

What Mansfield is trying to say in the story is that life and death coexist and because life is beautiful, death should be a positive event, rather than a sad one as we have been taught. This can be seen when Laura sees the man's body in his bed and she sees it as beautiful and peaceful, as if he was sleeping. The garden also helps juxtapose life and death because flowers are a common symbol for life and longevity.

Mansfield uses juxtaposition and symbols to really illustrate this concept of life and death. The garden and the weather being spring is a symbol for life and rebirth, and the flowers that Laura brings to the family brings warm condolences for their deceased loved one. Also, the switch from a bright colorful garden to a dark solemn home serves as a juxtaposition, until Laura looks at the Man's body and realizes that death isn't, or shouldn't be, so trivial and scary. She ends up changing her viewpoint of canceling the party for the man's death to realizing that death isn't so scary as it's portrayed to be.