## CIVIL WAR

DAY I

#### WARM-UP - 11/12/19

- What do you consider to be your home?
  - Is it Papillion or Omaha?
  - Is it somewhere else?
  - Are you still looking for it?

#### END OF TRANSCENDENTALISM

- Civil War = people can do terrible things to each other
  - What does this show about human nature and experience?
- Expansion West = nature can be harsh and scary
  - With a spread-out population, what does this mean for the unity of America?

#### A LITTLE BACKGROUND

- How do we understand it?
  - <a href="http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history">http://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/american-civil-war-history</a>
- Was it really so bad?
  - <a href="http://www.civilwar.org/education/civil-war-casualties.html">http://www.civilwar.org/education/civil-war-casualties.html</a>

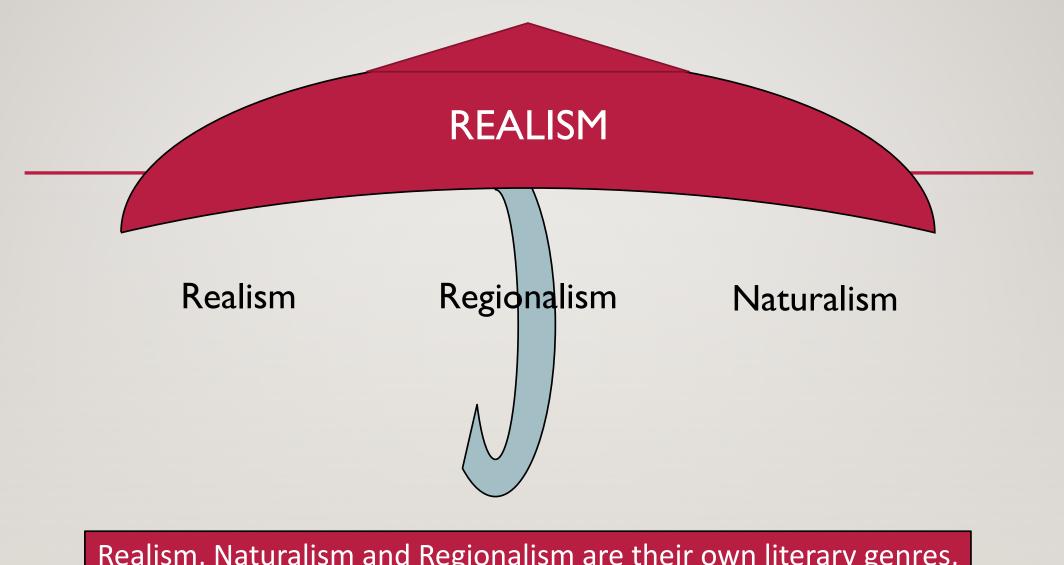
#### NO LONGER INTRINSICALLY GOOD

- The United States was absolutely traumatized by the Civil War
  - Men watched brothers and neighbors die
  - Women assisted in blood-stained hospitals
  - Parents waited for children who never came home
- Yet again Americans questioned their identity as a country
  - Were they truly united?
  - What would they find in the unknown territories?
  - How could they handle the harsh realities of life?

## WHAT COMES NEXT?

## REALISM (1860-1890)

- A Literary Technique
- "Faithful representation of reality"
- Realists focus on the here and now, the provable, the immediate action, and the consequences of said actions



Realism, Naturalism and Regionalism are their own literary genres, but they share characteristics of realism.

#### CHARACTERISTICS

- Stories are usually plausible
  - Feels like they could happen
- Verisimilitude: the appearance of being true or real
- Aim for objectivity
  - Present life in honest way WHILE ALSO making a criticism about society

#### MORE CHARACTERISTICS

- Characters are more important than action or plot
  - Face complex ethical choices
- Social Class: focus on the lives and ambitions of rising middle-class
- Dialogue is Natural Vernacular
  - Language is how people talk in their everyday lives
  - Why there are 6 dialects in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

## **REGIONALISM**

#### **REGIONALISM**

- Type of Realism focused on a specific place
- In literature:
  - Desire to express what made a region unique
  - Way to portray shared characteristics or values

#### WRITING TECHNIQUES

- Use of dialect
  - Characters sound like they're from that place
- Use of highly detailed description
  - Paints a true picture of the region
- (Sometimes) use of **frame story** = story within a story
  - Narrator hears a tale or is passing on a tale he heard from others

#### PLAN AHEAD

- Tomorrow = Northeast Regionalism
- Thursday = Discuss "Yellow Wallpaper"

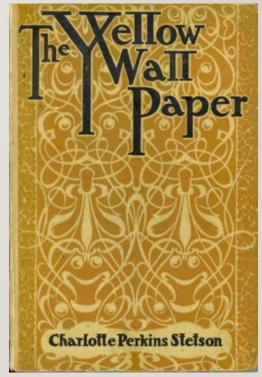
TO THE LIBRARY! Ask for "Yellow Wallpaper" for Ms. Kenyon

#### "THE YELLOW WALLPAPER"

- Author: Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Published: 1892
- Style: Gothic & Northeast Regional

Online version:
 https://csivc.csi.cuny.edu/history/files/lavende
 r/wallpaper.html





#### "THE YELLOW WALLPAPER"

- Reading & notes due Thursday Nov 14
  - Woman who's just had a baby in a newly-rented house while her husband works.
- Look for while you read:
  - Psychology What is going on with the narrator?
  - Relationships between narrator & others
  - The room details, especially the Wallpaper

# NORTHEAST REGIONALISM

DAY 2

#### WARM-UP 11/13/19

- Word: Domesticity
- Meaning: Of the home
- Write: What do you associate with an ideal home life? What are people's roles inside the home? How is it maintained?

#### LET'S BRAINSTORM

- Stereotypes aren't problematic because they're totally wrong, but because they're incomplete. They may have elements of truth.
- So let's think about:
  - If you applied for a job in New York City, and they read your background on your resume, what might they assume about you?
  - What do you think of when you think of the east coast?
  - What about the south?

#### BASICALLY

- Instead of exploring ideal thoughts and the goodness of life...
- Realism writers began digging into the harsh realities of the world
  - Characteristics of different regions
  - Man vs. Wild in unknown territories
  - The tedium and toil of everyday living

#### **REGIONALISM**

- Characteristics MAY BE shared, but they don't have to be
  - We're speaking generally, not absolute truths for every person
- Both positive and negative traits and assumptions in every region
  - One isn't better or worse
- Think about what makes a certain place or type of experience unique

#### NORTHEAST REGIONALISM

- Historic influences
  - Puritan, colonial, Gothic, Transcendental
- Frustrated Artist
  - Desire to express themselves, but limited by social circumstances
- Traditional roles of women
  - Focus on maintaining a socially respectable home.

#### NORTHEAST REGIONALISM

- Middle class = husband worked in a white-collar profession
  - Public Sphere = Men went off to their jobs
  - Private Sphere = Women stayed at home
- Nuclear families = backbone of society

# CULT OF DOMESTICITY (1830 – 1900)

- Value of women comes from ability to marry, have children, and maintain a good home
  - Must protect marriageability, by avoiding even a hint of scandal
  - (\*cough\* \*cough\* Puritans & public image)
- Little legal power
  - Can't file for divorce, own property, or run a business

#### 4 IDEALS OF WOMANHOOD

Write this down!

#### I. Piety

a. Teach religion/morality to children

#### 2. Purity

a. Must guard her "treasure" until marriage

#### 3. Submissiveness

- a. Give in to fate, to duty, to God, and to men
- b. Restricted by their clothing: tight corsets and heavy garments

#### 4. Domesticity

a. Housework, needlework, crafts, and other peaceful occupations

### **CORSETS & FASHION**



# "THEYELLOW WALLPAPER"

#### TAKE THIS TIME TO WORK

- If you've read some, think back on (& add to your notes):
  - Does what you now know about Northeast Regionalism and the Cult of Domesticity affect how you read the story?
  - Influence on: Psychology, Relationships, & the Room?
- If you haven't read, start working (& add to your notes)^

# "THEYELLOW WALLPAPER"

DAY 3

#### WARM-UP - 11/14/19

- Note Taking Suggestions:
  - DO NOT only give plot points
  - Include page number, to find info later
  - Connect to background info, previous readings, and/or life

#### 5 MINUTES TO PREP IDEAS, THEN WE DISCUSS

- Why does the narrator act the way she does? (more than just "she's crazy")
- What's the meaning of the yellow wallpaper itself?
- What does this show about issues in society in late 1800s?
- How does this fit Realism/Northeast Regionalism?

#### WITH A PARTNER

- I. You'll be assigned a lens/focus for looking at "The Yellow Wallpaper"
- 2. Find examples of where that lens shows up
  - a. Use the books & notes you already took
  - b. Write them on the board when you find them
- 3. Discuss how this lens affects the story.
  - a. How does this show elements of the Gothic?
  - b. How is it an example of Northeast Regionalism?

#### "THEYELLOW WALLPAPER" LENSES

- The Setting (besides the wallpaper)
  - What discoveries are made about the room?
  - What is the furniture like? What has happened to it?
  - What are her feelings towards the room?
  - Anything that fits with the Gothic?
- The Cult: submissive, pious, pure, domestic
  - Moments where she acts like/is forced into being submissive? Why is she doing this?
  - Moments where she is treated as "frail."
  - What do we see of "home-making?"

- The Wallpaper
  - What are her initial feelings for the wallpaper?
  - Details of how the wallpaper is described?
  - Record the progression of how she views the wallpaper.
- Relationships
  - What are her initial feelings for the people in the home?
  - How do they shift?
  - How does she respond to suggestions from these people throughout the story?

#### LET'S DISCUSS

- Why does she act this way?
  - Postpartum Depression anxiety & depression that can develop after a woman gives birth
  - She's cut off from writing, expressing herself, or going outside
- Why yellow wallpaper?
  - Corruption! Maybe of home. Maybe of society/Cult of Domesticity. Maybe it's wrong to trap people and ignore them.

#### LET'S DISCUSS

- What does this story reveal about social issues in the late 1800s?
  - Treatment of women
  - Developments in medicine (...but)
  - Poor treatment of mental illness
- How does this story fit into Realism?
  - Written as though were actual journal entries
  - References to removing fancy and focusing on reality
  - Harsh, descriptive portrayal of mental illness

#### YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD FOR IT...

- "Why I Wrote The Yellow Wallpaper" Gilman:
  - https://csivc.csi.cuny.edu/history/files/lavender/whyyw.html
- Takeaways:
  - Not being able to express yourself is incredibly frustrating
  - Sometimes stories are meant to help you understand the human experience.

#### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

- We don't hit everything in class that'll be on the quiz
- Planning your time & deciding what's important to take away are good skills to have

# MIDWEST REGIONALISM

DAY 4

#### WARM-UP - 11/15/19

- How do you feel about living in the Midwest?
  - What do you like?
  - What do you dislike?

#### THEMES IN MIDWEST REGIONALISM

- Isolation / Loneliness
  - Think vast, open plains. No neighbors for miles.
- Weather
  - So distinctive it may almost become a character
- Frustrated Artist
  - Yet again, someone who wants to express through art but feels limited.
  - Are you someone who dreams of leaving Nebraska but feel stuck here?

#### MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MIDWEST

- Separate Spheres
  - Men = field & town
  - Women = home & yard
- BUT this is an equal partnership of survival
  - Harsh living conditions = no time to be dainty
- If they aren't respected as equal, the woman may take control
  - (sometimes violently)

#### "ON THE DIVIDE"

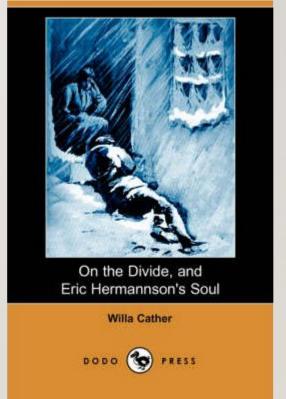
Author: Willa Cather

(1873 – 1947)

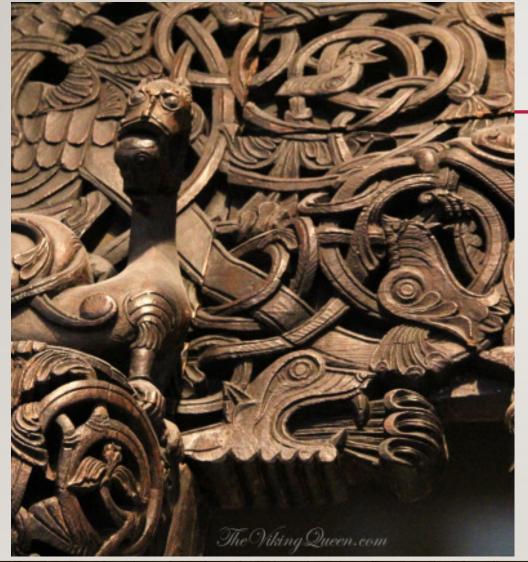
• Published: 1896

• Location: Nebraska





## Think about landscape & homes







#### **GUIDED NOTES**

- Don't let the long passages of description get you down
  - In fact, try to enjoy the language
- Use the Guided Notes to help you find important details
  - These will be checked for a grade
- If you don't write on the story copies, I can reuse them