



Annotate for Plot, Character, and Narrative Impact

Read and annotate "The Tell-Tale Heart" below by marking and responding to key details the author includes to advance the plot and answer the following questions:

- Who is telling the story, and what impact does the narrator have?
- Who is the victim? How would you describe the victim of the story? How would you categorize this type of victim?
- How does perspective influence how the victim is viewed by others?

THE TELL-TALE HEART
by Edgar Allan Poe, 1843

Genre: Short story

About the Author: Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) was an American writer, editor, poet, and literary critic, best known for his contributions to the mystery and horror genres. orphaned as a young age, Poe was reared from his siblings and raised by a foster family, the Allans. He had a contentious relationship with his foster father. Poe excelled as a student, but frustrated struggles led to his early departure from the University of Virginia. Poe enrolled in the army, but quickly through the ranks, and was admitted to the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point. Once again, he was forced to leave due to lack of finances. His first steady job was as an editor for the South Literary Messenger in Richmond, Virginia. He held several other editorial positions while publishing his short stories and poetry. Poe wrote "The Raven" (1849) gained him celebrity. Though he was the first American to lose all of his earnings as a writer, Poe struggled with finances throughout his life.

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Annotate for Biographical Details

Read and annotate "Why I Wrote The Yellow Wallpaper" by marking and responding to biographical details that are relevant to and important to understanding "The Yellow Wallpaper."

Why I Wrote The Yellow Wallpaper
by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, 1915

Genre: Essay

About the Author: Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1869-1935) briefly attended design school and married an artist. She struggled with life as a housewife and experienced a mental breakdown. Leaving her husband, she and her daughter moved to California, where she began her career as a writer. She wrote short stories for a variety of magazines, authored a book of poetry, and worked as an editor. A vocal supporter of the women's movement and socialism, Gilman gave lectures on labor, feminism, and ethics and, in 1918, published a manifesto titled Women and Economics.

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UNIT 02

Anchor Text • Short Story

Karl Vonnegut (1922-2007) was an American writer of postmodern dystopian, science fiction, and fantasy stories. Vonnegut wrote many fictional works, including various short stories. Among his best known works was the novel Slaughterhouse-Five (1952).

HARRISON BERGERON
by Kurt Vonnegut, 1946

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"That nervous—very, very deathly nervous I had been and am, but why will you say that I am mad? The doctor had whispered my senses—not discerned—not defiled them. Above all was the sense of hearing gone. I heard all things in the house and in the earth. I heard things in walls. How then, am I mad? Heartbeat and observe how loudly—how loudly I can tell you the whole story."

It is impossible to say how few the ticks arrived my brain, but since concerned, I hunted day and night. Often there was none. Passion there was none. I loved the old man. He had never wronged me. He had never given me pain. For his gold I had no desire. I think my wife and I, it was that One of his eyes resembled that of a vulture—a pale blue eye, with a film over it. Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees—very gradually—I made up my mind to take the life of the old man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.

"Now this is the point. You never saw that Maltese cross looking. They should have seen it. You should have been wiser! I proceeded—with what caution—with what foresight—with what **dissimulation** I went to work! I was never kinder to the old man than during the whole week before I killed him. I told every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it—oh, so gently! And then, when I had made an opening sufficient to my head I put in a dark lantern, all closed, closed, so that no light shone out, and I then thrust in my head. Oh, you would have laughed to see how **carefully** I thrust it in! I moved it slowly—very, very slowly, so that I might not disturb the old man's sleep. It took me an hour to place my whole head within the opening so that I could see him as he lay upon his bed. He—would a madman have been so wise as this? And then, when my head was well in the room, I pulled the lantern cautiously—oh, so cautiously—cautiously, that the hinges creaked. I waited a just as much that a single tick my eye fell upon the white eye.

And that is all that I did then—every single just at midnight—but I found the eye always closed, and so it was impossible to do the work that it was not the old man who **wept** me, but his bed. Eye. And every morning, when the doctor, I went badly into the chamber, and spoke courteously

read and answer questions, including annotations, in the act of being or thinking. dissimulation: the act of being or thinking. cautiously: sh. slowly. weep: weeped. hearse: hearse.

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Charlotte Perkins Gilman was much attention in 1892 for publishing "The Yellow Wallpaper," a semi-autobiographical short story dealing with mental health and contemporary social expectations for women. In the following pages, Gilman reflected on writing and publishing the piece.

Many and another reader has asked that: When the story first came out, in the *New England Magazine* about 1891, a Boston physician made protest in *The Transcript*. Such a story ought not to be serious, he said; it was enough to drive anyone mad to read it.

Another physician, in Kansas I think, wrote to say that the best description of incipient insanity he had ever seen, and—baggins with pardon—had I been there?

"Now the story of the story in this:

"For many years I suffered from a severe and continuous nervous breakdown leading to **melancholia** and **hysteria**. During about the third year of this trouble, I went, in despair, faith and some fear of hope, to a mental specialist in my own district. I went, the best known in the country. This man was just what I needed and applied the correct cure, which a intelligent physician responded so promptly that I concluded there was nothing much the matter with me, and went home with serene advice to "be as happy as I like and for as possible," "have but two hours' melancholia like a day" and "never to touch pen, pencil, or pencil again" as long as I lived. This was in 1887.

"I went home and obeyed those directions for some three months, and came so near the borderland of utter mental ruin that I could see it.

"Then, using the remnants of intelligence that remained, and helped by a wise friend, I cast the usual speculative advice to the winds, and went to work again—work, the normal life of every human being, work, which is in my job growth and service, without which one is a pauper and a parasite—ultimately recovering some measure of peace.

read and answer questions, including annotations, in the act of being or thinking. melancholia: a condition of severe mental depression. hysteria: a condition of intense emotion. pauper: a person who is extremely poor. parasite: a creature that lives on the body of another organism, or a person who lives on the work of another.

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Annotations:

The year was 2081, and everybody was finally equal. They weren't only equal before God and the law. They were equal before each other—Nobility was nonexistent then, nobility died. Nobody was better than anybody else. Nobody was stronger or quicker than anybody else. All this equality was due then to the 2148, 2128, and 2108 Amendments to the Constitution and to the successive **villages** of agents of the United States Handicapper General.

George and Hazel were watching television. There were tears on Hazel's cheeks, but she'd forgotten for the moment what they were about.

"The television screen were lifeless.

"A buzzer sounded in George's head. His thoughts fled in panic. Like **handies** from a single place in short bursts. And George, while his intelligence was very above normal, had a little mental handicap in his ear. He was required by law to wear it all time. It was used to a government transmitter. Every twenty seconds or so, the transmitter would send out some sharp noise to keep people like George from taking unfair advantage of their brains.

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"That was a real pretty dance, that dance they just did," said Hazel.

"Tidd!" said George.

"Nobility: a state of being with the degree of nobility. intelligence: the ability to understand and use knowledge to solve problems. transmitter: a device that sends or receives signals or messages. handicap: a disadvantage.

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