

“The Jilting of Granny Weatherall” by Katherine Ann Porter (1930)

Ellen Weatherall, now known just as Granny, has come to the end of her life. This story is her own stream of consciousness as she enters this bewildering moment of her life. You will experience what she experiences: people “floating” in and out of her line of vision, memories from the past, present time to-do lists, and spiritual visions. These experiences are fluid and do not follow any order, just as our own streams of consciousness. Pay careful attention to what matters most to Granny. What does she focus on in her final moments?

Level One

1. Who are the following people? Explain her relationship with each person.
 - a. Harry -
 - b. Cornelia -
 - c. Lydia -
 - d. Jimmy -
 - e. Hapsy -
 - f. George -
 - g. John -
2. What does it mean to be ‘jilted?’ Use context clues to answer this question.
3. What was Granny’s life like when her children were young?
4. What does Granny want George to know?

Level Two

5. What can you surmise about Hapsy based on the following descriptions?: “had to go through a great many rooms to find [her]...baby on arm...Hapsy [and the baby] turned flimsy like gray gauze...[she said}, ‘I thought you’d never come.’”
6. What does it mean when Granny thinks to herself, “all the children are now older than their father, and he would be a child beside her”?
7. What does Hapsy’s arrival at the foot of Granny’s bed signify?
8. At one point, Granny thinks to herself, “Oh, God, no. There was something else besides the house and the man and the children. Oh, surely they were not all? What was it? Something not given back...” What was it that Granny was not given back after her jilting?
9. What happens when Granny blows out the light at the end of the story?