

Films on Demand video: [Madness: A History](#)

# Melancholy & Depression from Shakespeare's Hamlet to Marvel's Thor

Applying changing psychological theory to fictional characters.

Watch one of these adaptations of Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*:

1. *Hamlet* (1990, starring Mel Gibson)--available through Amazon Instant Streaming for \$2.99; DVD available in the Fletcher Library/Schriever location: PR2807.A2 H68 2004
2. *Hamlet* (2000, starring Ethan Hawke)--available through Amazon Instant Streaming for \$3.99; DVD available in the Fletcher Library/Schriever location: PR2807.A23 2001

Then, read through this file, which discusses Hamlet's *melancholy* (*depression*) from a historical perspective:

[Excerpts from the book: Understanding Hamlet-A Student Casebook to Issues, Sources, and Historical Documents by Richard Corum.pdf](#) 

Then, watch *Avengers: Endgame*.

If you haven't seen the pre-quel films, character summary, plot synopses, etc. are posted below:

[Wikipedia page: Thor \(film\).pdf](#) 

[Wikipedia page:Thor:The Dark World.pdf](#) 

[Wikipedia page: Avengers: Infinity War.pdf](#) 

[Wikipedia page: Avengers: Endgame.pdf](#) 

Additional Sources: several YouTube videos address Thor's depression. Go to YouTube and search key terms *Thor* and *depression*.

After reviewing this material, click Next to see the Depression in Literature Page.

# Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" from horror tale to feminist statement

Illustrating the changing reception/interpretations of a work of literature as the socio-political climate changes.

[Text: "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman.pdf](#) 

[Article: "Literary Contexts in Short Stories--"The Yellow Wallpaper".pdf](#) 

[Wikipedia page: "The Yellow Wallpaper".pdf](#) 

## Response to: Shakespeare & Marvel

Write a minimum 300-word post discussing how Hamlet and Thor both illustrate signs of depression.

Are there any similarities between the two? You may apply Richard Corum's information on melancholy and loss to both Hamlet & Thor, as well as apply current psychology terms to Hamlet. For instance, you could discuss the Effects of Loss: Love Melancholia and Malcontentedness and apply these losses to both Hamlet and Thor--both have lost a parent, a romantic love, authority/position, friends, etc.

After completing this assignment, click Next to see your Reading response assignment.

## Response to: Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper"

After reading "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, the biography on the author, and the critique article, choose one question from below and write a 300+ word response.

This should be in the form of a Body paragraph(s) that includes a Topic Sentence, examples, and a concluding sentence.

**QUESTION ASSIGNMENTS:** Open. Choose any one question.

1. Gilman said that she wrote “The Yellow Wallpaper” as a message to Dr. Mitchell, the real-life inventor of the “rest-cure” endured by the narrator. From the autobiographical information in the anthology and the short story, what was Gilman’s opinion of the “rest-cure” and physicians in general?
2. Discuss “The Yellow Wallpaper” narrator’s husband John. In what ways does he encourage and hinder her recovery?
3. Through “The Yellow Wallpaper,” what does Gilman reveal about men’s/society’s opinion of women at the time? You may use historical sources to answer this question.
4. Discuss Gilman’s creative impulse and how its stifling is reflected in the story “The Yellow Wallpaper.”
5. Diagnose the main character in the story. From what mental ailments does she suffer?