

▼ DESCRIPTION	▼ WHAT IT TELLS YOU ABOUT MRS MALLARD
'Knowing that Mrs. Mallard had a heart condition, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible about her husband's death.'	
'she was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression'	
	She feels trapped by her marriage.
	She feels freed by her husband's death.

ACTIVITY 1

A02

SKILLS CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION

▼ NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES

When reading texts like this, it is important to consider the way in which the author has used narrative techniques to create meaning. Look at the following table of narrative techniques and definitions, then find more examples from the text for each one.

▼ NARRATIVE TECHNIQUE	▼ DEFINITION	▼ EXAMPLE	▼ EXPLANATION
Pathetic fallacy	Giving human emotions to nature	'delicious breath of rain'	The language here shows the happiness she feels at being free. The description of the sky shows patches of blue between white clouds; birds are singing and the air is fresh and fertile.
Oxymoron	A contradiction in terms	'a monstrous joy'	This demonstrates the conflict of emotions and emphasises the extent to which the actual emotion (joy) differs from the expected and 'appropriate' emotion, sorrow.
Symbolism	The use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities	'she was drinking in the very elixir of life through that open window'	The open window represents the liberation and freedom Mrs Mallard feels from her stifling and repressive marriage.

KEY POINT

Your knowledge of narrative technique will inform your assessment of the meaning made in texts.

EXAM-STYLE QUESTION

A01

A02

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, REASONING, INTERPRETATION

How does the writer create feelings of freedom and liberation in 'The Story of an Hour'?

In your answer, you should write about:

- the narrator's reaction to the news
- the effect of setting
- the use of language.

You should support your answer with close reference to the passage, including **brief quotations**. **(30 marks)**