

Name: _____

Three Stories of an Hour

This film consists of three short versions of Kate Chopin's "Story of an Hour." They all update the story to the 1980s and take some creative liberties in order to better develop the characters. After you watch the film, answer the following questions, which will help guide your analysis.

Version One – Story of an Hour

How is Louise (the character in bed) characterized? What does her personality seem like?

Explain the significance of her assessment of their relationship: she loved him, and he needed her.

As best you can, estimate what she feels when she sees her husband coming through the door. Why does she feel that way?

Version Two – Husband's Story

Listen to the husband's story about driving and the gray squirrel. How do this story, as well as the fact that he's holding and drinking hard liquor, characterize the husband?

What parallels can you find between the way he views the squirrel, and the way he views his wife?

What evidence is there that the marriage is strained?

According to this version, what are faults of the wife, and what are the faults of the husband?

Version Three – Story of an Hour

Louise is played by the same actress as in the first version, but what is different about her here?

Louise sees two apparitions of married couples, representing her own marriage. What occurs differently from the first to the second apparition?

What does this difference reveal about how she felt, or wanted to feel, in her marriage?

The ending of this version has changed, and Louise appears more empowered. What is different between the original ending and this ending, and why does this make Louise seem a stronger character?