**“SIFT” THROUGH THE SHORT STORY**

**Gifted English I Assignment**

For our first remote learning assignment, read “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and use the AP strategy **SIFT** to analyze for literary elements. While reading your introduction posts, I noticed that most of you enjoy reading mystery and horror stories. This realistic fiction short story is a good combination of both!

Written just before the time of the feminist movement, this is a tale of warning. A popular neurologist during the late nineteenth century, Silas Weir Mitchell, created the controversial “rest cure” for nervous women. This “cure” consisted of constant feeding of fatty milk by a nurse - forced if necessary, bathing and dressing by a nurse, and constant bed rest. The patient could not do anything remotely creative - no drawing, sewing, writing, reading, etc. Lastly, you’ll be familiar with this requirement, the patient was in quarantine, isolated from friends and family. In all, the patient becomes an infant and loses all independence. This short story reveals the consequences of this “cure,” and at the time, was so frightening, it almost was not published at all! Lucky for us, it was, and we catch a glimpse of the consequences of prolonged inactivity of the human mind - so let’s keep your mind active during these next few weeks!

**SIFT** is an AP strategy designed to help a reader explore how a writer uses literary elements and stylistic techniques to convey meaning and/or theme.

**SIFT** stands for:

**S** – **symbol** – examine the title and text for symbolism (a symbol is any object, person, place, or action that has both a meaning in itself and that stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, attitude, belief, or value – example: a dove in a story isn’t just a bird, it often symbolizes peace)

**I** – **images** – identify images and sensory details (how does something look, feel, taste, smell, sound? Why is this important?)

**F** – **figures of speech** – analyze figurative language and other devices (examples: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, oxymoron, paradox, pun, etc.)

**T** – **tone AND theme** – discuss how all devices reveal tone and theme (tone – writer’s/speaker’s attitude toward a subject, character, or audience; conveyed through author’s diction and details – theme – central message of a literary work; usually expressed as a statement. Ex: Power is hard to control.)

**Your assignment:**

**SIFT** through “The Yellow Wallpaper,” and as you read, use the SIFT document to record your findings. Download the SIFT Document as a Microsoft Word Document and enable editing - pops up as an option when you open the document. Type your answers next to each section, and then upload your final work. Remember, since this is our first remote learning assignment, I want to ultimately keep your mind active. Therefore, just focus on jotting down your honest thoughts/opinions/findings. Use the Figurative Language Chart on the next page as a guide for identifying and using figurative language. And as always, let me know if you have any questions!

**Figurative Language**

Here is a guide for identifying and using figurative language.

**Simile** (SIH-muh-lee): a comparison between two or more things using the words *like* or *as*. Example: ***"I move fast like a cheetah on the Serengeti."***

**Metaphor** (MET-uh-for): a comparison between two or more things that doesn't use the words *like* or *as*. ***Example: "You are an ant, while I'm the lion."***

**Alliteration** (uh-LIT-er-AY-shuhn): a phrase with a string of words all beginning with the same sound. ***Example: "Five freaky females finding sales at retail."***

**Hyperbole** (hie-PER-buh-lee): an exaggeration. ***Example: "I fought a million rappers in an afternoon in June."***

**Personification**, (per-son-if-ih-KAY-shon): giving an animal or object human-like characteristics. ***Example: "Alright, the sky misses the sun at night."***

**Paradox** (PARE-uh-docks): a statement that seems untrue, that seems to contradict itself. ***Example: "The poorest man is the richest, and the rich are poor."***

**Symbol** (SIM-bull): something that stands for something else (often something more abstract). ***Example: In Tupac Shakur's song, "*Me and My Girlfriend*," the "girlfriend" referenced is actually his gun.***

**Assonance** (ASS-uh-nince): the repetition of vowel sounds to create internal rhyme. **Example: *"Hear the m****e****llow w****e****dding b****e****lls." - Edgar Allen Poe"***

**Onomatopoeia** (ON-uh-maht-uh-PEE-uh): a word that imitates the sound it is describing. ***Example: "Out of reach, I pull out with a*** *screech****."***

**Imagery** (IM-aj-ree): a very general term that encompasses nearly any description of something that conjures an image, sound, taste, smell or feeling to mind. In other words, a literal or concrete representation of a sensory experience or of an object that can be known by one or more senses. ***Example: "Of restless nights in one-night cheap hotels / And sawdust restaurants with oyster-shells" - T.S. Eliot***

**Metonymy** (met-TON-im-ee): a figure of speech that replaces the literal thing with a more vivid, but closely related thing or idea. ***Example: Instead of saying "give me your attention," you could say "give me your ear."***

**Understatement** (UHN-der-stayt-ment): the opposite of hyperbole, an understatement makes something that is a big deal seem not very important. It's often used for humor***. Example: "The boat had been ripped apart by the storm and now a dozen hungry sharks began circling the captain. ‘This isn't great,' he told his wife."***