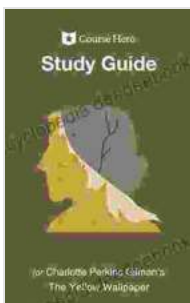


# Study Guide For Charlotte Perkins Gilman The Yellow Wallpaper Course Hero Study

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a classic feminist short story that explores the mental and emotional deterioration of a woman who is confined to her room by her doctor husband. The story is a powerful indictment of the patriarchal society of the late 19th century, and it remains relevant today as a cautionary tale about the dangers of isolation and oppression.

This study guide will provide you with a comprehensive overview of "The Yellow Wallpaper." We will explore the story's plot, characters, themes, and symbolism. We will also provide you with some helpful study questions to help you understand the story more deeply.

The story is narrated by a young woman who is suffering from a nervous condition. Her doctor husband, John, has decided to take her to a rented house in the country in order to rest and recover. The house is large and rambling, and it has a strange, oppressive atmosphere. The narrator is particularly disturbed by the yellow wallpaper in her bedroom.



## Study Guide for Charlotte Perkins Gilman's The Yellow Wallpaper (Course Hero Study Guides) by CGP Books

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Screen Reader: Supported



As the narrator spends more time in the house, her mental and emotional health begins to deteriorate. She becomes increasingly fixated on the yellow wallpaper, and she begins to see strange things in the pattern. She also starts to hear voices, and she becomes convinced that she is being watched.

The narrator's husband dismisses her concerns as the product of her illness. He tells her that she is imagining things, and he refuses to let her leave the house. The narrator becomes increasingly desperate, and she eventually tries to escape from the house. However, she is caught by her husband, and she is forced to return to her room.

The story ends with the narrator completely losing her mind. She becomes convinced that she is the woman in the yellow wallpaper, and she begins to crawl around the room on all fours.

- **The narrator:** The narrator is a young woman who is suffering from a nervous condition. She is intelligent and creative, but she is also fragile and vulnerable. Her husband's treatment of her drives her to the brink of madness.
- **John:** John is the narrator's husband. He is a doctor, and he is convinced that he knows what is best for his wife. He is patronizing and dismissive of her concerns, and he ultimately drives her to madness.
- **Jennie:** Jennie is the narrator's sister-in-law. She is a kind and caring woman, but she is also unable to understand the narrator's illness. She

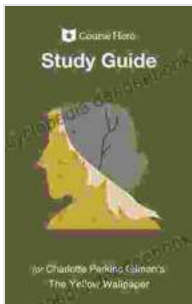
tries to help the narrator, but she is ultimately unsuccessful.

- **The oppression of women:** "The Yellow Wallpaper" is a powerful indictment of the patriarchal society of the late 19th century. The narrator is confined to her room by her husband, and she is denied any say in her own life. This treatment is a reflection of the way that women were treated in general during this time period.
- **The dangers of isolation:** The narrator's isolation in the rented house contributes to her mental and emotional deterioration. She has no one to talk to, and she is cut off from the outside world. This isolation drives her to madness.
- **The power of the imagination:** The narrator's imagination is a source of both her strength and her weakness. She uses her imagination to escape from the confines of her room, but she also uses it to create the monsters that haunt her.
- **The yellow wallpaper:** The yellow wallpaper is a powerful symbol of the narrator's oppression and madness. It is a constant reminder of her confinement, and it drives her to the brink of insanity.
- **The bars on the windows:** The bars on the windows are a symbol of the narrator's imprisonment. They keep her from escaping from the house, and they represent the restrictions that society places on women.
- **The woman in the wallpaper:** The woman in the wallpaper is a symbol of the narrator's repressed self. She represents the narrator's desire for freedom and independence.

1. What are the narrator's symptoms of mental illness?

2. How does the narrator's husband contribute to her mental deterioration?
3. What is the significance of the yellow wallpaper?
4. What does the woman in the wallpaper represent?
5. How does the story end?
6. What is the story's message?

"The Yellow Wallpaper" is a powerful and disturbing story that explores the mental and emotional deterioration of a woman who is oppressed by her society and her husband. The story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of isolation and oppression, and it remains relevant today as a reminder of the importance of women's rights.



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