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| **Essay title: 1. Choose a novel or short story in which there is a complex character for whom the reader has some sympathy.****With reference to appropriate techniques, explain the nature of the complexity and discuss how your response to this character adds to your appreciation of the text as a whole.** |
| **Introduction** Text - “The Yellow Wallpaper” Author - Charlotte Perkins GilmanSummary - a gothic short story set in the late 1800s. It tells the story of a woman with a creative mind who is forced to “rest” in order to alleviate her depression. We witness a young woman being driven mad as she becomes increasingly obsessed by a lurid wallpaper.Techniques - narrative method - first person journal which creates intimacy  Themes - isolation, the treatment of women, the conflict between creativity and rationality  setting, symbolism, imagery.Question - she creates sympathy for the narrator  |
| **Key Point 1:** Charlotte Perkins Gilman instantly creates a complex character that the reader feels sympathy for by putting in an isolated situation where she has no control.The evidence to support this idea is: “It is quite alone standing well back from the road, quite three miles from the village.”“What is one to do?”How this supports my point: The setting is symbolic of the narrator’s situation - narrator is isolated from and forbidden to interact with other people. She feels lonely.She is ignored by her husband.She is helpless.Gillman’s message - appearance vs reality (an idyllic and peaceful place but is a method to control and oppress her)The reader feels sympathy.Key word/phrase: Symbolism, repetition, theme (isolation/loneliness / appearance vs reality), characterisation – she is helpless.settingReader – sympathy, future conflict |
| **Key point 2:** Relationship with JohnThe evidence to support this idea is: Early in the story John dismisses her and is controlling. “John laughs at me but what is one to expect in marriage”“He does not believe I am sick”How this supports my point: suggests conflict, John is patronising, she is isolated and not seen as equal. John is doctor and husband – he doesn’t take her seriously and is not helping her. He thinks she needs more isolation – rest therapyThere is a lack of communication, she is unable to speak/think for herselfKey word/phrase: Theme of isolation, the view of women at this time (Setting), mental decline. John infantilises her |
| **Key point 3:** Beginning of obsessionThe evidence to support this idea is: How this supports my point: Key word/phrase:  |

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| **Key point 4:** Declining mental stateThe evidence to support this idea is: How this supports my point: Key word/phrase: |
| **Key point 5:** full on madness / the end of the story/key incidentThe evidence to support this idea is:How this supports my point: Key word/phrase: **Key point 6:** The evidence to support this idea is: How this supports my point: Key word/phrase:  |
| **Conclusion(TAQTAM)**Text - “The Yellow Wallpaper” Author - Charlotte Perkins Gilman Question - is a gothic short story which focuses on a complex character for whom the reader feels sympathy for. Summary of essay points - her narrator is in a situation in which she has no control, the narrator’s relationship with her husband John, her obsession with the wallpaper and finally her demise. Techniques- Gilman’s skilful use of contrast, personification and symbolism combine perfectly to create such a helpless yet disturbing character. Author’s Message - Ultimately, “The Yellow Wallpaper” is a feminist warning to society. Gilman holds up a metaphorical mirror to society in an attempt to warn us of the dangers of stifling female creativity. Her text advocates for equality and change which is still applicable to society today where we have made significant progress in the field of women’s rights but there is still certainly progress to be made. |