

The Turn of the Screw

Henry James

What does calling herself a 'screen' reveal about the role the governess has begun to assign herself?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The governess becomes a screen
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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 VI

START I was there to protect and defend the little creatures in the world the most bereaved and the most lovable END Proofs, I say, yes—from the moment I really took hold.

PASSAGE ID	sec-tots-03
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THE MOVE

Read a protective metaphor for signs of self-dramatization

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The governess describes herself as a 'screen' standing between the children and danger. The metaphor casts her as protector, but it also reveals how central and heroic she has begun to make her own role in the story.

MARK

Circle the screen or protection imagery. Underline the phrases that position the children as especially helpless and the governess as uniquely necessary. Star the sentence where protection begins to sound like self-dramatization.

NOTICE

- What does a screen do for the people behind it?
- What assumptions about the children's helplessness are built into the metaphor?

- How can a sincere desire to protect also enlarge the protector's sense of importance?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does calling herself a 'screen' reveal about the role the governess has begun to assign herself? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does calling herself a 'screen' reveal about the role the governess has begun to assign herself? 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	Calling herself a screen casts the governess as the necessary protector standing between innocent children and danger. The metaphor reveals care, but also a growing heroic self-conception in which the story requires her central role.
EVIDENCE	Use the screen/protection language, claims of the children's vulnerability, and any self-congratulatory or heightened language about her own courage.
WATCH FOR	Do not decide that protection is insincere. The passage can show genuine care and self-dramatization at the same time.
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 calling herself a 'screen' reveal about the role the governess has begun to assign herself?

START ANCHOR	I was there to protect and defend the little creatures in the world the most bereaved and the most lovable
END ANCHOR	Proofs, I say, yes—from the moment I really took hold.

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.

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 - Circle the screen or protection imagery. Underline the phrases that position the children as especially helpless and the governess as uniquely necessary. Star the sentence where protection begins to sound like self-dramatization.
2. NOTICE - What does a screen do for the people behind it? What assumptions about the children's helplessness are built into the metaphor? How can a sincere desire to protect also enlarge the protector's sense of importance?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does calling herself a 'screen' reveal about the role the governess has begun to assign herself?
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.