

Here is an excellent prewriting to look over. You do not need to do a partial rough draft as Danielle does at the end, but it does give a good idea of the intro and key words leading to the thesis, the gradual paragraph development, and quoting technique. I will look at your full drafts the following week.

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English 1302

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Driven to Insanity in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Topic:

How the Husband's ignorance/lack of knowledge leads to his wife Jane's insanity.

Thesis:

Charlotte Perkins Gilman's character John portrays ignorance of the intensity of his wife Jane's illness by treating her like a child, isolating her from civilization and everything important to her, and repetitively telling her that rest is good.

Brainstorming:

How John eventually drives his wife insane:

- Isolates her from everything for 3 months
- Took her baby away after birth
- Puts her in a room with bars on the windows
- The bed is bolted down to the floor
- There is a gate at the top of the stairs
- Doesn't let her write
- Tells her no visitors allowed nor will he let her go to her Cousin Henry and Julia's house for a week.
- Does not believe that she is sick or that something is wrong with her
- Keeps telling her that rest will help her
- Had his sister come in to do all the work around the house
- Only has her do limited activities
- He doesn't make the repairs around the rental home like she has asked. Such as paint the yellow wallpaper that pushes her over the edge
- He won't talk to her about her illness that she has. He changes the topic or tells her to go take a nap
- He ultimately treats her like a child
- He leaves her alone during the day and most nights

Possible Quotes:

- “John is a physician, and perhaps-(I would not say it to a living soul, of course, but this is dead paper and a great relief to my mind-) perhaps that is one reason I do not get well faster” (667).
- “You see he does not believe I am sick!”(667).
- “It is quite alone, standing well back from the road, quite three miles from the village” (668).
- “Hardly lets me stir without special direction” (668).
- “For the windows are barred” (668).
- “There comes John, and I must put this away,-he hates to have me write a word” (669).
- “John is away all day, and even some nights...” (669).
- “John does not know how much I really suffer” (669).
- “It is so fortunate Mary is so good with the baby. Such a dear baby! And yet I cannot be with him, it makes me so nervous” (669).
- “He laughs at me so about this wallpaper! At first he meant to repaper the room, but afterwards he said that I was letting it get the better of me, and that nothing was worse for a nervous patient than to give way to such fancies. He said that after the wallpaper was changed it would be the heavy bedstead, and then the barred windows, and then the gate at the head of the stairs, and so on.”(669).
- “You know the place is doing you good’ he said, ‘and really, dear, I don’t care to renovate the house just for three month’s rental” (669).
- “I think sometimes that if I were only well enough to write a little it would relieve the press of ideas and rest me” (670).
- “Of course I didn’t do a thing. Jennie sees to everything now” (671).
- “And I am alone a good deal just now. John is kept in town very often by serious cases” (611).
- “I lie here on this great immovable bed- it’s nailed down” (671).
- “I tried to have a real earnest reasonable talk with him the other day, and tell him how I wish he would let me go and make a visit to Cousin Henry and Julia. But he said I wasn’t able to go, nor able to stand it after I got there...” (672).
- “I wonder -I begin to think -I wish John would take me away from here!”(672).
- “What is it little girl?’ he said” (673).
- “I thought it was a good time to talk, so I told him that I really was not gaining here, and that I wished he would take me away. ‘Why, darling!’ he said, ‘our lease will be up in three weeks, and I can’t see how to leave before. ‘The repairs are not done at home, and I cannot possibly leave town just now. Of course if you were in any danger, I could and would, but you really are better, dear, whether you see it or not. I am a doctor, dear, and I know’” (673).

Driven to Insanity in "The Yellow Wallpaper"

During the Victorian Era, insanity was treated with lots of rest and isolation from society: it turns out that rest and isolation was the worst thing for the patients. It ends up driving them more off the edge than if they were interacting with people. Charlotte Perkins Gilman's character John portrays ignorance to the intensity of his wife Jane's illness by treating her like a child, isolating her from civilization and everything important to her, and repetitively telling her that rest is good.

John treats Jane as if she is a child. He puts his wife in the nursery of the summer home they are renting. When Jane describes the room she states that, "the [re] [are] barred windows, and then the gate at the head of the stairs, and so on" (Gilman 669). Jane is put in a room with barred windows, which eventually make a person feel like a prisoner. She also says that, "I lie here on this great immovable bed- it's nailed down" (Gilman 671). So not only are the windows barred, but also there is a gate at the end of the stairs, and her bed is nailed down to floor. This house is almost like a prison instead of vacation home for **this** woman.

John isolates Jane from civilization and her new born child. Jane says that the house is "quite alone, standing well back from the road, quite three miles from the village" (Gilman 668). **The house is 3 miles away from the nearest village. John does not even let her have company over.** The only time that he really lets her have company is on the 4th of July. John has his sister and a nanny come in and do everything. While Jane writes in her journal, she mentions, "It is so fortunate Mary is so good with the

baby. Such a dear baby! And yet I cannot be with him, it makes me so nervous” (Gilman 669).