

The Turn of the Screw

Henry James

What does the governess actually know after seeing the man on the tower, and what has she already begun to infer?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The man on the tower
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION III

START the man who met my eyes was not the person I had precipitately supposed. END a person of whom I was in ignorance.

PASSAGE ID	sec-tots-01
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THE MOVE

Separate certainty of perception from certainty of explanation

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The governess sees a man on the tower and can confidently report where he is, how he looks, and that he is not someone she knows. The moment becomes ambiguous when description begins turning into assumptions about identity and intention.

MARK

Put FACT beside details the governess can directly see. Put INFERENCE beside claims about who the man is, why he is there, or what the sighting means. Star the strongest fact that still fails to settle the explanation.

NOTICE

- What does the governess know with high confidence after the sighting?
- What questions remain unanswered even after careful description?

- How quickly does interpretation begin filling the gaps left by perception?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does the governess actually know after seeing the man on the tower, and what has she already begun to infer? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does the governess actually know after seeing the man on the tower, and what has she already begun to infer? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The governess knows she saw an unknown man in a specific place and can describe his appearance. She does not yet know who he is, why he is there, whether he is supernatural, or what he wants; those are already beginning to enter as inference.
EVIDENCE	Separate visible details from conclusions about identity, intention, threat, or supernatural meaning.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat a vivid perception as proof of its explanation. The lesson distinguishes certainty that something was seen from certainty about what it was.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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What does the governess actually know after seeing the man on the tower, and what has she already begun to infer?

START ANCHOR	the man who met my eyes was not the person I had precipitately supposed.
END ANCHOR	a person of whom I was in ignorance.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Put FACT beside details the governess can directly see. Put INFERENCE beside claims about who the man is, why he is there, or what the sighting means. Star the strongest fact that still fails to settle the explanation.
2. NOTICE - What does the governess know with high confidence after the sighting? What questions remain unanswered even after careful description? How quickly does interpretation begin filling the gaps left by perception?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does the governess actually know after seeing the man on the tower, and what has she already begun to infer?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.