**Grade 11 English** Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

June/July Reading Assignment

# **"But the beginning of things, of a world especially, is necessarily vague, tangled, chaotic, and exceedingly disturbing. How few of us ever emerge from such beginning! How many souls perish in its tumult"** (The Awakening, Chopin)!

# http://blaine.org/jules/TheAwakening.jpgthat being said…

# WELCOME TO GRADE 11 ENGLISH

Over the course of the year, we will encounter several characters whose individuality will clash violently with societal expectations, and whose shifting notion of truth may challenge our own. Our vacation reading, Kate Chopin´s *The Awakening,* is only the beginning.

Now, I know no one exactly jumps for joy at the idea of summer reading, but if you complete the enclosed assignment, I can assure you will have a thought-provoking reading experience followed by a smooth transition into Grade 11 English.

Banned for decades due to its controversial critical reception, *The Awakening* is Kate Chopin´s last lyrical saga of feminist consummation, elusive imagery, and startling self-discovery. It is a narrative saturated in sensual diction, with the elaborate syntax of a protagonist plagued by reticence.

The time is turn of the century. 1899 to be exact. The issue at hand? Women. Women's sexuality to be exact. At the time, Louisiana law still held wives as "property" of their husbands. The woman in question? Edna Pontellier. The question? What right does a married mother of two have to act on her own sexual yearning? What right does humanity have to disregard societal expectations in the face of self-realization?

Your summer reading project has two parts as outlined below:

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| **Part I: Reader Responses (40 points)** | **Part II: Critical Analysis Questions (70 points)** |
| 1. Read the attached assignment in its entirety. 2. Read the book! 3. As you read, neatly write or type up four informal reader responses into the template as described and outlined on the following pages (10 points per entry for a total of 40 points).   **This assignment will be due the FIRST CLASS MEETING in July. Late work will result in a deduction of 5 points per day.** | As you read the novel, track and identify evidence to assist you in answering the questions as outlined on the last page of this packet. Answer the any **SEVEN** out of the ten questions in formally typed, double spaced paragraphs (10 points each for a total of 70 points). Use quotes as evidence to support your claims. Be sure your answers are MLA formatted, double-spaced, and proofread. Your answers will be graded for clarity, completeness, depth, evidence, and analysis.  **This assignment will be due the SECOND CLASS MEETING IN JULY with 5 points extra credit if it is turned in on the first day of class. Late work will result in a deduction of 5 points per day.** |

Instructions can be found both in this packet and at [www.pasbenglishmsb.weebly.com](http://www.pasbenglishmsb.weebly.com), where you can download this entire packet, post your blog entries, interact with your classmates, and email me with any questions, concerns, or doubts you might have. My email address is alexandra.brostoff@gmail.com, and I tend to answer email inquiries extremely fast!

**Part I: Reader Responses (40 points, 10 points per response)**

1. Read the attached assignment in its entirety.
2. Read the book!
3. As you read, neatly write or type up four informal reader responses into the template as outlined on the following pages (10 points per entry for a total of 40 points).

As you read, informally reflect on your reactions and reflections on the text. Respond to characters, plot, themes, etc. and how they make you feel as a reader. You do not need to answer all of the following questions, but may use them as inspiration to help you formulate your four responses. Do NOT write plot summary; you will not receive credit for it.

1. What are you thinking about as you read the first paragraphs?
2. What do you think the author wants you to know?
3. What are you imagining might happen next?
4. What do you know that is helping you understand what you are reading? What might you need to know more about to help you understand?
5. What clues do you have to the character's/speaker's personality?
6. Do you like the character?
7. What are the character's problems?
8. How is the character like anyone you know or even like you?
9. What information did the author leave out? What's happening behind the words or scenes? How did you fill them in?
10. What other works have you read that are similar in some way to this one? What sticks out as the most important connection between the two?
11. Will you tell your friends about this work? What do you want them to know?
12. What did you like most/least about this poem/story/novel?
13. Was there anything you didn't understand? What was it?
14. What idea was the author trying to explore in this work? How important is that idea?
15. If you were to make a movie of this story, who would be in the movie? What would you change to make the movie fit two hours? What kind of setting would you choose?
16. Who was telling the story? Does it make a difference? What if someone else were telling it?
17. How do you recognize when [literary elements](http://mshogue.com/ce9/Gen_Info/literary%20terms.htm) are being used? (symbol, metaphor, foreshadowing, etc.)
18. Do you agree with how the author sees the world?  In what ways?
19. How do you feel about the way the story was told? Is there anything you enjoyed or were irritated with about the way the book is written?
20. What do you feel is the most significant passage/word/event from the poem/story/novel?

**This assignment will be due the FIRST CLASS MEETING in July. Late work will result in a deduction of 5 points per day.**

Reading Responses Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Part I: Chapters I-XII (1-12)** | **Part II: Chapters XIII-XXV (13-25)** |

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| **Part III: Chapters XXVI- XXXIV (26-34)** | **Part IV: Chapters XXXV- XXXIX (35-the end)** |

**Part II: Critical Analysis Questions (70 points, 10 points per question)**

Write a short paragraph (at least 4 sentences) responding to each of the following questions in thoughtful, complete sentences. Use quotes as evidence to support each of your claims. Be sure your answers are typed, double-spaced, and proofread. Each question is worth 10 points, for a total of 100. We will be doing various activities where you will need to use the evidence in your answers to support claims in class. **This assignment will be due on the SECOND CLASS MEETING in July** **with 5 points extra credit if turned in on the first day of class. Late work will result in a deduction of 5 points per day.**

1. Find five examples of Edna having thoughts that would not be appropriate for a respectable woman in the 1800’s.
2. How does Edna change over the course of the novel? Identify changes in specific character traits and discuss what causes such changes to occur.
3. Track and discuss the repetition of ONE of the following images throughout the novel: sleeping, birds, or the sea. Explain how this imagery reflects on the theme(s) of the novel. Cite at least TWO quotes to explain your answer.
4. What is Mr. Pontellier’s attitude toward his children? What is his perspective on his responsibilities as a father? What is Mr. Pontellier’s attitude toward Edna and her mothering? Cite specific examples to support your claims.

*"The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clearing, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander for a spell in the abysses of solitude; to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation. The voice of the sea speaks to the soul. The touch of the sea is sensuous, enfolding the body*

*in its soft, close embrace."*

1. Chapter IX is critical to the novel as a whole. Compare and contrast Madame Pontellier’s reactions to Madame Ratignolle Mademoiselle Reisz’s music. Reflect on how these comments on imagination, culture, and art reflect on the novel as a whole. What is the significance of such commentary?
2. Consider the role of the doctor in the novel. How is he like and/or distinct from the other men in the novel?
3. To what extent might this novel serve as a critique of sentimental women´s romance writing of the 19th century? Give examples to support your answer.
4. Comment on the development in ONE of the following conflicts in the text:
   * confinement vs. freedom
   * power vs. subordination
   * money vs. ownership
5. What does the title *The Awakening* refer to? Describe how this title reflects on at least TWO specific moments in the narrative.
6. What do you make of Edna’s last action in the novel? Explain how her final action reflects on the thematic message of the novel.