

The Portrait of a Lady

Henry James

What changes when Isabel can name her husband's opposition to Ralph as opposition to her freedom of mind?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Osmond wants no freedom of mind
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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	Volume II · Chapter XLV
START	He wished her to have no freedom of mind, and he knew perfectly well that Ralph was an apostle of freedom.
END	he was her appointed and inscribed master; she gazed at moments with a sort of incredulous blankness at this fact.
PASSAGE ID	sec-pol-03

THE MOVE

Let narration name the structure a character has been living inside

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Isabel has experienced Osmond's hostility toward Ralph as a series of personal conflicts. Naming it as opposition to her 'freedom of mind' reveals a structure: the real issue is control over what she may think and value independently.

MARK

Underline the specific conflict involving Ralph. Circle the sentence that reframes it as a question of Isabel's freedom of mind. Star the metaphor of Osmond as her appointed master.

NOTICE

- What did Isabel previously treat as separate disagreements?
- What larger pattern becomes visible once she names freedom of mind as the issue?
- How can naming a structure change a person's understanding even before it changes the situation?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What changes when Isabel can name her husband's opposition to Ralph as opposition to her freedom of mind? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What changes when Isabel can name her husband's opposition to Ralph as opposition to her freedom of mind? 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	Naming the conflict as opposition to her 'freedom of mind' turns a series of personal disagreements into a recognizable structure of control. Isabel can finally see that Osmond's hostility to Ralph is partly hostility to her independent judgment.
EVIDENCE	Use the Ralph conflict, the phrase 'freedom of mind,' and any language of mastery or imposed authority.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the naming itself frees Isabel. The change is interpretive clarity about the structure she has been living inside.
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.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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What changes when Isabel can name her husband's opposition to Ralph as opposition to her freedom of mind?

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END ANCHOR	he was her appointed and inscribed master; she gazed at moments with a sort of incredulous blankness at this fact.

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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** - Underline the specific conflict involving Ralph. Circle the sentence that reframes it as a question of Isabel's freedom of mind. Star the metaphor of Osmond as her appointed master.
2. **NOTICE** - What did Isabel previously treat as separate disagreements? What larger pattern becomes visible once she names freedom of mind as the issue? How can naming a structure change a person's understanding even before it changes the situation?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What changes when Isabel can name her husband's opposition to Ralph as opposition to her freedom of mind?
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.