

"The Yellow Wallpaper": Emotional States & Traits Study

Goals:

Study the narrator's:

1. Emotional states – short feelings in the moment
2. Emotional traits – feelings that repeat across the story
3. Extra Credit: Intellectual traits – ways of thinking (how she understands, reasons, and decides)

Key ideas:

- Emotional state: a short feeling caused by something that happens now.
➡ Examples: scared, angry, shocked, relieved.
- Emotional trait: a feeling pattern that appears many times.
➡ Examples: anxious, resentful, determined.
- Intellectual trait (thinking style): a pattern in how she thinks.
➡ Examples: analytical (studies details), literal (takes things exactly), imaginative, obeys authority, looks for cause and effect, focuses too much on one idea (obsessive).

Trigger = the cause of the feeling/thinking.

Signal = the words/actions that show it.

While you read . . .

Mark the text:

S = Emotional State (write 1-2 feeling words + the trigger (what caused the feeling / thought))

T = Emotional Trait (note 2-3 places it repeats)

Extra Credit–Mark the text:

I = Intellectual Trait (describe the thinking style)