

4. NIVELL AVANÇAT C2. MEDIACIÓ LINGÜÍSTICA ESCRITA (WRITTEN MEDIATION)

Write 250 – 270 words on the following task:

You are a member of your school's C2 online reading group and you have just read "The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin. Your group leader has posted the following questions to start the discussion:

Which phrases do you think are especially important to the story and why?

What questions about character or motivation or plot does this story leave in your mind?

Write a **comment** for your reading group outlining your personal response to the story.

"The Story of an Hour" by Kate Chopin (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. 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."

She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her.

She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes. 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. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will. 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 that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright.

She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. 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 that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. 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.

There would be no one to live for 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 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. What did it matter! What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in the face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!

She arose at length and opened the door. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes. She descended the stairs. Richards and her sister stood waiting at the bottom.

Someone was opening the front door with a latchkey. It was Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of the 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.

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

6. NIVELL AVANÇAT C2. MEDIACIÓ LINGÜÍSTICA ORAL (SPOKEN MEDIATION)

TOPIC 1: POLITICS

A famous cartoonist offered his particular view on the subject of voting for change in Britain. Your friend Ana does not understand this *opinion cartoon* and asks you to shed some light on its content. Give her your interpretation of this cartoon.

Your MONOLOGUE should last about 4 minutes.

