



Eksamen nr. 2

Forberedelsestid: 60 min.

- Se video: Intro
- Forbered opgaven
- Se video: Eksamen 2
- Diskuter elevens præstation og giv en karakter
- Se video: Votering
- Konkluder hvad der lægges vægt på

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ENGELSK A-NIVEAU

Eksamensspørgsmål

Theme: Women – Outlook on Life.

Text: Kate Chopin *The Story of an Hour* From Bread and Roses, American women's protests 1848-1978, Gyldendal 1981.

TEXTS:

KATE CHOPIN

The Story of an Hour, 1894

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death.

It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; 5 veiled hints that revealed in half concealing. Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard's name leading the list of "killed." He had only taken the time to assure himself of its 10 truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message.

She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's 15 arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her.

There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her 20 soul.

She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which some one was 25 singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves.

There were patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds that had met and piled one above the other in the west facing her window.

30 She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke 35 repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of

those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought.

There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and
5 elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching towards her through the sounds, the scents, the color that filled the air.

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and
10 she was striving to beat it back with her will – as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been.

When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under her breath: “free, free, free!” The vacant stare and the look of terror
15 that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and relaxed every inch of her body.

She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted perception enabled her to
20 dismiss the suggestion as trivial.

She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond
25 that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.

There would be no one to live for her during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and
30 women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination.

And yet she had loved him – sometimes. Often she had not.
35 What did it matter! What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!

“Free! Body and soul free!” she kept whispering.

Josephine was kneeling before the closed door with her lips to
40 the keyhole, imploring for admission. “Louise, open the door! I beg; open the door – you will make yourself ill. What are you

doing, Louise? For heaven's sake open the door."

"Go away. I am not making myself ill." No; she was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window.

Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her.
5 Spring days, and summer days, and all sorts of days that would be her own. She breathed a quick prayer that life might be long. It was only yesterday she had thought with a shudder that life might be long.

She arose at lengthth and opened the door to her sister's
10 importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory. She clasped her sister's waist, and together they descended the stairs. Richards stood waiting for them at the bottom.

Some one was opening the front door with a latchkey. It was
15 Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of accident, and did not even know there had been one. He stood amazed at Josephine's piercing cry; at Richards' quick motion to screen him from the view of his wife.

20 But Richards was too late.

When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease – of joy that kills.

Some Events in U.S. History of Importance to Women

- 1848 Seneca Falls Woman's Rights Convention is held.
New York legislature passes married women's property rights law.
- 1851 Sojourner Truth delivers speech: "... Ain't I a Woman?"
- 1852 Most public-school teachers are women.
- 1858 University of Iowa becomes first state university to admit women.
- 1865 Vassar College opens.
Thirteenth Amendment abolishes slavery.
- 1868 First measure proposing woman suffrage amendment introduced in Congress.
- 1869 National Woman Suffrage Association founded.
American Woman Suffrage Association founded.
- 1874 Woman's Christian Temperance Union formed.
- 1885 Bryn Mawr College for Women opened.
- 1886 U.S. has 266 colleges for women and over 250 other institutions of higher education that accept women.
- 1890 5% of married women are employed outside the home.
National American Woman Suffrage Association formed.
- 1896 7/8 of America's wealth controlled by 1/8 of the population.
- 1902 Women constitute 25% of undergraduates, 26% of graduate students, 3% of professional students.
- 1910–1920 U.S. reports 103% increase of white women in clerical and sales work; 122% increase of black women in clerical and sales work; 4% increase of white women in industry.
- 1919 Civil service opened to women on same basis as men.
- 1920 Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Woman Suffrage Amendment), passed.
- 1930 47% of undergraduates are women.
28% of Ph.D.'s are women.
- 1940 15% of married women work.

- 1945–1947 Number of women in labor force drops from 20.3 million to 15.9 million.
- 1940–1950 100% increase of white women in industry reported; also 76% increase of white women in farm labor, 138% increase of black women in white-collar sector (348% increase of black women in clerical and sales work), 334% increase of black women as skilled workers and foremen.
- 1963 Equal Pay Act passed, covering women as well as men.
- 1966 National Organization for Women founded.
- 1966–1968 Women's liberation movement emerges.
- 1968 37% of married women work in labor force.
2.9% unemployment reported among men, officially, and 4.8% unemployment among women; 50% of unemployed workers are women.
Women's liberation's first national conference held, in Chicago.
- 1969 Average earning in professional and technical fields show men with \$12,262 and women with \$5,927 (or 48% of male earnings).
Two-thirds of American women are reported not in labor force.
- 1971 38% of undergraduates are women; 13% of Ph.D.'s are women.
About 55 colleges and universities offer courses in women's studies.
Supreme Court makes first ruling on sex discrimination in view of 1964 Civil Rights Act. Women with preschool children shall receive equal treatment in the labour force.
- 1973 January 22: The Supreme Court rules that abortion is legal.
- 1974 Formation of the Coalition of Labour Union Women (CLUW).
- 1975 Joan Little is acquitted of murder charge against a jailer who tried to rape her.
- 1976 The Democrat-controlled Congress passes the Hyde Amendment, which cuts off Medicaid funds for abortions.
- 1978 August: Massive march and rally in Washington for the ratification of the ERA.