

“The Yellow Wallpaper” Dramatic Presentations Assignment
For English Comp 102 ALP

You will work in groups for this dramatic presentation assignment, which means you must work together to 1) analyze “The Yellow Wallpaper,” 2) write a script, 3) write an accompanying essay, 4) plan the staging of the presentation, and 5) perform your dramatic reading.

1. First, as a group you must discuss and agree upon a particular interpretation or angle on the story that you would like to present. For instance, you may have an interesting take on the husband/wife relationship in the story, or on the narrator as a mother, or on the woman in the wallpaper as the narrator’s double. Your focus and angle of analysis is up to you, as a group, to decide. But you must decide that first, so that you may reread the story together for insights into your focus and begin planning how to *present* the story in such a way that your focus is highlighted.

2. Once you have found a focus, think back to our class work on the elements of the story (setting, characterization, plot & structure, narrator & point of view, conflict, climax, and theme). You will not be able to exactly duplicate each of these elements in your dramatic presentation, so consider how you want to handle each element. Which elements of the story would showcase your analysis? Which characters do you need? Which parts of the text? Are there pieces you need to add? Perhaps a narrator, or voice over reader. Or maybe you would like to present the story with dialogue: Who will speak? And what will they say? Imagine three or four scenes or moments that you will present, and work together to draft a script.

3. Determine your staging of the presentation. Where will the actors be in each scene: will they be moving or stationary, and what will they be doing? What props and audio-visual materials, if any, do you need? You may use anything in the room, including the computer, projector, and whiteboard, and you may rearrange any easily movable furniture. Plus you may bring in anything from home that you like.

4. Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse! Prepare to present your dramatic reading to the class on the designated day. You must also submit your accompanying essay and script that day.

Accompanying Essay & Script

As a group, please draft a two-page paper that explains your group’s analysis of the story. Be sure to discuss:

- what elements or questions you focused on
- what your “reading” or interpretation of the story is
- why you chose to have the characters that you included
- how / why you decided how to approach the script (for instance, using dialogue that your group wrote vs. pulling passages from the story for the narrator to read aloud, and so on)
- why you included the props and staging that you chose

Your presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long, followed by a discussion of the information in your accompanying essay. ALL members of your group must participate in the dramatic presentation itself.