

The Story of an Hour

Kate Chopin

How does Chopin make Louise Mallard's private response overturn the response everyone around her expects?

TOTAL TIME	TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION
30 minutes	Opening through Louise Mallard alone in her room

TEACHER SETUP

Open the work in the Enhanced Reader and cue the span using the START and END anchors below.

START	Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death.
END	Free! Body and soul free! she kept whispering.
PASSAGE ID	sec-hour-01

THE MOVE

Track the difference between public assumptions and a character's private realization

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Everyone treats Louise as fragile and assumes grief will define her. Alone, however, sensory details of spring and the repeated word “free” reveal a response no one else has imagined. The private scene therefore exposes how little the other characters understand her inner life.

MARK

Underline what the other characters assume about Louise. Circle sensory details she notices from the window. Box the repeated word that names her realization.

NOTICE

- Why do Josephine and Richards handle the news so carefully?
- What is surprising about the world Louise notices outside?

- How does the repeated word “free” revise the meaning of her initial grief?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How does Chopin make Louise Mallard’s private response overturn the response everyone around her expects? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response. 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 say why.

STRONG ANSWER

The people around Louise expect her to be defined by shock and grief, but her private response becomes an awakening to personal freedom. The spring imagery and repeated “free” reveal a self that her family’s protective assumptions have not recognized.

EVIDENCE

Use one public assumption about Louise and one private detail from the room scene.

WATCH FOR

Do not claim that Louise feels no grief. The passage is powerful because grief and liberation coexist, complicating the response others expect.

SOLO

Read independently.

SUPPORTED

Narration + highlighting.

LISTENING

Listen; same evidence task.

STUDENT PAGE • GRADE 11 • LESSON 308

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WORK	The Story of an Hour
TUMBLETA PASSAGE LOCATION	Opening through Louise Mallard alone in her room
PASSAGE ID	sec-hour-01

Your teacher will open or cue the work in the Enhanced Reader. Use the location and verbatim anchors below to confirm the assigned span.

START

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death.

END

Free! Body and soul free! she kept whispering.

READ / LISTEN TO THE ASSIGNED PASSAGE SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration and highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the assigned passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** Underline what the other characters assume about Louise. Circle sensory details she notices from the window. Box the repeated word that names her realization.
2. **NOTICE** Why do Josephine and Richards handle the news so carefully? What is surprising about the world Louise notices outside? How does the repeated word “free” revise the meaning of her initial grief?
3. **THINK** Answer provisionally: How does Chopin make Louise Mallard's private response overturn the response everyone around her expects?
4. **WRITE** Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.
5. **CLOSE** Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and say why.