

Women's Writing

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER

Short story by Charlotte Perkins Gilman



Charlotte Perkins Gilman

- A prominent American humanist, novelist, writer of short stories, poetry and nonfiction, and a lecturer for social reform.
- Perkins; July 3, 1860 – August 17, 1935
- She was a utopian feminist and served as a role model for future generations of feminists because of her unorthodox concepts and lifestyle.
- She has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.



Charlotte Perkins Gilman

- Her best remembered work today is her semi-autobiographical short story "The Yellow Wallpaper", which she wrote after a severe bout of postpartum psychosis.
- Gilman used her writing to explore the role of women in America around 1900.
- She expanded upon many issues such as the lack of a life outside the home and the oppressive forces of the patriarchal society.
- Through her work, Gilman paved the way for writers such as Alice Walker and Sylvia Plath

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER - Introduction

- "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, published 1892 in The New England Magazine.
- It is regarded as an important early work of American feminist literature for its illustration of the attitudes towards mental and physical health of women in the 19th century.



THE YELLOW WALLPAPER – Over View

- Narrated in the first person, the story is a collection of journal entries written by a woman whose physician husband (John) has rented an old mansion for the summer.
- Forgoing other rooms in the house, the couple moves into the upstairs nursery.
- As a form of treatment, the unnamed woman is forbidden from working or writing, and is encouraged to eat well and get plenty of air, so she can recuperate from what he calls a "temporary nervous depression – a slight hysterical tendency", a diagnosis common to women during that period.

THANK YOU

