

not really  
space  
symbolism

withholding their newly uncovered evidence, Mrs. Peters is showing her refusal to allow the men to prosecute her peer. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters are "knotted" together by each other's joint experience of discovering Mrs. Wright's guilt. This concept is reflected by Mrs. Peter's memory of how she felt when, as a girl, a boy murdered her kitten with a hatchet and she would have "hurt him" if not held back. The women's open-mindedness to a member of their own gender leads to their own power, as they are the ones who find the final clue, deduct what happen and silently agree to "clear" Mrs. Wright when they decide not to reveal what they found. The men's sexist attitudes cause them to lose their needed evidence, because the women do not trust them to show empathy for Mrs. Wright.

knotted  
as  
Women =  
knot symbolic  
their unity.  
Race / Inq  
= "knot"  
is understood  
by women,  
lack of  
empathy  
means  
they do not

Good  
transition

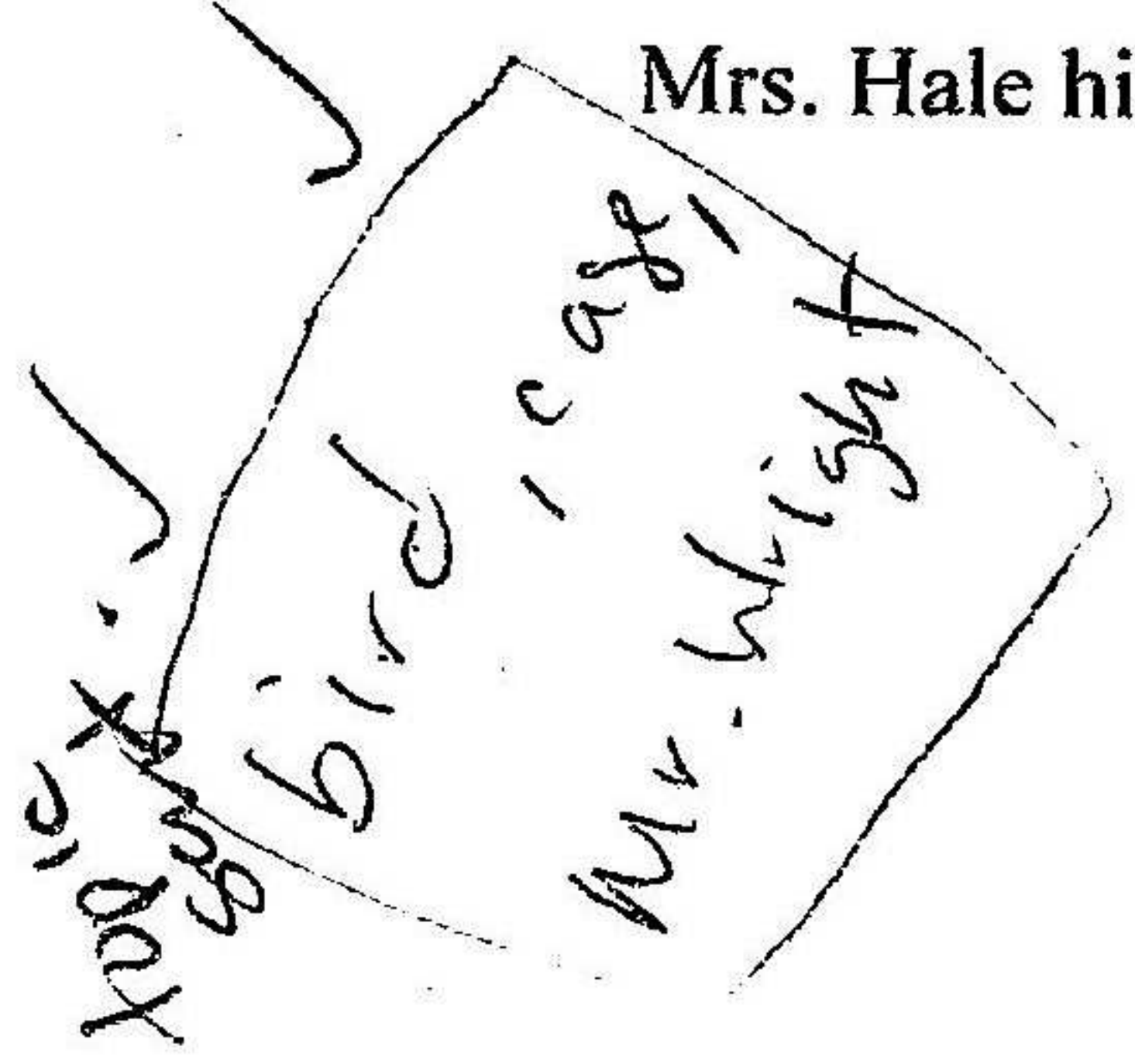
In addition to space, Glaspell used physical objects as symbolism to further support that sexism and its resulting ignorance hurts men. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters find an empty birdcage and, later, its former inhabitant murdered. The reader already knows Mr. Wright was a fair but "hard man" from Mrs. Hale's descriptions of him. The cage's door has one hinge broken, "as if someone must have been rough with it." As evident to Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters, and consequently the audience, Mr. Wright killed the canary. The bird could be interpreted as symbolizing Mrs. Wright, who was "a bit like a bird herself." When the canary is murdered by Mr. Wright, a physical representation of men's power, it illustrates the often fatal power men have over women's dreams and actions. His blatant display of control over Mrs. Wright

reorganized  
way to organize  
them

by killing her bird and his underestimation of her paved the way to his own downfall when she strangled him in his sleep, a crime of vengeance. The cage symbolizes the sexism that ran rampant at the time. Like the cage limited the canary and its freedom, sexism prevented women from becoming too independent and achieving their personal endeavours. Furthermore, when

Good line  
tie back

Mrs. Hale hides the dead bird to prevent the sheriff, the county attorney and Mr. Hale from



work on more deliberate  
organization of this complex  
symbol