**Conclusion Group Exercise**

Create a conclusion by selecting and putting order 5 sentences and a quote. Be prepared to share your conclusion with the class.

**Quotes:**

*"No, Wright wouldn't like the bird - a thing that sang. She used to sing. He killed that, too"*

*"Here's a bird-cage," she said. "Did she have a bird, Mrs. Hale?"*

*Who is this about: "He didn't drink, and kept his word as well as most, I guess, and paid his debts. But he was a hard man, Mrs. Peters. Just to pass the time of day with him--." ... "Like a raw wind that gets to the bone."*

**Sentences:**

As readers, we are ineluctably pulled into Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peter’s slipstream of thought and reasoning.

On the surface, the story is about three men and two women who arrive at a crime scene to investigate the murder of John Wright, who was found strangled in his bed the day before.

John Wright slowly strangled Minnie’s spirit over the previous two decades, isolating her physically and mentally from the community of women and holding her incommunicado.

Whereas men began the story looking for an eye for an eye, in very concrete fashion, the women look at a much larger context of social concern and try to determine first the eye and even the symbolic eye.

We agree with their reasoning, yet their deliberation is not dispassionate.

For them, evidence is factual and their version of justice is based solely on a consideration of the facts they gather and retribution is fueled by vengeance.

As the women wait in the kitchen, their concern for Minnie and their increasing curiosity about the peculiar state of her affairs in the kitchen is repeatedly trivialized by the men.

The story is a critique of different ways men and women approach the investigation of the crime scene.

The men’s inability to see the facts of the situation is emphasized by Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters’ ability to deduce the discouraging course of Minnie’s life over the previous 20 years.

We are won over to their viewpoint by the antithesis of reason—through the emotional appeal of a dead bird—the same dead bird that we are lead to believe would hang Minne Foster as proof of her motive, but would be laughed out of court were it introduced as part of her defense.

Thus while apparently a straight forward murder mystery, “A Jury of Her Peers” subverts the American justice system and re-defines Justice as neither wholly rational nor objective, but requiring emotion and empathy and an ability to read and value figurative interpretations over literal ones.

Again and again in their assessment of Minnie Wright’s life, the two women speak of how lonely it must have been on the farm—and so quiet with no children.

**Source:**

Bendel-Simso, Mary M. "Twelve Good Men Or Two Good Women: Concepts Of Law And Justice In Susan Glaspell's "A Jury Of Her Peers.." *Studies In Short Fiction,* v. 36 no.3, Summer1999, pp. 291-297.