



The Thomas Hardy School

Summer Preparation Task

English Literature A Level - OCR

Purpose of task:

An introduction to some of the different areas of study: American Literature, Women in Literature and Gothic Literature.

Task: Research the position of women in the late 19th and early 20th century. What was life like for women in the late 19th early 20th century?

Read and then reread the text:

<https://yourknow.com/uploads/books/5da96cd8cb2db.pdf>

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text and from your wider reading.

1. What is the plot of *The Yellow Wallpaper*?
2. Why do you think the title is important? Could the wallpaper have been any other colour? How does the narrator's description of the wallpaper change over time?
3. Could the story have taken place in a different place or in a different time? (consider geographical location, historical periods).
4. Why does the narrator live in a 'colonial mansion'? What could this setting represent? Is it important?
5. What do you think are the key themes in the text? Are there any important symbols and how do they relate to the plot and characters?
6. What are the conflicts in *The Yellow Wallpaper*? (Think about physical, moral, intellectual or emotional conflict).
7. What versions of women are there in the text? How are they represented?
8. How does the wife's relationship with her husband evolve or change?
9. Do you read the ending of the story in a positive or negative way?
10. Which critical approach/approaches do you think work best for *The Yellow Wallpaper*?

Research the biographical details of Gilman's life and her thoughts on *The Yellow Wallpaper*

To what extent does the biographical information influence our reading of the text?

Recommended resources:

<https://yourknow.com/uploads/books/5da96cd8cb2db.pdf>

Deadline for Task: First lesson in the week commencing 15th September 2025

Additional Information:**Required Stationery and Equipment for**

Pens, plenty of A4 paper, four A3 folders

Essential Resources

Pens, paper, folders to organise your written notes throughout the year.

Things to Consider Throughout the Year**Recommended extension reading & activities list:**

Visit your local library and seek out one of these texts to read.

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*

Kate Chopin, *The Awakening and Other Stories*

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Jekyll and Hyde*

Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*

Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*

Susan Hill, *The Woman in Black*

Iain Banks, *The Wasp Factory*

Chuck Palahniuk, *Fight Club*