

Name: _____

Date: _____

“Mrs. Manstey’s View” by Edith Wharton

Guided Notes – Lesson 1

How does Wharton’s description of Mrs. Manstey’s view help develop characterization?

Objective: *In this lesson, you will learn how to analyze character development by examining the impact of setting.*

Steps:

1. Reread a portion of the text, and highlight words and phrases that describe the setting.
2. Ask, “How do these descriptions relate to the character?”
3. Ask, “What does the author want me to think about this character?”

FOCUS PASSAGE OR SENTENCE (Page 3, Paragraph 2) :

1. Reread a portion of the text, and highlight words and phrases that describe the setting.

Mrs. Manstey, in the long hours which she spent at her window, was not idle. She read a little, and knitted numberless stockings; but the view surrounded and shaped her life as the sea does a lonely island. When her rare callers came it was difficult for her to detach herself from the contemplation of the opposite window-washing, or the scrutiny of certain green points in a neighboring flower-bed which might, or might not, turn into hyacinths, while she feigned an interest in her visitor's anecdotes about some unknown grandchild. Mrs. Manstey's real friends were the denizens of the yards, the hyacinths, the magnolia, the green parrot, the maid who fed the cats, the doctor who studied late behind his mustard-colored curtains; and the confidant of her tenderer musings was the church-spire floating in the sunset.

2. Ask, “How do these descriptions relate to the character?”

(Jot down your notes in the space below)

3. Ask, “What does the author want me to think about this character?”

(Jot down your notes in the space below)

Your Turn!

How does the new description of Mrs. Manstey's view develop characterization?

1. Reread a portion of the text, and highlight words and phrases that describe the setting.
2. Ask, "How do these descriptions relate to the character?"
3. Ask, "What does the author want me to think about this character?"

FOCUS PASSAGE OR SENTENCE (Page 5, Paragraph 2 and 3):

1. Reread a portion of the text, and highlight words and phrases that describe the setting.

So comfortable—so comfortable! Left to herself the old woman turned once more to the window. How lovely the view was that day! The blue sky with its round clouds shed a brightness over everything; the ailanthus had put on a tinge of yellow-green, the hyacinths were budding, the magnolia flowers looked more than ever like rosettes carved in alabaster. Soon the wistaria would bloom, then the horse-chestnut; but not for her. Between her eyes and them a barrier of brick and mortar would swiftly rise; presently even the spire would disappear, and all her radiant world be blotted out. Mrs. Manstey sent away untouched the dinner-tray brought to her that evening. She lingered in the window until the windy sunset died in bat-colored dusk; then, going to bed, she lay sleepless all night.

Early the next day she was up and at the window. It was raining, but even through the slanting gray gauze the scene had its charm—and then the rain was so good for the trees. She had noticed the day before that the ailanthus was growing dusty.

2. Ask, "How do these descriptions relate to the character?"

3. Ask, "What does the author want me to think about this character?"