

Your Name

Supervisor Name

Course Name

Due Date

Feminism in “The Yellow Wallpaper”

Feminism is a very sensitive topic and has been for many decades. In fact, feminists and those who advocate for feminine equality have been pushing for a comparable platform for more than a century. The quest for feministic values in comparison to masculinity is such a prevalent concept that the idea is present in both fiction and non-fiction media. This essay will examine the work “The Yellow Wallpaper” and explain how feminism is presented in the text.

The story takes place in a room in a large house where John and his wife live with their newborn child. The significance of the room is that there is a drab and unexciting yellow wallpaper, which covers almost the entire room. Following the birth of her child, the woman begins to exhibit symptoms of what John believes to be hysteria. After examining the text and realizing what the woman is actually experiencing, it becomes clear that her symptoms are more closely related to postpartum depression. The Mayo Clinic states that “postpartum depression isn’t a character flaw or a weakness. Sometimes it’s simply a complication of giving birth.” Unfortunately for the woman, her husband, who is an experienced physician, lacks the knowledge necessary to identify his wife’s illness. As a result, John attempts to treat his wife using supplements, and isolation only worsens her condition.

As time goes on, the woman spends so much time in the room that she begins to experience hysteria in episodes. The woman begins to see a lady in the yellow wallpaper who is trapped and unable to break free. Ryann Tanap of the National Alliance on Mental Illness writes that “psychosis is a symptom and therefore temporary; however, if not treated early, it

may develop into more intense experiences, including hallucinations and delusions.” The feministic irony behind the woman’s situation is that she has the desire to do the things that actually make her happy. However, there is a masculine misdiagnosis that has trapped her, similar to the woman that she sees in the wallpaper.

This is a textbook example of the struggles related to masculine views on feminism. In the story a woman is trapped in her own home while a man’s influence is hindering her ability to get well. As history confirms, the masculine influence has decided the fate of femininity, and “The Yellow Wallpaper” embodies that struggle.

Works Cited

MayoClinic. *PostPartum Depression*. 15 Aug 2019. Website. 15 Aug 2019.

Tanap, Ryann. *National Alliance on Mental Illness*. 20 March 2017. Website. 15 Aug 2019.