

Unit 2 Guided Reading Questions

“The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin

1. Mrs. Mallard “did not hear the story as many women have heard the same” (story quote). What does this reaction suggest about her? Does it suggest how “ladies” were expected to react?
2. What does the setting description tell us about her ordinary life?
3. Who could consider Mrs. Mallard’s joy “monstrous”? Do you judge her negatively at this point?
4. How would this story change if it had been Mr. Mallard at home with heart problems hearing about Mrs. Mallard’s death?

“A Jury of Her Peers” by Susan Glaspell

1. At the time Susan Glaspell published the story, women could not serve on juries, nor did they have the right to vote. What is the title of the story therefore indicating?
2. What do male characters learn from their investigation? How about the women?
3. How is Susan Glaspell questioning the traditional definitions of marriage and women’s roles in society? Use examples from the text.
4. Why do the women judge Mrs. Wright innocent? Do you agree with their judgment? Why or why not?
5. How does Susan Glaspell view the space where women’s lives took place?

“A Rose for Emily” by William Faulkner

1. Is the narrator male or female? What makes you think so?
2. “The men went to her funeral out of respect, and women went out of curiosity” (story quote). What does this tell you about women’s role in society? Do you think this is true today?
3. How does the house reflect Emily’s personality and state of mind?
4. How did Emily’s father affect the way she participated in society?
5. What does Emily represent for the town?
6. Do the town and Emily progress in the same way? Explain.
7. What does the rose stand for?