Word Specific Analysis (Quote 1): “The Story of an Hour”

“It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that revealed in half concealing. Her husband’s friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard’s name leading the list of ‘killed.’”

Directions:
1. Create word maps for each of the underlined words. Brainstorm at least three synonyms.
2. Answer the following question TWICE (once after reading this section and again after reading the entire story): How might these words be foreshadowing something to come?

Word Specific Analysis (Quote 2): “The Story of an Hour”

“She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which some one was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves. There were patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds that had met and piled one above the other in the west facing her window.”

1. Think about how each of these underlined words could be symbols. Pick two or three and discuss potential symbolism.
2. Would you say the tone is positive or negative here (if you read this section separate from the context of the story)?
Word Specific Analysis (Quote 3): “The Story of an Hour”

“When the doctors came, they said she had died of heart disease- of joy that kills.”

1. Discuss the ambiguity of the words “heart” and “kills”? How could connotative meanings interfere with the interpretation of the conclusion?