

Reading Guide

Name: _____ #: _____

Date: _____ PQ Day: _____

Directions: Complete the Reading Guide in its entirety before Personal Question(s) day.

As you read each question, be sure to respond to exactly what the question is asking you! This guide is intended to help channel your thinking in the direction the author intended for his/her work to be understood/taken.

Throughout, I will offer you assertions to help you grasp a full meaning of the text. Likewise, with the various assertions, I will offer **Connections** to somewhat help you “connect” with what the author is talking about at that moment. You should connect as much as possible! Be sure to note these assertions as they will possibly be included on in-class essays as they relate to the short stories, poems, or plays assigned.

“A Pair of Silk Stockings” by: Kate Chopin

1. “The neighbors sometimes talked of certain ‘better days’ that little Mrs. Sommers had known before she had ever thought of being Mrs. Sommers.” What do you think this quote means?
2. What do you feel happened in Mrs. Sommers’ past that has caused her not to be able to reflect on it, but only press toward her future?
 - **Characterization** is the method used by a writer to develop a character. The method includes (1) showing the character's appearance, (2) displaying the character's actions, (3) revealing the character's thoughts, (4) letting the character speak, and (5) getting the reactions of others.
3. Characterize Mrs. Sommers.
4. Why is Mrs. Sommers always searching for bargains? Do you feel that now that she has money, she is going to be able to splurge and not have to look for bargains? Explain.
5. In the final analysis, all of Mrs. Sommers purchases were things she bought for herself. Why do you feel that she did not do as she originally planned?
 - **Theme** is a broad idea, message, or moral of a story.
6. After listening to the story, “A Pair of Silk Stockings,” what do you feel is the theme? Be sure to comment on how the story affected your views and how you might take this story’s lesson and apply it to your own life.