

Tier 2.5: *The Haunting of Hill House* and “The Yellow Wallpaper”

Authors and Influence

Essay Prompt (10.25.23)

The Haunting of Hill House is a masterful novel by Shirley Jackson that utilizes a female protagonist in a supposedly haunted house. Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s short story “The Yellow Wallpaper,” which was published a more than half a century before Jackson’s novel, also follows a female protagonist’s musings in what she says must be a haunted house.

In a multi-paragraph argumentative essay, examine some of the striking similarities of the two works, as well as some significant differences, in an effort to evaluate whether Jackson may have used Gilman’s story as a significant influence to creating *The Haunting of Hill House*. It is absolutely critical that you go well beyond the similarities mentioned in the previous paragraph. You’ll explore the similarities and differences in characters, settings, and plot events in both texts to show the extent to which you believe *The Haunting of Hill House* was or was not influenced by “The Yellow Wallpaper.” Use both summary (as appropriate) and lots of concrete textual evidence/quotes from both texts to show why you believe Jackson either was or was not influenced by Gilman’s story.

Your essay will include an introduction and conclusion paragraph, each of which must each contain an effective thesis, and each body paragraph must begin with an effective topic sentence. Be sure that your essay is double-spaced in a standard font (Times New Roman or Ariel) and size (11 or 12), avoids first person, and that your paragraphs are formatted correctly.

As you read, you’ll keep a sort of annotated “journal” for the novel and the short story. Begin with the novel first, as it will make the project easier. The annotated journal for the novel will be broken down by chapters, and each chapter will include a few things: **1)** your thoughts, questions, reactions (what you like/don’t like), and connections you make (to other stories, music, movies, life) as you read, and **2)** a brief 2-3 sentence plot summary at the end of each chapter of the novel. **Important:** For “The Yellow Wallpaper,” your journal for that will include all of the above elements, but it should more importantly focus on keeping track of similarities and key differences with the novel. The journal for this short story will *not* be divided into sections; instead, treat it like a single chapter, with one 2-3 sentence plot summary at the end of the journal.

After you finish journaling, you’ll complete two different pre-writing worksheets to help assist you in building your paragraphs for the essay.

Essay Rubric

Essay Organization (20 points total):

Org: _____

- Essay makes strong, consistent, and effective use of organization (including intro and conclusion paragraphs that have effective thesis statements, effective paragraphing in the body of the essay, and all body paragraphs have clear and effective topic sentences to begin them). [20 pts]
- Essay generally makes effective use of organization (including intro and conclusion paragraphs that have effective thesis statements, effective paragraphing in the body of the essay, and all body paragraphs have clear and effective topic sentences to begin them). [17 pts]
- Essay makes inconsistent use of organization (including intro and conclusion paragraphs that have effective thesis statements, effective paragraphing in the body of the essay, and all body paragraphs have clear and effective topic sentences to begin them). [15 pts]
- Essay largely makes ineffective use of organization (including intro and conclusion paragraphs that have effective thesis statements, effective paragraphing in the body of the essay, and all body paragraphs have clear and effective topic sentences to begin them). [13 pts]
- Essay is alarmingly problematic in terms of organization. [10 pts]

Essay Support (40 points total):

Spt: _____

- All body paragraphs are thoroughly supported and explained with clear and precise textual evidence (including quotes, paraphrase and summary as appropriate). Essay clearly, effectively, and thoroughly answers the prompt. [40 pts]
- Body paragraphs are generally well supported and explained with clear and precise textual evidence (including quotes, paraphrase and summary as appropriate). Essay clearly and effectively answers prompt. [34 pts]
- Body paragraphs are occasionally well supported and explained with clear and precise textual evidence (including quotes, paraphrase and summary as appropriate). Essay largely begins to answer prompt. [30 pts]
- Body paragraphs largely lack sufficient textual evidence (quotes, paraphrase and summary as appropriate). Essay incompletely answers the prompt. [26 pts]
- Body paragraphs are mostly off-topic and the essay does not answer the prompt. [20 pts]

Other (10 pts):

Oth: _____

- All textual citations are correctly handled, essay is generally grammatically clean (only occasional issues with spelling, sentence structure, etc.), avoids first person, and formatting is good (double-spaced, margins, indents all acceptable, etc.) [10 pts]
- Most textual citations are correctly handled, essay has some frequent concerns with spelling and/or sentence structure, etc.), mostly avoids first person, and formatting has minor issues (not double-spaced, or indent or minor margin issues) [8 pts]
- Few textual citations are correctly handled, and/or essay is problematic concerns with spelling and/or sentence structure, etc., heavy use of first person, and/or essay has major formatting concerns. [6 pts]

Ttl: _____/70