



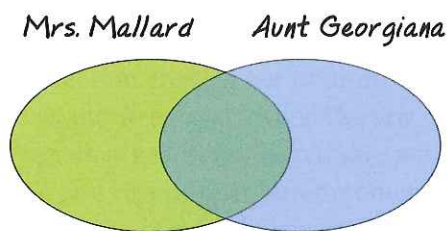
READING STANDARD
11.3.5.a Analyze or evaluate works of literary or cultural significance in history

Comprehension

- 1. Recall** What illness afflicts Mrs. Mallard?
- 2. Summarize** Describe the news Mrs. Mallard receives at the beginning of the story and explain how she reacts.
- 3. Clarify** What happens at the end of the story?

Literary Analysis

- 4. Analyze Plot and Conflict** The plot of “The Story of an Hour” is driven by Mrs. Mallard’s **internal conflict**. Describe her conflict; then explain how this secret inner struggle sets up the story’s **surprise ending**.
- 5. Examine Predictions** Review the chart you filled in as you read. Were your predictions accurate? Consider how Chopin uses **irony** to play on readers’ expectations and deliver surprise plot twists in each of the following cases. Does this manipulation increase or decrease your enjoyment of the story?
 - Mrs. Mallard’s reaction to the news that her husband is dead (lines 34–58)
 - Mrs. Mallard’s wish that “life might be long” (lines 64–67)
 - the doctor’s explanation of the cause of Mrs. Mallard’s death (lines 78–79)
- 6. Interpret Imagery** Reread lines 16–22. How does Chopin’s use of imagery contribute to your understanding of Mrs. Mallard’s character and situation? Did the imagery make you more or less sympathetic toward her? Explain, citing specific lines from the story that influenced your response.
- 7. Compare Characters** Both Mrs. Mallard and Aunt Georgiana in “A Wagner Matinee” by Willa Cather (page 694) face **constraints** that confine them to a specific way of life. In a Venn diagram like the one shown, compare and contrast these two characters’ situations. Use your completed diagram to explain what message each author might be trying to convey through her main character.



Literary Criticism

- 8. Social Context** Women’s roles have certainly changed since Chopin wrote this story, but has the institution of marriage? Reread lines 49–54 of “The Story of an Hour.” Is the imposition of will by both men and women that Chopin describes still an issue in contemporary marriages? Explain your opinion.