**“The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin Questions Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. What is the nature of Mrs. Mallard’s “heart trouble,” and why would the author mention it in the first paragraph?
2. The setting is very limited; it is largely confined to a room, a staircase, and a front door. How does this limitation help to express the themes of the story?
3. Why is this passage important?

“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 singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves.”

What kind of imagery does this passage contain, and what senses does it address?

1. What kind of relationships do the Mallards have? Is Brently Mallard unkind to Louise Mallard, or is there some other reason for her saying “free, free, free!” when she hears of his death? How does she feel about him?
2. When Mrs. Mallard closes the door to her room so that her sister Josephine cannot get in, she leaves the window open. Why do you think she did this?
3. Mrs. Mallard is described as descending the stairs “like a goddess of Victory.” In what ways does she feel victorious?
4. How is the last line of the story ironic?