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Analyzing Point of View Connection

“The Yellow Wallpaper” and “The Chrysanthemums” are short stories that have similar points of view. Both of the authors, Charlotte Perkins and John Steinbeck have a unique ability to explore and probe into the complexities of women's consciousness. “The Chrysanthemums” is written in the third person, but the entire narration is presented in almost entirely Elisa Allen's point of view. In “TheYellow Wallpaper” the point of view Perkins uses is first-person subjective. The two stories allow us to get an insight into the thought processes and consciousness of the main characters. The points of view of both main characters show a connection, specifically in their perceptions of how they are treated by both men and society.

Through the main characters' point of view, the reader sees their perception, feelings,

and thoughts of life, which seem to be at odds with the other characters. The protagonist and narrator of the stories believe that they are being oppressed. Both believe that they have been placed in a specific role by the men in their lives as well as the society they live in without consideration of their abilities or desires. In “The Yellow Wallpaper” the narrator gets a child and falls into a temporary nervous depression. The narrator's husband, a physician, recommends a treatment of rest and isolation. We can see that she hates it, but she can do nothing about it at first. She feels that the yellow wallpaper in the room she is in is the worst she has ever seen. She describes its patterns as the worst artistic pattern that is dull enough to confuse the eyes. She feels uncomfortable and stuck in this creepy house. Her hateful description of the many aspects of the room can be thought of as a reflection of what she is uncomfortable with in her life. Elisa's point of view regarding her situation indicates that she also feels stuck in her home and marriage. She enjoys tending to the chrysanthemum flowers, but she aspires to work on the ranch with her husband. It is evident from how she stares at her husband and the two men dressed in business suits. When she inquires about the deal her husband was discussing with the men it is an indication of her interest in the ranch's activities and not only the garden.

The points of view of both main characters also show that they believe that they

are more capable than men and society think they are. Elisa Allen tells the man on the

wagon that he might soon have a rival because she too could sharpen scissors. We can see

that she believes she can perform the tasks supposed to be done by men. Elisa also wears a

man's black hat pulled over her eyes as she cuts the chrysanthemum stems. “The Yellow Wallpaper’s” narrator wishes she could be doing much more than just dress, entertain, and order things all day. Stating that she knows a little regarding design principles indicates that she believes she is knowledgeable and intelligent. These examples of the characters points of view demonstrate how they are both capable of doing a lot more than they are allowed to do.

In conclusion, “The Chrysanthemums” is written in the third person, but the entire

narration is presented in almost entirely Elisa's point of view. “The Yellow Wallpaper” point of

view is first-person subjective. Through the main characters' points of view, the reader sees how they perceive their lives. The main characters believe that they are being oppressed and they

should not be in the place they have been placed. It also indicates that they think they are

more capable than the men and society think they are.

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