

First Year English literature Exam (Semester two)

Name:	Group:
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101

Part One on "Miss Brill" by Katherine Mansfield (Do not write on the margins)

2p

1. The fur in "Miss Brill" is described as: "But the nose, which was of some black composition, wasn't at all firm. It must have had a knock, somehow". What does this line represent in the story?

It represents Miss Brill's own feeling of neglect and aging - it also foreshadows the day she was hit by the truth at the end (as if she received a knock)

2p

2. What is the purpose of the question asked in the third paragraph - "Wasn't the conductor wearing a new coat, too?"

It highlights her habit of observing and that her need for social life compels her to notice small details about random people.

2p

3. Explore the motif of performance and spectatorship in "Miss Brill." How does Mansfield use these motifs to deepen the themes of loneliness and connection?

This reflects her desire for connection and an illusion of being part of a community and doing something important in her society that makes her recognized.

2p

4. What is Miss Brill's nationality and the setting in Katherine Mansfield's short story, and why are they important?

She is English expatriate living in France. The setting is French Park on Sunday afternoon. These are important because they reveal the life of many English expatriates in France who were alienated.

2p

5. How does omitting/removing Miss Brill's first name contribute to her characterization?

It emphasizes her anonymity and the lack of personal connections in her life - it reflects her status as marginal and almost invisible figure in a foreign society.

Part Two on "Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin

10p

2.1 1. Discuss the significance of the title "The Story of an Hour" and its relevance to the protagonist's experience.

The title signifies the ephemerality of freedom. Its relevance → It reveals the protagonist's secret desire for freedom and how much she longs for it unknowingly/unconsciously.

2.2 2. Discuss the theme of freedom in "The Story of an Hour" and how it is explored through Mrs. Mallard's emotions and actions.

The theme of freedom is explored through Mrs. Mallard's initial reaction of grief and subsequent joy at the news of her husband's death. She discovers a new sense of newfound freedom.

2.3 3. What is the significance of the setting in "The Story of an Hour," particularly the contrast between the closed room and the open window.

It highlights Mrs. Mallard's transition from repression to liberation. The closed window symbolises her confinement whereas the window symbolises her desire for freedom.

2.4 4. What do Josephine and Richards represent in "The Story of an Hour"?

They represent the societal norms of patriarchy who exert influence in Mrs. Mallard's life. They control and limit her autonomy.