**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *The Story of an Hour: Discussion Questions***

Please answer the following questions thoroughly using complete sentences. Cite direct textual evidence in your answer.

1. What kind of relationships do the Mallards have? Is Brently Mallard unkind to Louise Mallard, or is there some other reason for her saying "free, free, free!" when she hears of his death? How does she feel about him?
2. How is Mrs. Mallard portrayed? Weak or strong (or both)? Explain using direct evidence from the text
3. Mrs. Mallard closes the door to her room so that her sister Josephine cannot get in, yet she leaves the window open. Why does Chopin make a point of telling the reader this? What does the house represent, versus the world outside the open window? (Reread the description of the view outside the window—is it positive or negative)? What is coming in through the open window?
4. Mrs. Mallard realizes that her life has now suddenly changed? How? Find **textual evidence** that supports what will be most different now that she is widowed.
5. Mrs. Mallard is described as descending the stairs "like a goddess of *Victory*." In what ways does she feel herself victorious?
6. What view of marriage does the story present? The story was published in **1894**; does it only represent attitudes toward marriage in the nineteenth century, or could it equally apply to attitudes about marriage today?
7. If this is, in some sense, a story about a symbolic journey, where does Mrs. Mallard "travel"?
8. What is the point of Chopin’s story in terms of **what women most value**? Find **textual evidence** that supports your claim.

**The Chaser: Discussion Questions**

1. Explain the significance of the title “The Chaser.”
2. How does Diana feel about Alan currently? Does Alan *actually* love Diana? How can you tell? Find **examples in the text** that support your position.
3. What is this saying about a woman’s free will or individuality?
4. Why do you think the love potion is only a dollar? What is he saying about love?
5. What are the effects of the love potion/What is Alan’s vision of an “ideal woman”? **What do these reveal about the men’s attitudes towards women?**
6. What does Alan ultimately want? What does he ignore in order to get there? Obviously, this is fiction—but are there any real world implications of this same idea?
7. Is this a story about love? What is this story *ABOUT* then?
8. What **quotes** best support the idea of a **patriarchal society** (men > women)?
9. Why do you think the old man cryptically says to Alan, “Au revoir!” (French for ‘til we meet again)? Is the implication that the man will come back for potion #2 because the first potion didn’t work…or **because it did**? And again, how does *either* choice tie back to **a patriarchal society** in terms of the **value or importance of women?**