

Blog Response #1  
**The Yellow Paper**

I thought the “*Yellow Paper*” by Charlotte Perkins Stetson, was a very interesting story. The story was very vivid in description and really intrigued my brain. I really enjoyed the engaging conversations we had in class about how the wife, the husband and the other characters were perceived by the other students. I thought the story was very thought-provoking on the wife's mental state and what fueled its escalation throughout the story.

In the beginning, the story was very interesting to see the relationship between the wife and John, her husband. He was very dismissive of his wife and treated her like a child. Every time she had an idea, thought or suggestion, John would shut her down and reject her thoughts. This was something that our class picked up on very quickly and was the foundation of our discussion and discovery. Clues in the reading where John called her “blessed little goose” and the way he laughs at her questions or suggestions. The wife also loved her husband despite the way he treated her. She thought he was very protective and loving of her, “He was very careful and loving, and hardly lets me stir without special direction”, She says in the story. We found a lot of revealing text using the close reading methods in class.

The wife's mental state through-out the story was also a topic of discussion in class. Everyone had their own theory on what led to the wife's struggling mental health. Some thought the story was symbolic of how women were being oppressed in that particular time; others thought that the wife was hallucinating and created a fantasy world. The way she became obsessed with the yellow wallpaper and the room, and the

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haunting description she gave, helped me to visualize the environment and the conditions of the house. I thought that her lack of stimulus and being unable to work, at the orders of her husband; being confined in that hideous upstairs room, all led to her increased unstable mental state. Her husband didn't allow her to work because he thought that her writing contributed to her illness. She was put on some type of rest therapy that was common in those times. Not being able to write and express her thought led to her mind being fixated on the wallpaper and imagining a woman being trapped inside the pattern, so that she became obsessed with freeing by tearing down the wallpaper.