

Miss Brill and Mrs Mallard are both helpless and repressed women.

There are two helpless and repressed ladies in both **"The Story of an Hour"** and **"Miss Brill"**, but their cases of repression and being helpless are completely different. Both of the writers of the short stories are very successful in conveying the sense of repression of the two ladies to the reader. In **"The Story of an Hour"**, the main theme is sorrow or grief that may be always as deep as joy, but in **"Miss Brill"**, the main theme is self-deception.

On the one hand, Mrs Mallard, the heroine of **"The Story of an Hour"**, receives the news of her husband's death in a train accident. She has a weak heart and all her family are afraid that she might fall dead when she hears this bad news. She is shocked by the news. She locks herself up in her room and does not allow anyone to enter her for talk or food. However, after moments of numbness Mrs. Mallard feels a change of her psychological state. She realises that she gains a sense of liberty and her freedom. She will regain her own personality after being dominated by Mr Mallard. Yet, her relief does not mean that she used to hate her husband. She feels that she lives for herself and that she is going to enjoy her life by all means. Suddenly Mr Mallard enters. When Mrs Mallard sees him, she falls dead at once.

The story itself is ironical; it is based on paradox. We expect that Mrs Mallard will fall dead when she hears the news of her husband's death, but on the contrary, she dies when she discovers that he is still alive. In addition, throughout the story, the writer is concerned with the change in the psychological state of Mrs Mallard than the outer events. That shows that Mrs Mallard suffers from repression that ends by her husband's death. She thinks that Mr Mallard is controlling her and after his death she will be able to do all she wants without any limits. Her sudden death is a sign of the end of her happy dreams and imaginations by the return of Mr Mallard. This also shows how this lady is repressed and helpless.

On the other hand, Miss Brill who is the heroine of the story of **"Miss Brill"**, goes to the garden as she does every Sunday, wearing her favourite fur to feel more joy and happiness. She sits on what she calls her special seat and starts noticing people in the garden and what they do. She describes people from her point of view. She pretends that the whole thing is a play and she is an actress who has an important role in the play. She also thinks that her absence will be noticed and she will be missed by the people of the garden. She is always deceiving herself but she has been forced to face the reality when she hears the young boy and girl describing her. She realises that in the eyes of others she is nothing but stupid, old, silly and unwanted woman. She feels great sorrow and returns back to her home, she takes off her fur, which represents herself in a dark room then she hears a cry which is in reality her own cry.

Miss Brill suffers from self-deception, her life is empty and she has nothing that makes her busy. The story is ironical; she describes some people as odd, silent, old and almost funny. In reality she is describing herself, she is criticizing people as if she is doing the same herself. She is psychologically unstable; she resorts to self-deception to get rid of her loneliness and empty life. She is very repressed; she always thinks that people love her and she is important to them, but she discovers the opposite.

To conclude, both of the writers of "**The Story of an Hour**" and "**Miss Brill**" are successful in conveying their ideas to the reader through the characters of Mrs Mallard and Miss Brill. They also are successful in discussing the bad psychological states of the two ladies throughout the events of the stories