

Explain why you believe that a character in your favorite assigned reading acted the way he or she did. Make sure you can support your explanation.

Student 1

“The Story of an Hour”

“The Story of an Hour” started out as a story that I thought I would not end up liking. This story is about a wife who finds out that her husband has just been involved in an accident that has killed him. Mrs. Louise Mallard, who already had a weak heart goes to her room and contemplates the rest of her life without her husband and to morn in silence. While in the room she relieves herself of her grief and starts to come to grips of spending the rest of life and doing things for herself without her husband. While she was in deep in thought, she was hastily interrupted by a knock at the door. Concerned that her sister would make herself ill, Louise’s sister asks her to come out. As they were going down stairs the door opens and in walks Mr. Mallard. Mr. Mallard had been far from the scene of the accident and did not even know there had even been an accident. I guess with the sight of her husband and all the other emotions running through her was too much because Mrs. Mallard had a heart attack and died. This story shows that our feelings and emotions have a tremendous effect on how our body works. Mrs. Mallard died from a broken heart. So many emotions from grief, happiness, and anger all weighed heavily on her heart. I personally have experienced deep emotions for something affecting my body in a negative way. This is the reason this story is a favorite of mine. Also I like the irony of this story. You think the story is going to end with a happy ending but it takes a complete 360 and ends a different way.

Student 2

When I first read this story, I absolutely hated it. It made me very sad, but then after I wrote my assignment I went back and began reading the stories again to answer the questions, and I absolutely fell in love with this story! I guess the first time I did not completely understand the true meaning of it, but now I do. I think it was really beautiful, and it shows just how much love someone can have for another person!

Instructor

Student 2, maybe you should read the story one more time. Review the definition of irony. Can you see any there? Consider the connections between Mrs. Mallard’s weak heart, her broken heart, and her death.

Student 2

So she died because she lost her freedom? Or was it because now she felt as if she had nothing else to look forward to in life? That's why I thought she just let go!! I don't know... it was kind of confusing!!!

Instructor

I think it's whatever YOU think it is....it's open for interpretation! That's the fun of it. :0)  
Just make sure that you can find information in the story to back up your thoughts.

Instructor

Student 1, what do you think about her already weak heart? Would we call that depression? Go back and look at that part and tell me what you think...

Student 3

Great post, Student 1. This story was a roller coaster. Sad, then happy and then sad again. I really didn't like the story near as much as the others but I liked how the author did a good job of turning the story around. Poor Mrs. Mallard sure wasn't expecting to see her husband anytime soon was she????

Student 4

Great post! I do agree that she died of the realization that her new found freedom was suddenly gone. I think those moments of elation she experienced when she had come to terms with knowing that she finally free of her husband, was too much to give up once she realized that he was actually alive. It was as if she wasn't willing to go back to her old life she had once loathed. In a way, it seemed like the only way she could only get her freedom back was in death.