

## Comparing *The Bluest Eye* and *The Yellow Wallpaper*

### 1. Oppression and Psychological Decline

Both novels center on female protagonists whose mental states deteriorate due to societal pressures and personal oppression. In *The Yellow Wallpaper*, the narrator suffers from postpartum depression but is dismissed by her husband and confined to a room, leading to her psychological breakdown. Similarly, in *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola Breedlove internalizes racist beauty standards and experiences severe psychological distress, ultimately succumbing to madness. Both texts expose the consequences of systemic oppression—whether patriarchal or racial—on female mental health.

### 2. The Role of Beauty and Identity

Morrison and Gilman explore how external forces shape female self-perception. In *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola's yearning for blue eyes reflects internalized racism and the destructive power of white beauty standards. In *The Yellow Wallpaper*, the narrator's forced domestic role denies her agency and expression, mirroring the way Victorian ideals restricted women's identities. In both cases, societal ideals dictate the protagonists' self-worth, leading to alienation and despair.

### 3. Confinement and Agency

Physical and psychological confinement play crucial roles in both works. The narrator of *The Yellow Wallpaper* is literally trapped in a room, while Pecola is imprisoned by racial and gendered oppression. Both women lack agency over their lives, and their responses—hallucinations, paranoia, and delusions—reveal the devastating effects of their confinement.

### 4. Narrative Structure and Perspective

Morrison and Gilman employ different narrative techniques to immerse readers in their protagonists' struggles. *The Bluest Eye* uses fragmented storytelling and multiple perspectives to emphasize the complexity of oppression, while *The Yellow Wallpaper* is written as a first-person journal, drawing readers directly into the narrator's descent into madness. Both styles enhance the psychological depth of their respective protagonists.

## Conclusion

While *The Bluest Eye* and *The Yellow Wallpaper* emerge from different historical contexts—one addressing 20th-century Black American experience and the other critiquing 19th-century patriarchal medicine—they share a deep concern with how systemic oppression fractures female identity.