

Recall: GATHERING FACTS

- 1a. What does Mrs. Mallard learn from her sister Josephine at the beginning of the story?
- 2a. What is Mrs. Mallard's immediate reaction to the news?
- 3a. Who enters the house just as Josephine and Mrs. Mallard are descending the stairs? What happens to Mrs. Mallard?

→ **Interpret:** FINDING MEANING

- 1b. Why does Josephine have to break this news gently to her sister?
- 2b. What sights and smells does Mrs. Mallard experience at the open window in her room? What do these sights and smells represent to her and cause her to recognize?
- 3b. How does Mrs. Mallard appear as she walks down the stairs? What does her appearance reveal?

Analyze: TAKING THINGS APART

- 4a. How does Mrs. Mallard experience grief, happiness, and shocked disappointment? Chronicle her progression through these emotions as the story reveals them.

→ **Synthesize:** BRINGING THINGS TOGETHER

- 4b. Why is the story called "The Story of an Hour"? How does Mrs. Mallard come to a new realization during this time period?

Perspective: LOOKING AT OTHER VIEWS

- 5a. In the context of nineteenth-century marriage, is Mrs. Mallard's joy at her husband's "death" understandable? What circumstances in today's society might make such a response acceptable?

→ **Empathy:** SEEING FROM INSIDE

- 5b. If you were Mrs. Mallard, would you tell your sister how you really felt about your husband's death?

Understanding Literature

IRONY. Review the definition for **irony** in the Handbook of Literary Terms. At the end of the story the doctors say that Mrs. Mallard died of "joy that kills." How is this an example of *dramatic irony*? What actually caused her death?

REVERSAL. Review the definition for **reversal** in Literary Tools on page 454 and the sequence chart you completed as you read the story. What are the two reversals that happen in the story? What does the first reversal reveal about Mrs. Mallard? Why does the second reversal have such an impact?