

# AP Literature 11/12

## Summer Assignment for School Year 2015/16

Pay particular attention to ALL of the directions. There are several tasks that you need to complete for credit. The AP Summer Assignment is extremely important since the readings you will do in the text as well as the novel are the basis of much of what we will do throughout the year.

If at any time you have a question or need help, please email me. I will get back to you as soon as I am able.

Due Date: First Friday that we return to school

Happy Reading!

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Books for the summer project: (you need a hardcopy, not an "ebook" for this)

- A clean\* hardcopy of *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin (Recommended: Penguin Classics paperback edition)
- A hardcopy of *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* by Thomas C. Foster

\*A clean copy means a copy of the book that does not already contain someone else's writing. You may still buy a used copy of the book with a few marks, but if it has too many markings in it, don't buy that copy. The annotations must be in your handwriting and previous marking can get in the way.

Summer assignment – Both Parts are due on the first Friday back to school.

1. Read *How to Read Literature Like a Professor (HRLLP)* by Thomas C. Foster
2. Read and annotate *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, paying careful attention to how knowledge from HRLLP can be applied to analyzing and understanding this novel.
3. Create a three column textual analysis chart. In column one, select a quote from *The Awakening*. In the second column, select a quote (or two) from *How to Read Literature Like a Professor* that gives insight into analyzing the meaning of that quote from *The Awakening*. In the third column, analyze what that information from HRLLP illuminates about the deeper meaning of the quote from *The Awakening* (four-six sentences minimum).
  - The chart must have ten entries. Some of those entries may be similar, aka you deal with two incidents of symbolic birds in *The Awakening*, but you find new meanings from Foster's book each time.
  - Cite all quotes. For books, the parenthetical citation usually consists of the author's last name and page number. Example: "'Ask Mrs. Pontellier what she would like to hear me play,' she requested of Robert" (Chopin 71).
4. The annotated book and the chart will each count twice (quiz grade). You will also take a test covering both books.\*

Example of one entry for textual analysis chart:

Quote from Chopin's novel, <i>The Awakening</i>	Quote(s) from Foster's book, <i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> (you can choose to have more than one quote in this column if needed)	What does this quote from Foster's <i>How to Read Literature Like a Professor</i> illuminate about the deeper meaning of this quote from Chopin's novel, <i>The Awakening</i> ? Clearly explain the text.
"After a refreshing bath, Edna went to bed. And as she snuggled comfortably beneath the eiderdown a sense of restfulness invaded her, such as she had not known before" (Chopin 127).	"Symbolically, that's the same pattern we see in baptism: death and rebirth through the medium of water. He's thrown into the water, where his old identity dies with his older brother. The self who bobs to the surface and clings to the sailboat is a new being" (Foster 155). "So when writers baptize a character they mean death, rebirth, new identity? Generally, yes." (Foster 159)	After her husband and two children leave, Edna is reborn into the independence that she has not known since she married. The water symbolizes her washing away those attachments to her family, and being born again into independence. Water creates this symbolism because just as it washes away dirt on a person's body, it can wash away things found internally, like emotional pain or relationships. Edna's bath symbolizes being baptized and reborn as a liberated woman.

## Instructions on How to Annotate

Annotating means making notes on a piece of writing to explain meaning, devices, etc. You first underline the text, and then make notes on to the side about meaning. Underlining/highlighting is one part of annotating, but not all of it. In order to receive full credit for annotating, you must have both marked the text and made notes in the margins. This is a skill you will use in some way with everything we read to interact with the text and discover the overall meaning.

I will grade based on the level of detail in your annotations – just underlining a few phrases and jotting down one or two word notes will not qualify you for a passing grade. You need to annotate The Awakening for all of the devices, concepts, and key passages listed below. For devices like symbolism, do not just write the word “symbol” in the margin, but rather make notes describing the meaning. The key passages listed for each device or concept are minimal suggestions, not limitations. Make your notes in the margins. Frequent, detailed markings demonstrate a thorough understanding of the text, as well as make it easy for you to navigate the text as you go back through the novel during assignments.

### Annotating The Awakening: (required) (you must annotate where they are found)

1. The title – this is a book about a woman who is awakening on many levels. Annotate and pay careful attention to passages that refer to Edna going to sleep and waking, or to “awakening” in any sense
2. Symbolism– Chopin’s use of birds is very important. Make note of every mention of birds, and analyze the symbolism  
\*Key passages to mark for this: beginning of Ch.1, the visions Edna has in Ch. 9, end of Ch. 27 starting with “Well, for instance, when I left her today...”, and the end of chapter 39 starting with “The water of the Gulf stretched out before her...”
3. Symbolism– clothing has symbolic significance regarding Edna’s journey of awakening. Note mentions of her clothing, the significance of the colors, and its meaning for her journey and freedom (or lack thereof).  
\*Key passages to mark for this: Ch.7 starting with “The two seated themselves...”, Ch. 13 (IMPORTANT), end of Ch. 39 starting “She put it on, leaving her clothing...”
4. Symbolism – music, colors, houses, also figure heavily into the meaning of the text. Mark them and their meanings.  
\*Key passages to mark for this: Ch. 33, when Chopin refers to “the Pontellier mansion, which looked broken...torn asunder”
5. Allusions to Greek myth of Aphrodite – analyze how that myth parallels Edna’s journey and what meaning is created. Annotate carefully for the significance of Edna’s relationship with water and the ocean.  
*Aphrodite is the Greek goddess of love and beauty (known by the Latin name “Venus” in Roman myth), known to laugh at those who fell under her spell. It is believed that she sprang from a sea-birth near the island of Cythera. Zeus married her to Hephaestus, god of fire, to keep the other gods from fighting over her, but soon she had an affair with Ares, the god of war. Hephaestus caught them and Aphrodite returned to the sea to renew her virginity. Thus, the two components of Aphrodite, passion and water, were combined.*  
\*Key passages to mark for this: Victor’s description of Edna in the first paragraph of Ch. 39, the ending of Ch. 39
  - The “Gulf Spirit” – Robert refers to a “Gulf Spirit” which enchants Edna  
\*Key passages to mark for this: Robert’s discourse on the Spirit in Ch. 10, her feelings about this while sailing in Ch. 12
6. Biblical allusions – Kate Chopin’s Catholic and Protestant influences are significant within the text.  
\*Key passages to mark for this: Ch. 30 starting with “Quite new; ‘brand’ new...” (consider how many people are invited)
7. Vocabulary – if you find a word you do not understand, highlight it and then write the definition you find. This is a very important way to expand vocabulary. Examples: *coquetry, damask*
8. French– what do the French phrases and terms mean? Understanding the French reveals deeper meaning in the novel.
9. Character contrast– every character in this book serves to highlight certain aspects of Edna’s character. Alcée reveals her sexuality; Mademoiselle Reisz casts her longings for artistic expression and independence into light. Make note of what each character reveals about Edna through their interactions, dialogue, etc.  
\*Key passages to mark for this: Alcée in Ch. 28, Mdm.Reisz in Ch. 21, Dr. Mandelet in Ch. 38 starting “It seems to me...”
10. Foil –the character who best reveals Edna is her foil, her pregnant friend Adele. A foil is a character who contrasts with another character (usually the protagonist) in order to certain qualities of the other character. Annotate for what characteristics Adele possesses, and what this reveals about Edna’s character in the process.  
\*Key passages to mark for this: Ch.4 starting “The mother women seemed...” and the birth scene and last line of Ch. 37
11. Women’s roles in Victorian society – annotate and pay attention to the expectations set forth for women in this time period, as well as the limitations they face. Note social customs, race relations, gender roles in marriage, and clothing.
12. Questions – if you come across a passage or word you don’t understand, mark it and write your question to the side. This is active learning, and provides for class discussion!

My example of an annotated page in *The Awakening*:

Annotations should be written in the book, and most students write all their notes in the margins. You may write sideways if you need to, just write neatly enough to read you notes later. You may also choose to use sticky notes for longer writings or if you have very large handwriting, but you may not make the notes on separate paper. (Keep in mind that older books with delicate pages may rip when you use sticky notes and try to peel them off.) Remember that smaller copies of the book may have margins too small for your notes. Please get in touch with me if you are having difficulty affording the novel.

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THE AWAKENING

CHAPTER 1

Edna, with all the other oppressed housewives, is symbolized by birds inside of the "cages" of society's restrictions, including marriage.

A green and yellow parrot, which hung in a cage outside the door, kept repeating over and over: "Allez vous-en! Allez vous-en! Sapristi! That's all right!"

He could speak a little Spanish, and also a language which nobody understood, unless it was the mocking-bird that hung on the other side of the door, whistling his fluty notes out upon the breeze with maddening persistence.

Mocking birds are maternal, "nesting birds"

Mr. Pontellier, unable to read his newspaper with any degree of comfort, arose with an expression and an exclamation of disgust.

He walked down the gallery and across the narrow "bridges" which connected the Lebrun cottages one with the other. He had been seated before the door of the main house. The parrot and the mockingbird were the property of Madame Lebrun, and they had the right to make all the noise they wished. Mr. Pontellier had the privilege of quitting their society when they ceased to be entertaining.

He stopped before the door of his own cottage, which was the fourth one from the main building and next to the last. Seating himself in a wicker rocker which was there, he once more applied himself to the task of reading the newspaper. The day was Sunday; the paper was a day old. The Sunday papers had not yet reached Grand Isle. He was already acquainted with the market reports, and he glanced restlessly over the editorials and bits of news which he had not had time to read before quitting New Orleans the day before.

Are they on vacation?      Their home: Louisiana

This means "Go away! Go away! For God's Sake!" in English. Edna is the cages bird, who wants Léonce to "go away" and leave her

Interesting, Pontellier means "bridges." Why did she choose that? I get it - Edna is the parrot and Adele is the mockingbird!

Looking Forward to being with you all next year! ☺ Enjoy Summer Mrs. McCalister

Remember My famous Words... This is an AP class. You are required to complete summer assignment to be a part of the class next year. IF you have problems or questions - email me