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Prof. Commander

GEEN2312

March 14, 2023

Midterm Evaluation

Story selected: “The Story of an Hour”

1. If the story took place during our modern times and culture, what changes would you identify?

**If this story had been written in a more modern setting, where women now have more rights and autonomy over their lives, much of the story would be different. Mrs. Mallard would no longer have to feel like she is shackled by her marriage and the responsibilities that come with being a wife. Particularly during that time where a husband basically owned his wife. In a modern setting, I believe the protagonist would not feel so much that her happiness and sense of freedom is so tied in with her marital status. In modern times, married women do not lose rights when they marry. The death of her husband would not have as much of an effect as it does in the story, instead she would be affected in a different way with just normal grief, since it is described that he was kind to her and loved her. Her reaction to her husband’s death would most likely just be a grieving wife.**

1. How are you different from the main character in the story that you selected?

**I am different in several different ways, namely that I am unmarried and younger than the protagonist is described to be. As a woman from the 21st century, I also have more freedom over my own life and overall rights. Additionally, I have a different ethnicity than the main character of this story, Mrs. Mallard. Also, unlike Mrs. Mallard, I do not have a heart condition.**

1. Would you have ended the story in a different way?  Why or why not?

**I believe the ending of the story was a very well thought out ending that fits with the general theme and ideas that it tries to portray. I would not change the ending, as it is very powerful and impactful, making a strong point about the importance of having freedom over your own life. I believe it is very fitting that the husband ended up being alive at the end, as it gives the story a more hopeless and disappointing theme, displaying how much of a truly unfortunate life Mrs. Mallard, and many other women during that time, had. The protagonist passing away may seem like it gives the ending a sense of ridiculousness and dramatics, but in reality, it portrays the effects such a way of life may have on a person.**

1. What does the story mean to you? How did the author make you feel?

**This story is one of my favorites of the short story genre. To me, it makes very important and necessary commentary on subject that continues to be relevant, to this day. The rights and status of women in society has been on a general uphill trend in the last century, but there continues to be parts of life as a woman that need to be talked about. A short story such as this allows for a raw and intimate look on the protagonist, a woman who feels that her life is not in her control. An account like that allows for more women, who may be experiencing similar situations, to feel understood and heard. The author was able to inspire a sense of connection and understanding with the main character of this story.**

1. How is the story similar to an event in your life or in the life of someone you know or another character that you have known about?

**In my own life, I can see similarities with the situation Mrs. Mallard lived through. As in the lives of countless women around the world, there is always the feeling that there are many hurdles and challenges a woman is bound to experience. For example, feeling as if there will always be less expected of you and less opportunities available to you. Although not to the extent of Mrs. Mallard’s experience, there continues to be prejudices and preconceived notions that result in women not having the level of freedom and choice that men do in their lives.**