

A Level English Literature: Year 12 Summer Task

"*The Story of an Hour*" by Kate Chopin (1894)

Answer the following questions on the text, using quotations and analysing the writer's methods.

It is anticipated that you should write at least TWO sides of A4.

1. How is the story narrated and what effect/s are achieved by this?
2. What is Mrs. Mallard's initial reaction to the news of her husband's death and how do we know this?
3. How does Mrs. Mallard's reaction to the news change throughout the story?
4. What techniques, such as imagery, language, punctuation, sentence structure, etc., does the author use to alert the reader to a change of emotional tone in the story, starting in the fourth paragraph? (*'There stood, facing the open window ...'*)
5. Comment on the effect of language in the following examples from the story:
 - a) *'...veiled hints that revealed in half concealing.'*
 - b) *'... composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella.'*

Now select your own three examples of interesting use of language from the story and analyse the effect of each one.

6. What does Chopin imply about the treatment of women at the time that this story was written and set (1894)?