“The Storm”
By: Kate Chopin
Presenter: Ashley Maddox
Kate Chopin (1850-1904)

Born in St. Louis, Missouri

“[G]rew up in the company loving, intelligent, independent women.”

“She described the tension between individual erotic inclination and the constraints placed on desire—especially placed on women’s sexual desire—by traditional social mores.”

Wrote two published novels and a hundred short stories in the 1890s (Baym 550).
About the Story

- “The Storm” was composed on July 19, 1898.


- “The Storm” was published after Kate’s death because people saw that they can use her stories.
Historical Context- 1850-1904

- A time when women had no voice.
- Forced to be married by people they have never met.
- Was only allowed to talk to the people in their own class.
- “Local color” or regional writing popular (Baym 551).
Other Major Works

- “The Awakening”, was published in 1899 and created a scandal because of its portrayal of a strong women involved in an affair.

- Kate’s first novel was called “At Fault” in 1890.

- She wrote many short stories that were published in various magazines.

- “The Story of an Hour” and “A Respectable Women” appeared in *Vogue* in 1894.
Discussion Questions

1. Do you feel Calixta loves her husband or does she love Alcee?

2. When first reading the title “The Storm”, did you think that the story would talk about the affair that Calixta and Alcee had?

3. Why do you think that after the affair did they not get punished for what had happened?

4. Do you feel that Calixta intended on having relations with Alcee when he arrived?
Writing Prompts

1. What general attitude about sex, love, and marriage does Kate Chopin imply in “The Storm” and what is evidence in the story to support it?

2. How does Chopin’s use of figurative language (for example, the storm and metaphor) function in the story?

3. Compare and Contrast Kate Chopin’s writing in the book to what was happening in the everyday life, during her period of time?

4. Professor Fonseca notes that one of the controversial issues in this story is its “lack of moral closure.” What moral issues are raised in this story? Does Chopin’s closing sentence, that “everyone was happy” seem immoral (in her time and in present time)?
Themes

- A search in Women’s selfhood, self-discovery, or their identity.

- Focuses on gender conformity and also trying to understand the feminine sexuality or their experience of motherhood, pregnancy, or childbirth.

- Also can focus on how she talks about race, meaning the certain class women were allowed to be around with.
Symbols? Allusions? Motifs?

- **Symbols:**
  - **Color white** - meaning light, purity, and innocence.
    - ex: Calixta white neck and breast to mean she is a pure lady.
  - **Color Green** - meaning for a new life after the storm and meaning new growth.
    - ex: Alcee rides away after the storm and the earth is very green of new life.
  - **The Storm** - Can be used as Feminine sexuality and passion
Work Cited