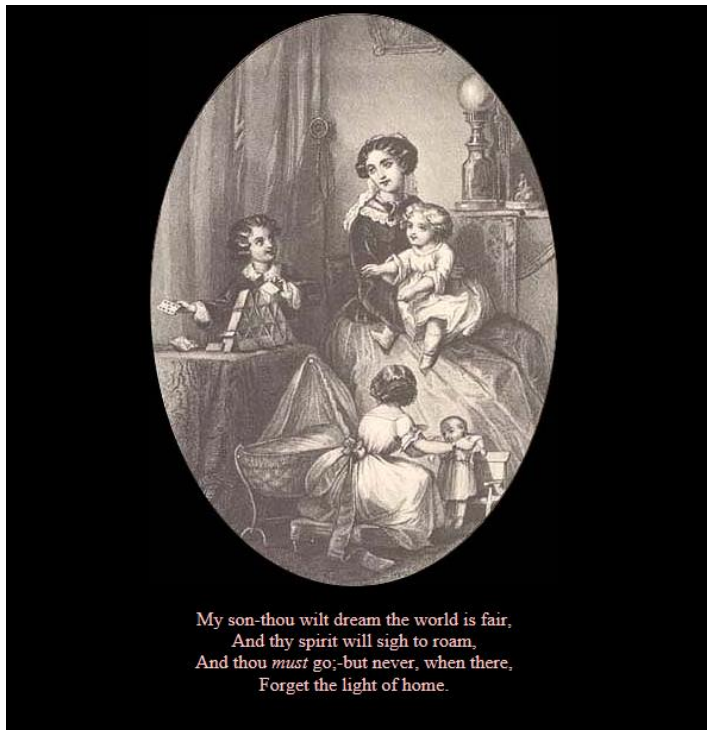


## “The Yellow Wallpaper” Questions for Analysis

1. How would you describe the story's setting?
2. How and why is the setting significant?
3. How would you describe the narrator's husband?
4. What is the narrator's style of writing? What is her tone?
5. What does the narrator believe would be the best cure for her?
6. How does this contrast with what her husband and brother say?
7. How does Gilman's vision of work compare to the roles of the mother in the "Light of the Home" image and the representation of "keeping house" in the "I Can't Keep House without It" (1918) advertisement?



The Ladies' Home Journal for August, 1918 73

*Three reasons why women say-  
"I can't keep house without it"*

**I**f you could look over the letters that come to us from women all over the country, you would be struck with this:

How many of them say, "I simply could not keep house without Lux."

"Kosgregation," a man is apt to say when he hears his wife talking about Lux. But to women who know the old and the reason for it, and know of the old way of washing, the new way, the Lux way, is quick, so easy, so perfect in economy, is indeed something never to do without again.

Your gingham blouse, so dirty and discolored, done up in a few minutes, with your own hands, and looking fresh and new.

Your best wool sweater, that Lux can now get into the tangle Lux will without a shadow of a doubt.

All the baby's little things—all your fine little items, soft and snowy white—each without a bit of trouble. Above all, the economical method. Little things—gloves, collar and cuffs, silk stockings that you can now use again and again, and have them fresh and fast as half an hour!

No rubbing! Rubbing takes soap on materials, then rubbing again to get the soap and dirt out, and you are left hard on the materials. How much better the delicate Lux fibers, white and transparent, in which there is more cleaning value than is possible in any other form of soap.

The moment Lux fibers touch hot water, they push. You wash them extra rich, bubbling lather. For white or colored, make the most of them. Lux is just the most delicate fabric! Just dip it up and down and squeeze the soap, cleaning lather again and again through it.

Just think of having your socks, your silk stockings, your baby clothes, handkerchiefs, sweaters, or pairs of shoes on the day you bought them.

Quicker! Quicker! Quicker! And so pure, so shining that your husband might look at them and the day you bought them.

No wonder women write us letters after letters, in the very words that you hear friends: "I simply could not keep house without Lux!"

Be sure to get your package of Lux today. Your grocer, drug-gist or department store has it. -Lever Bros. Co., Cambridge, Mass.

**Quicker! Quicker! Quicker!**

Quicker! Quicker! Quicker!

**LUX**

Even in hard water, Lux makes soap suds!

© Lever Bros. Co., 1918

8. What is the narrative style of this story? What is the effect of this journal style narrative in developing the main character?

9. How does it influence how the reader understands the main character?

10. How does the narration mimic the narrator's mental state?

11. Point out digressions and discuss why the narrator might digress during her account. An 1867 Godey's quote from the "**Motherhood**" says, "*About every true mother there is a sanctity of martyrdom- and when she is no more in the body, her children see her with the ring of light around her head.*". Compare this description to the narrator's role of mother.

12. What does the following passage suggest about the relationship between the narrator and her husband?

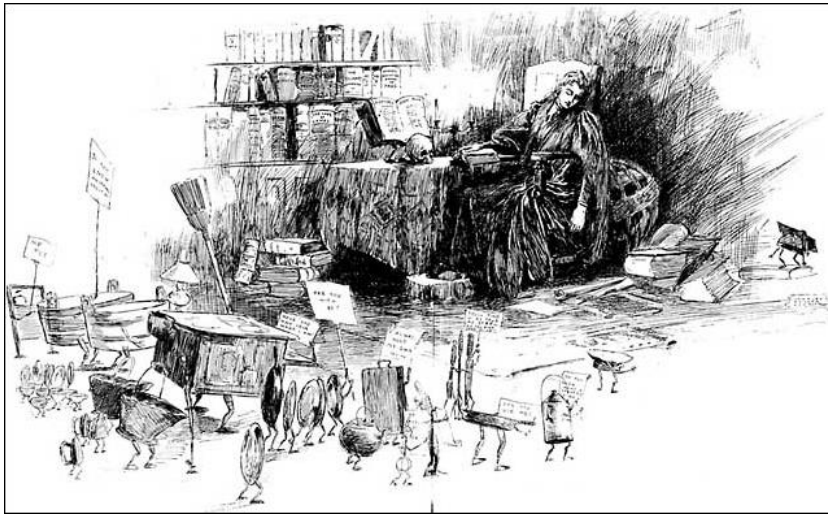
*"And dear John gathered me up in his arms, and just carried me upstairs and laid me on the bed, and sat by me and read to me till it tired my head."*

13. How would you characterize the narrator?

14. How would you characterize the husband?

15. What is the significance of the woman behind the yellow wall-paper?

16. To aid discussion for the above question, compare the narrator's feelings about the wall-paper to the tone and message of the 1890 cartoon, *For the benefit of the girl about to graduate*.



17. How would you describe the narrator's mental state in Section 6? ("I'm feeling ever so much better! . . . round and round and round -- it makes me dizzy!")

18. How has she changed?

19. What is her tone at this point in the story?

20. What do you notice about the narrator's diction in Sections 5-9? ("Life is very much more exciting now than it used to be. . . . John and Jennie are secretly affected by it.")

21. How does the narration change?

22. What does the narrator mean by, "I got out at last?"

23. What does the ending of this story suggest about the woman behind the wall-paper?

24. How are this woman and the wall-paper itself symbolic?

25. Discuss the metaphor of the window in relationship to "getting out."