

THE ARSENAL

Augusta University's Undergraduate Research Journal

ISSN 2380-5064 | The Arsenal is published by the Augusta University Libraries | <http://guides.augusta.edu/arsenal>

Volume 3, Issue 2 (2020)
Special Edition Issue

SCHIZOAFFECTIVE DISORDER DEPRESSIVE TYPE IN “THE YELLOW WALLPAPER” BY CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN

Lindsey German and Tim Sadenwasser

Citation

German, L., & Sadenwasser, T. (2020). Schizoaffective disorder depressive type in “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. *The Arsenal: The Undergraduate Research Journal of Augusta University*, 3(2), <http://doi.org/10.21633/issn.2380.5064/s.2020.03.02.13>



© German and Sadenwasser 2020. This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial-NoDeriv 2.0 Generic License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>).

Schizoaffective Disorder Depressive Type in “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Presenter: Lindsey German (Poster Presentation)

Authors: Lindsey German and Tim Sadenwasser

Faculty Sponsor(s): Tim Sadenwasser, PhD

Department Affiliation: English and Foreign Languages

ABSTRACT

Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s short story “The Yellow Wallpaper” is a literary work of empowering women and serves to explore the human psyche upon women in the 19th century. The author wanted to create a story that brought people’s attention to the rest cure treatment, and how it was not beneficial for the mind. It actually has detrimental effects on one’s mind, because the rest cure isolates that person in a room with nothing to do but to essentially “go crazy.” Therefore, the author wanted to warn people about this form of treatment through the downward spiral of the narrator’s mental health in the story. In my presentation, I will use other literary references and descriptions given from the short story to show the audience evidence of the narrator’s behavior with the character diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder depressive type. To do this, I plan on discussing the criteria of the diagnosis from the DSM-V and how these criteria are met in the short story. This criterion includes a major depressive episode and schizophrenic symptoms. The narrator of Gilman’s story displays her depressive mood within the story by crying all day at nothing; she displays her schizophrenic symptoms when she experiences delusions, hallucinations, and social withdrawal. I also plan on discussing how the sociocultural factors involving the rest cure treatment given to the narrator and her relationship with her husband further diminishes her mental health. This mental instability that she experiences causes much distress in her life to the point where she could not take it anymore.

Received: 01/31/2020 Accepted: 02/17/2020

Correspondence: Lindsey German, Augusta University, 1120 15th St. Augusta, GA 30912, lgerman@augusta.edu