

GRIFFIN – English 3
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The Awakening Summer Reading Assignment

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(Be aware, there are numerous editions, and I can't vouch for all of them, but this one should be fine)

Introduction: Have you ever longed to change your life completely? *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, a brisk and fascinating novel written in the late 1800s, has its main character, Edna Pontellier, explore that question. We follow her emotional journey, as she seeks to break out of the roles expected of the typical woman of the Victorian era.

Overall Goal: The overall goal of the high school summer reading program is to provide a venue for students to engage in academic and intellectual pursuits during the summer that have multiple positive benefits for the students including vocabulary enrichment, critical thinking opportunities, and valuable reading and writing experiences.

Directions:

English 3 students will read the novel *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin. Students are to answer the Study Guide questions on the novel as they read. I am looking for thoughtful, thorough answers. Students are to do their own work---do not refer to Spark Notes, Cliff Notes, etc. I would rather see an incorrect answer that shows a student's true effort than one copied out of a book, from the internet, or from a friend. This is to be worked on alone.

QUESTIONS ARE DUE ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Grades on The Awakening Unit

Students can expect the following grades:

- Study Guide questions—*double 100-point quiz grade*
- Essay on novel — *test grade*
- Group discussion questions, homework, and notes (daily grades)

READING/STUDY QUESTIONS
They can be typed or hand-written (legibly)

Chapters 1-6

1. Find one quote that you think summarizes Edna and Leonce's relationship at the beginning of the novel. List the page number.
2. Find one quote that you think summarizes Edna's relationship with her children. List the page number.
3. Describe the scene in Chapter 3 between Leonce and Edna. What is the problem? How is it resolved? What does it suggest about their relationship?
4. What does Chapter 4 say about "mother-women"? Whom does she describe as one?
5. In Chapter 4, what are Edna's feelings about the Creole women? How are they different from her?
6. Find a quote that suggests what romance is happening between Robert and Edna.

7. How would you describe what is happening to Edna in Chapter 6?

8. In chapter 5, she sat with Mme. Ratignolle and Robert. The narrator describes the setting: "The sun was low in the west, and the breeze soft and languorous that came up from the South, charged with the seductive odor of the sea." Moments later she looks toward the Gulf "whose sonorous murmur reached her like a loving but imperative entreaty." In chapter 6, as she heads to the sea with Robert, the narrator introduces the refrain that continues throughout the novel. Examine the last two paragraphs beginning with "The voice of the sea . . ." Explain what you think these quotes suggest about the sea's relationship to Edna's "awakening".

CHAPTERS 7-13

1. In Chapter 7, what memory is brought up when Edna looks out at the sea. What might this symbolize?

2. In Chapter 8, what does Adele ask Robert to do? Why is this significant?

3. At the end of Chapter 8, what opportunity has arisen for Robert?

4. What event is occurring in Chapter 9? Who is Mademoiselle Reisz? What instrument does she play? Find a quote that shows what effect it has on Edna.

5. In Chapter 10, what does Edna do that she's never done before? Find a quote that reveals how she feels about the experience.

6. How does Edna assert herself in Chapter 11?

7. Quickly summarize what is happening in Chapter 12. Find a quote/passage in Chapter 12 that reveals Edna's growing sense of freedom.
8. Who "awakens" Edna in Chapter 13? Why is this significant?

CHAPTERS 16-24

1. In Chapter 16, what does Edna say she would and wouldn't give up for her children?
2. In Chapter 17, what does Edna do after Leonce leaves dinner? What does this reveal about her?
3. In Chapter 18, what skill does Edna exhibit? How do her friends react?
4. Find a quote in Chapter 19 that reveals how Leonce is reacting to Edna's new behavior.
5. Who is Victor?
6. In Chapter 21, find a quote from Mademoiselle Reisz about what it takes to be an "artist"
7. What has Mademoiselle Reisz received that upsets Edna?
8. Why has Leonce gone to see Doctor Mandelet in Chapter 22? What does Doctor Mandelet wonder to himself at the end of Chapter 22?

9. Who comes to visit in Chapter 23?

10. What kind of story does Edna tell in Chapter 23? What is the Doctor afraid this story has revealed about Edna?

11. According to Chapter 24, why might Edna's sisters never speak to her again?

12. How does Edna respond to being in the house all alone? Find a passage that agrees.

CHAPTERS 25-30

1. In Chapter 25, it says Edna composed a letter in her head "which was nothing like the one which she wrote the next day" and sent to Leonce. What do you think the imagined letter may have said?

2. In Chapter 25, how is Alcee Arobin described?

3. At the end of Chapter 25, what is ironic about Edna's thought "'What would he think?'"

4. How does Edna intend to pay for the new house?

5. In Chapter 26, what news is revealed in Robert's letter to Mademoiselle Reisz?
6. In Chapter 26, what does Edna confess to Mlle. Reisz that was "the first time she had admitted it"?
7. In Chapter 27, how is the Edna compared to a bird?
8. What is the nickname for Edna's new house? What significance might there be to its name?
9. In Chapter 30, what does Victor do at the dinner party that upsets Edna?

CHAPTERS 31-39

1. In Chapter 31, Arobin walks Edna to her new house. How does he treat her when they arrive?
2. In Chapter 32, how does Leonce react to Edna's move? What most worries him? actions does he take?
3. In Chapter 32, how does Edna react to seeing her children? Does this surprise you? What is her feeling about her children at the end of the chapter?
4. In Chapter 33, what is Adele's opinion of Arobin?

5. Describe how Edna meets Robert. What is his reaction?
6. How does Edna react to Arobin in Chapter 34? How does Arobin react to Robert?
7. According to Chapter 35, when is Leonce returning? What does he hope to do when he gets back?
8. In Chapter 36, Edna runs into Robert by chance at an outside café. In 2-3 sentences, describe their meeting.
9. Why does Edna leave at the end of Chapter 36? On what terms does she part from Robert?
10. Edna goes to Adele's sick bed in Chapter 38. What are Adele's parting words? Why do you think she says that?
11. In Chapter 39, there appears to be repetition from earlier chapters. Try to find a line that has been repeated from earlier.
12. How does the novel end? Does it surprise you? Why or why not?

