

Read the following short story carefully, noting Mrs. Mallard's initial reaction to the news of her husband's death, then her delayed reaction. Discuss the way Chopin develops Mrs. Mallard's character through the use of tone.

Thesis: describe both reactions with tone words

The shift in tone within "The Story of an Hour" illustrates Mrs. Mallard's initial reaction to her husband's death as one of superficial grief and then one of feverish elation. This shift in reaction emphasizes Mrs. Mallard's juvenile characterization.

Jobs:

1. tone - shift
2. initial reaction v. delayed reaction
3. character development

Initial Reaction –superficial grief

- wept at once w/ sudden, wild abandonment - detail
- storm of grief - metaphor
- Josephine tells her in broken sentences and veiled hints - detail
- wouldn't let anyone follow her - detail
- paragraph 7 – sob...as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams - simile
- physical exhaustion that haunted her body - metaphor
- afflicted w/ a heart trouble (great care taken with her) - detail
 - CHARACTER: childish/weak – emotionally and physically – both in the way that people treat her and her own behavior

Shift

- paragraph 9

Delayed reaction – feverish elation

- repeats the word "free" – body and soul
- did not stop to ask "monstrous joy"
- feverish triumph, victory
- pulses beat fast
- saw long procession of years
- clasped her sister's waist
- drinking in the very elixir of life
 - CHARACTER: still childish – adolescent, selfish, excitable, overwhelmed, intoxicated with freedom

