

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.

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Thesis: Chopin uses a tonal shift to highlight Mrs. Mallard's dynamic characterization. Her initial reaction to her husband's death is one of helpless despair, which quickly develops into one of rejuvenated realization.

Jobs:

1. character development (through tone)
2. initial reaction v. delayed reaction to her husband's death
3. identify tone

Initial reaction – helpless despair

- wept at once with sudden, wild abandonment – detail/imagery
- immediately grasps situation - detail
- storm of grief - metaphor
- runs to her room; doesn't allow others to follow her - detail
- heart trouble – news is broken to her gently - detail
- physical exhaustion that haunted her body - metaphor
- sob..as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams - simile
  - CHARACTER: weak, fragile, emotional, easily upset, unstable, childish

Shift – paragraph 9

Delayed reaction –rejuvenated realization

- thing approaching to possess her; tried to beat it back - metaphor
- free, free, free! under breath - repetition
- extend her arms in welcome to the years to come – imagery/personification
- she had loved him, sometimes - detail
- what could love count for in the face of this possession of self-assertion – personification/detail
- monstrous joy - oxymoron
- fancy running riot (days her own) - personification
- pulses beat fast, blood coursing/warming body - imagery
- goddess of victory - allusion
  - CHARACTER: childish, emotional, empowered, independent, passive