

Colors Symbolism

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Colors play a great role in people's lives. They have accepted meaning. However, it differs from culture to culture as well as the meaning of any color may be interpreted in a personal way. Regarding literature a color is defined as a special mean of the writer's transmission of the world, personal feelings and desires. Three presented stories belong to different authors, and they have been created in different periods of time.

To begin with, "The Yellow Wallpapers" is the novel of a great master Charlotte Perkins Gilman. A woman, who is ailing some mental disease, and being treated by her husband, the doctor, is closed in the room with yellow wallpaper. The doctor says such treatment can help her to recover, but on the contrary the woman becomes obsessed with them. Here, the yellow color is the color of insanity. They press her. Her mental state does not become any better.

The next masterpiece belongs to Nathaniel Hawthorne. The story "The Minister Black Veil" tells about the external and internal conflicts in the minister's life. The first one is between him and town habitants; the second one is the sorrow for committed sin. On one hand, the black color may be explained as grief, punishment for the actions and intention for later improvement. On the other hand, it is the way of cutting himself off society and a desire to emphasize people that he is not the only sinful person. They also have their own sins. They should remember about that.

The last considered story "The Red Convertible" is written by Louise Erdrich. It depicts the horror of the war and brother's relationship during this time. The red color is regarded as a symbol of the men's war-torn relationship.

To sum up, colors are great means that help figuratively express human's feelings, desires, inner and outer conflicts.