

“The Yellow Wallpaper”

Focused Annotations

1. Why did John choose the room they are in? (Give three reasons)
2. Which room did the narrator want instead? Why?
3. Focus on the window.
 - a. What detail about the window is odd?
 - b. 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.
 - a. What is seen from each view?
 - b. Describe each view and the emotional quality of that view.
5. Attend to the details of the wallpaper (mainly the adjectives).
6. What are John’s reasons for not wanting to repaper the room?
7. According to the narrator, what is the personality of the wallpaper?
8. Focus on John’s attentiveness (and give examples) in each category:
 - a. To his wife’s health
 - b. To her creative spirit
 - c. To her social needs
 - d. To her wishes/wants
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