

The Yellow Wallpaper



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- Member of American Woman Suffrage Association
- Ugly divorce from husband
- Prescribed “rest cure”
- Saw “women’s economic dependence on men as stunt(ing) growth of women”
- Had bouts of depression
- Committed suicide after discovering breast cancer

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- Allegory—A text with at least two levels of meaning: the literal level of the immediate narrative, and a second level of the political, historical, philosophical or moral commentary which the author intends to be recognized. Allegories are generally didactic in focus.

Discussion Questions

- What is the setting of the story? Who is John?
- How is wallpaper described? How does it serve the idea of allegory? What is the pattern? What's behind the pattern?
- What are tip-offs that narrator is unreliable?
- How does the ending play out? What are some reads of the ending?
- Define *allegory* and discuss the various levels on which the story can be read.