difference in attitudes between the men, who barge into an empty house they now know belongs to a woman, and the women, who hesitate to infringe upon another woman’s privacy. Glaspell continues to use space between the male and female characters throughout the play as a symbol of men’s ignorance towards women. To find “something to show anger, or—sudden feeling” that would prove the suspected Mrs. Wright’s guilt, the men search the bedroom, barn, and yard, leaving the women to their own devices in the kitchen. Even when all of the characters are close to a crucial piece of evidence, the men’s self-important agenda keep them from discovering it. The men come from the bedroom to go outside, deriding Mrs. Hale’s remark, “I wonder if she was going to quilt it or knot it.” When the quilt is found to contain the strangled canary, detailed evidence that would validate that Mrs. Wright had motive to murder her husband, it is particularly symbolic of the disadvantages sexism has for men. Too keen on examining the broad picture as opposed to the details of a woman’s life, the male characters’ ignorance proves to be their downfall in their mission to uncover what happened the day before.

Glaspell additionally uses dissipating space between the two women as a symbol of their growing bond and eventual silent agreement. When Mrs. Peters mentions how Mrs. Wright expressed concern over her preserves being cracked, Mr. Hale comments how “women are used to worrying over trifles.” Since they never refer to each by first name, it is implied that the women are not on familiar terms. However, at these words, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters “move a little closer together.” Their growing bond comes full circle by the turning-point of the play. When the women find the strangled canary hidden in the quilt, they are abruptly interrupted by the men, who patronizingly ask if Mrs. Wright was going to “quilt it or knot it.” When Mrs. Peters responds, “We think she was going to - knot it,” it is the first act of defiance she, the woman who has shown deference to the men throughout the play, initiates against the men. By