle for autonomy and self-identity.

## Psychoanalytic Criticism

- Analyze the narrator's mental state and her fixation on the wallpaper.
- Consider the psychological implications of her isolation and eventual breakdown.

## Historical Context

- Examine the historical background of the story, particularly the medical practices of the time.
- Discuss how societal expectations of women influenced the narrator's experiences.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, utilizing yellow wallpaper active reading chart answers can significantly enhance the reading experience of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper." By engaging with the text through active reading strategies, character analysis, thematic exploration, and critical perspectives, readers can develop a deeper understanding of the complex issues surrounding mental health, gender roles, and the quest for identity. This story remains a powerful commentary on the constraints imposed on women and the importance of self-expression, resonating with contemporary audiences and continuing to inspire discussions about mental health and gender equality. As readers delve into the intricacies of the narrative, they are encouraged to reflect on their interpretations and consider the broader implications of Gilman's poignant work.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the primary theme explored in 'The Yellow Wallpaper'?

The primary theme of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' is the oppression of women and the detrimental effects of the medical treatment of mental illness, particularly how it reflects societal attitudes towards women's mental health in the 19th century.

## How does the narrator's relationship with the wallpaper evolve throughout the story?

Initially, the narrator is repulsed by the wallpaper, but as the story progresses, she becomes obsessed with it, seeing it as a symbol of her own entrapment and eventually identifying with the figure she believes to be trapped within it.

## What role does isolation play in the narrator's mental decline?

Isolation plays a crucial role in the narrator's mental decline as her confinement to a room, away from stimulating social interactions, exacerbates her feelings of loneliness and despair, leading to a deterioration of her mental state.

## What is the significance of the ending of 'The Yellow Wallpaper'?

The ending of 'The Yellow Wallpaper' is significant as it symbolizes the narrator's complete break from reality and her ultimate rebellion against her oppression, represented by her tearing down the wallpaper as she declares her freedom.

## How does the setting contribute to the overall mood of the story?

The setting, particularly the confined room with the yellow wallpaper, contributes to the overall mood of entrapment and despair, creating a claustrophobic atmosphere that reflects the narrator's mental state and enhances the themes of isolation and repression.

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