

# Writing from Reading

## Summarize

**1** Summarize the development of Louise's emotions over the course of the story. Is it ultimately joy or despair that causes her death?

## Analyze Craft

**2** How well has Chopin succeeded in making you see the details of this story? Which images are particularly vivid, and how does Chopin make them so?

## Analyze Voice

**3** How would you describe Chopin's attitude toward her character: does she admire or disdain the way Louise behaves? A "mallard" is a male duck; what does the name "Mrs. Mallard" suggest? What specific language from the story suggests how Chopin wanted the reader to respond to Louise?

## Synthesize Summary and Analysis

**4** Though "The Story of an Hour" describes only one hour's time, its events are predicated on the emotions Louise has developed over the course of

her entire marriage. Summarize what we know about Louise's relationship with her husband, and discuss whether Chopin provides enough detail to justify Louise's death by the end.

## Interpret the Story

**5** The first line of the story says that "Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble." Discuss whether Chopin undermines or reinforces the emotional significance of Louise's death by announcing her heart condition so early in the story.