

ANTH 272/ENGL 264
Healing in Ethnography & Literature

Reading Response Questions

Mattingly, Cheryl. 1998. "In Search of the Good: Narrative Reasoning in Clinical Practice," *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 12(3): 273-297.

Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" (1894), np:
<https://archive.vcu.edu/english/engweb/webtexts/hour/>

1. In describing the daily work of Occupational Therapists, Mattingly contrasts two routine forms of speech acts: "chart talk" and storytelling. Explain what each consists of, and the distinct forms of rationality Mattingly sees each representing. In the process, explain what is meant by "biomedical rationality." What concerns do anthropologists express about this logic?
2. Mattingly's title, "In Search of the Good," points to the quest that OTs pursue in order to figure out the moral stakes in specific cases. How does narrative contribute to this process? What is the role of chart talk/biomedical rationality in this process?