**Student example of a literary analysis**

**{A}** To be in conflict with traditional society’s beliefs is difficult for many to do; however, author Kate Chopin fights that battle to bring readers some of the most thought provoking literature that a person can get their hands on. Using to her advantage conventions of narrative stories such as character development, plot control, and irony, she is able to bring the reader into a world of emotions that society would scoff at.  **{D,E}…Missing main characters and short summary of the novel…{B, C, F combined}**Kate Chopin demonstrates her incredible literary talent in “The Story of an Hour” (this is a short story…YOU should **italicize the title of the novel** you are working with) by interconnecting the plot and character development, with her use of thought-provoking vocabulary and narrative irony.

**Thesis**

**Hook**

**{A}**Chopin does a great job at integrating plot. **{B}**The plot of a story is “the sequence of events in a story and their relation to one another as they develop and usually resolve a conflict” (Charters2 1003).  Within the plot of narrative stories there is an exposition, rise to action, climax, and a fall from action.  **{C}**The plot itself is taking place primarily in the mind of Mrs. Mallard, which makes imperative that the reader understands her personality and where thoughts are derived from. First Mrs. Mallard is described as having heart trouble, and being a tender woman (Chopin 157). This is important to the plot because it explains why her sister took great care to break the news to her**.{D}** She is also described as being “young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength” (Chopin 157). **{E}**This is a key piece of information in understanding why she grieves only momentarily. According to *Webster’s Dictionary* repression means: “to prevent the natural or normal expression, activity or development of; a process by which unacceptable desires or impulses are excluded from consciousness and left to operate in the unconscious” (Webster 527). Mrs. Mallard’s marriage did not allow her to express herself through any venue of release with the exception of her unconscious. She was never allowed to be ‘normal’ with her emotions or, to show or use her true strength, but instead had to suppress them. **{C}**One can also see that in the plot, Mrs. Mallard resists the liberation she feels at first because of her characteristic trait of being weak, and is unable or powerless to resist them (Chopin 157).  As the feeling of freedom sets in her mind she begins to describe herself as a “goddess of Victory” (Chopin 158).  **{D}**A goddess is a “female of exceptional charm beauty, or grace” (Webster 294). **{E}**Mrs. Mallard began, for the first time in her marriage, to feel beautiful and charming in light of her victory over the battle of wills that she had been oppressed by. In the story she gets her first chance to show off her new found strength and beauty when she lets her sister in to see the “triumph in her eyes” (Chopin 158).  **{C}**The plot is not only evident in the case of main character, but is also found briefly in the case if Mr. Mallard. **{D}** Chopin writes “There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime…” (Chopin 158). **{E}**This is the only glimpse that the reader gets into Bentley Mallard’s character; however there is much revealed through this passage. He was controlling, forcing his will on her. He was powerful (in contrast to her being powerless) and blind to the fact that he was hurting his wife. **{F}**The other minor characters are left to the imagination of the reader because they do not play major roles within the plot.

{B} It took many years after this story was written for its popularity to grow into what it is today. In “The Story of an Hour” Kate Chopin interconnects the plot, characters, irony, and narrative eloquence to produce a literary product that is arguably priceless in our society today. **{C}**Fred Lewis Patte says in “A History of American Literature” that since 1870 the strength of Chopin’s work come from “what may be described as a native aptitude for narration amounting almost to genius” (Hicks).  Readers of the future look forward to see if her ‘genius’ in this work will stand the test of time.

**Works Cited (this should be on a page of its own) – visit easybib.com**

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