

**UNIT 4 Unification and Growth**  
**Expanding Frontiers 1865–1910**

A GSEB School  
**FROEBEL**  
**BILINGUAL SCHOOL**  
Home of the Space Generation



Kate Chopin's  
**The Story of an Hour**

WITH  
**JIM SOTO**

# SPEAK YOUR MIND

A lot can happen in an hour.  
Write about a clear memory from **one hour** that made an important impression on your life or a condition of your life, or on the life or lives of someone you know.





## FEMINIST LITERATURE

Kate Chopin began her career as a **Regionalist** writer, carefully portraying the landscape and the culture of Louisiana. During the time this story was written, a traditional Victorian marriage was possibly the most significant point in a woman's life. Most women did not have the option not to marry: it was simply a necessity for survival. Because some societies prevented women from making their own living, there was an inescapable dependence upon men's income.



After marrying, her rights, property, and even her identity almost ceased to exist. By law she was under the control of her husband. Not only did he have almost complete control over her body, since beatings were not considered a crime, their children also belonged to him, as did any property and money that the wife brought into the house. It's evident why many women saw marriage as a form of slavery. The works of Chapin showcase elements of both **Realism** and **Naturalism**.

The Story of an Hour was considered controversial during the 1890s because it dealt with a female protagonist who felt liberated by the news of her husband's death. Most of Chopin's stories were considered "improper" for the public to read, and were banned from libraries, as many feminist works of the time were.





# LITERARY ELEMENTS

Additionally, Chopin uses a technique known as irony, which refers to a contrast between expectation and reality.



Reversal, is a dramatic change in the direction of events in a drama or narrative, especially a change in the fortunes of the protagonist, or main character.



# ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 318-322 of your book complete the following activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & COMPARE LITERATURE
  - **Reversal and Irony** - What are the two reversals in the story? What does the first reversal reveal about Mrs. Mallard? Why does the second reversal have such an impact?
  - At the end of the story, the doctors say Mrs. Mallard died of “joy that kills.” How is this an example of dramatic irony? What actually caused her death?





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