

The Story of an Hour



*by
Kate Chopin*



Day 2 Lesson Objectives

I will be able to:

- **Read and understand text at the Grade 8 level**
- **Discuss information with several different partners**
- **Use language effectively for different tasks**
- **Understand and describe irony**
- **Analyze the language in the text to better understand the characters**
- **Use evidence to support an analysis of what the text says**


WHO WAS KATE CHOPIN?





Guiding Question:

What is Kate Chopin best known for?



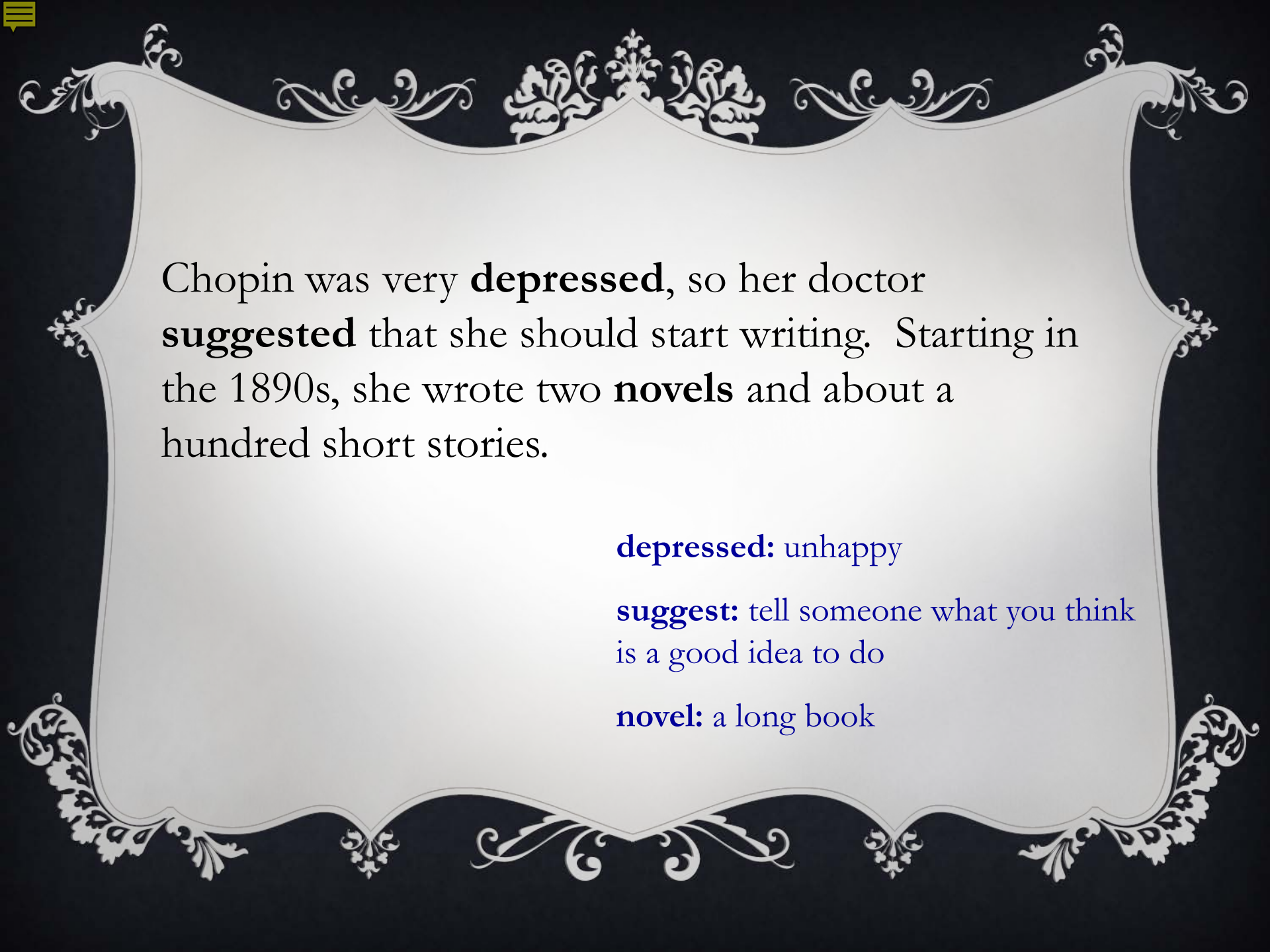
Kate Chopin was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1850. She married when she was 20 years old. In the next eight years, she had six children. Chopin's husband died in 1882, and her mother died the **following** year.

following: next



When was Kate Chopin born?

Kate Chopin was born in 1850.



Chopin was very **depressed**, so her doctor **suggested** that she should start writing. Starting in the 1890s, she wrote two **novels** and about a hundred short stories.

depressed: unhappy

suggest: tell someone what you think is a good idea to do

novel: a long book



Why was Chopin depressed?

Chopin was depressed because her husband and her mother were dead.

What did Chopin do to feel better?

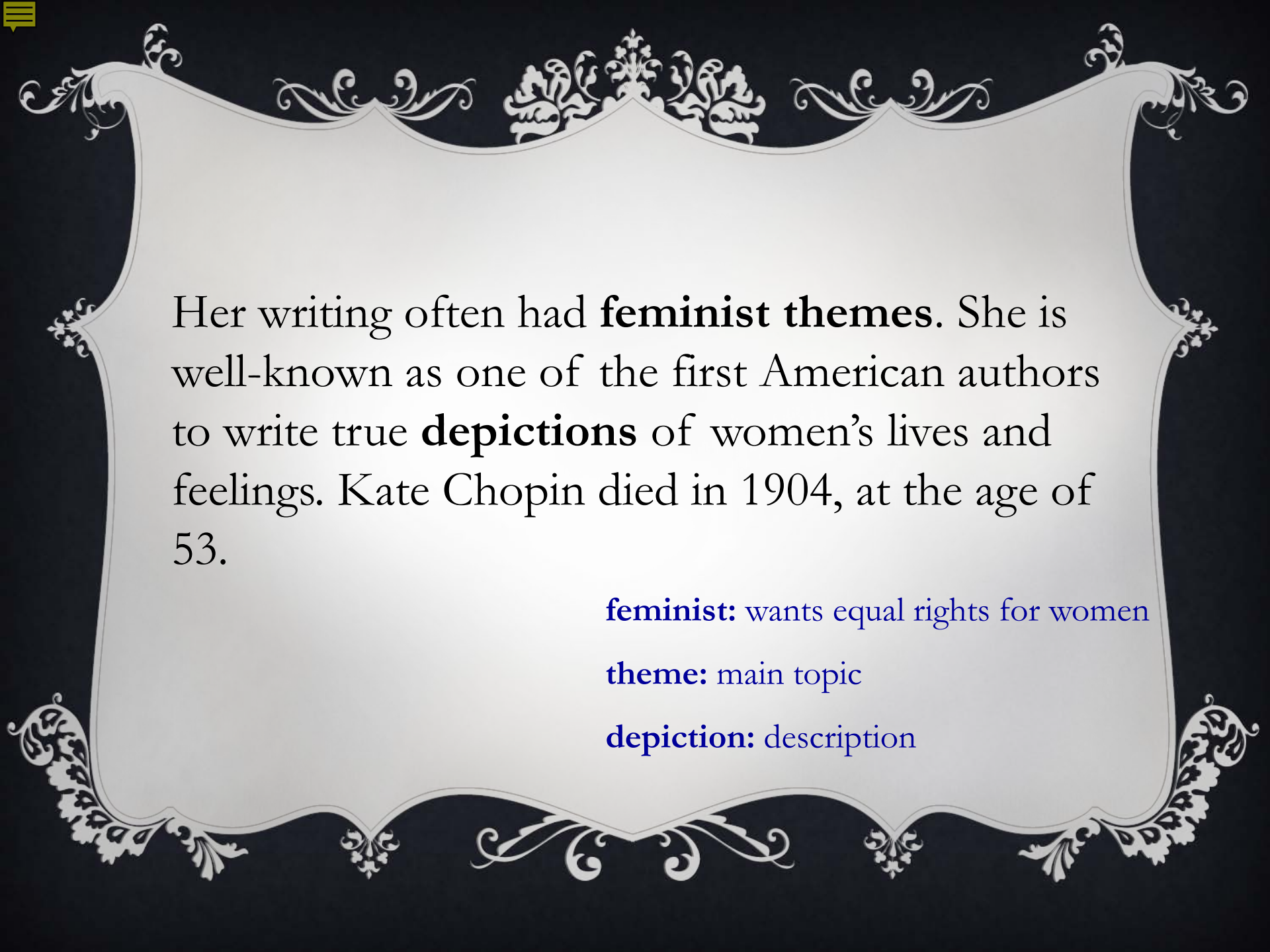
Chopin started writing to feel better.

When did Chopin start writing?

Chopin started writing in the 1890s.

***About how old was Chopin when she started writing?**

Chopin was about $1890 - 1850 = 40$ years old when she started writing.



Her writing often had **feminist themes**. She is well-known as one of the first American authors to write true **depictions** of women's lives and feelings. Kate Chopin died in 1904, at the age of 53.

feminist: wants equal rights for women

theme: main topic

depiction: description

What does “feminist themes” mean?

Feminist themes means main topics that are in favor of equal rights for women.

Think about the role of women in the 19th century. Why was it important that Chopin’s writing had feminist themes?

It was important that Chopin’s writing had feminist themes because

many women were trying to gain equal rights.



Chopin was the first American to write about what topic?

Chopin was one of the first American authors to write about the true lives of women.

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Guiding Question:

What is Kate Chopin best known for?

Kate Chopin is best known for being one of the first American authors to write true depictions of women's lives and feelings.



**THE STORY OF AN
HOUR: PART II**

Kate Chopin

Guiding Question:

- She was feeling two opposite things. What were they?

📖 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 dismiss the suggestion as trivial.

perception: having a good understanding or knowledge about something

enable: allow something or let it happen



She was feeling two opposite things. What were they?

She was feeling joy and sadness.

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Guiding Question:

- What words describe her husband?

📖 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. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.



What words describe her husband?

He is kind and loving with tender
hands.


Guiding Question:


- Her husband has died. How has her life changed?

📖 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.

persistence: continuing to do something without stopping

impose: force someone to do something

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 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.

brief: very short



Her husband has died. How has her life changed?

She is free to do what she wants. She feels she has been given a new life.

Guiding Question:

- What was the strongest impulse of her being?


📖 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!

self-assertion: a strong statement to oneself



What was the strongest impulse of her being?

The strongest impulse of her being was
self-assertion .



Guiding Question:

- What was Mrs. Mallard's overwhelming feeling?

📖 "Free! Body and soul free!" she kept whispering.



What was Mrs. Mallard's overwhelming feeling?

Both her body and soul felt free.

Guiding Questions:

- What was Josephine doing?
- What was she worried about?

📖 Josephine was kneeling before the closed door with her lips to 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."

imploring: begging or pleading



What was Josephine doing?

Josephine was trying to console Mrs. Mallard by gaining admission through the locked door.

What was she worried about?

Josephine was worried about her sister's physical and mental well-being.

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Guiding Questions:

- Define “drinking in an elixir of life.”
- Is she making herself ill or is she accepting her freedom?
- How do you know?

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

Define “drinking in an elixir of life.”

drinking a substance that prolongs life forever

Is she making herself ill or is she accepting her freedom?

She is accepting her freedom.

How do you know?

Through the open window she was drinking in an elixir of life. She wanted to live forever because she was free.

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Guiding Question:

- **How does she feel about the days to come and the rest of her life?**

📖 Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her. 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.



How does she feel about the days to come and the rest of her life?

She feels they will be her own; she hopes she will live a long life.

Guiding Questions:

- She opened the door and how did she act?
- Mrs. Mallard compared is compared to whom?

📖 She arose at length and opened the door to her sister's 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.

She opened the door and how did she act?

She acted triumphant ; like a goddess .

Mrs. Mallard is compared to whom?

She is compared to a goddess of Victory .



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Guiding Questions:

- Who came in the door?
- Who was he?

📖 Some one 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.



Who came in the door?

Mr. Mallard came in the door.

Who was he?

He was her husband.

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Guiding Question:

- **Why did Josephine scream?**

📖 He stood amazed at Josephine's piercing cry; at Richards' quick motion to screen himself from the view of his wife.



Why did Josephine scream?

Josephine screamed because she thought he was dead; she was shocked to see him alive.

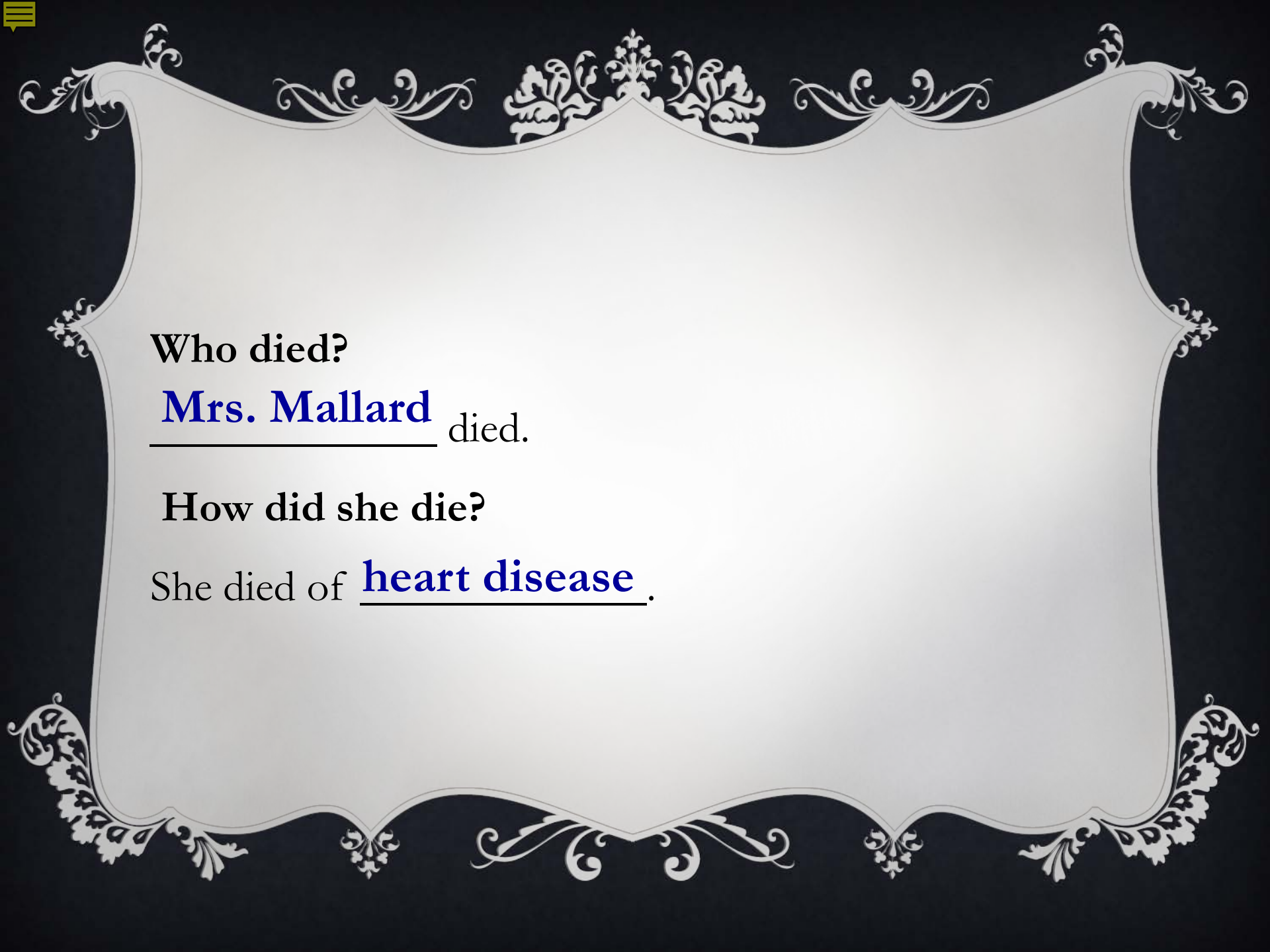
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Guiding Questions:

- Who died?
- How did this person die?
- Why was this unexpected?

📖 But Richards was too late.

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



Who died?

Mrs. Mallard died.

How did she die?

She died of heart disease.

Why was this unexpected?

Her death is unexpected because we would usually expect a wife to be happy to find out her husband is alive. Instead, Mrs. Mallard is unhappy because now she won't be free.

Mr. Mallard

kind
loving
tender hands

tender: soft, gentle

Mrs. Mallard

young
fair
calm
repressed
strong

fair: lovely, pretty
repressed: held back



IRONY





Cartoon by Mark Parisi. 2007-08-09.

<http://www.offthemark.com/cartoons/jellyfish>

