

The Turn of the Screw

Henry James

Which details in the final exchange support the governess's interpretation, and which keep another interpretation possible?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Miles names Quint and dies
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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 XXIV

START “Peter Quint—you devil!” END his little heart, dispossessed, had stopped.

PASSAGE ID	sec-tots-04
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THE MOVE

Hold two interpretations open at the ending

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Miles names Peter Quint, which strongly supports the governess’s interpretation, but the final scene also contains panic, pressure, uncertain perception, and a death whose immediate cause is not explained. The ending supplies confirmation and ambiguity at once.

MARK

Create two columns: SUPPORTS GOVERNESSS and KEEPS DOUBT OPEN. Place each final detail in one or both columns. Star any detail whose meaning changes depending on which interpretation you already favor.

NOTICE

- What does Miles’s naming of Quint genuinely establish?
- What does it fail to explain about the final moments?

- Why is an ending more ambiguous when evidence supports one interpretation without eliminating the other?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Which details in the final exchange support the governess's interpretation, and which keep another interpretation possible? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Which details in the final exchange support the governess's interpretation, and which keep another interpretation possible? 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	Miles naming Quint strongly supports the governess, but panic, pressure, uncertain perception, Miles's own responses, and the unexplained death leave room for a psychological reading. The ending adds evidence without closing interpretation.
EVIDENCE	Put details into two groups: those supporting the governess's supernatural account and those that remain compatible with another explanation.
WATCH FOR	Do not treat Miles saying 'Peter Quint' as proof of every claim the governess has made. Ask exactly what that fact establishes.
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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END ANCHOR	his little heart, dispossessed, had stopped.

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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 - Create two columns: SUPPORTS GOVERNESSSS and KEEPS DOUBT OPEN. Place each final detail in one or both columns. Star any detail whose meaning changes depending on which interpretation you already favor.
2. NOTICE - What does Miles’s naming of Quint genuinely establish? What does it fail to explain about the final moments? Why is an ending more ambiguous when evidence supports one interpretation without eliminating the other?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Which details in the final exchange support the governess's interpretation, and which keep another interpretation possible?
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.