



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

THE AWAKENING

BY KATE CHOPIN



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Research****Objective:** Researching the author**Activity**

Write at least two paragraphs about Kate Chopin, including the titles and dates of her published works. In your biography, explain the means by which Chopin explored the lives of the people she wrote about and the background that helped produce her works.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter I**Setting****Objective:** Visualizing the setting of the book**Activity**

In this chapter, Chopin gives us a portrait of an island vacation spot. We know that the people who visit there for the summer are familiar with both the place and each other from summers past.

Make a sketch of what you think Grand Isle looks like, including the cottages, the main house, and other places mentioned in the chapter. Add any details you think will help capture the likeness of Grand Isle, based on the first chapter's description.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter IV**Letter-writing****Objective:** Writing a letter of reference**Activity**

Re-read all the information you can find about Mrs. Ratignolle in Chapter IV and write a reference letter for her as though she had been your children's nanny. Your letter will be the most important reference for Mrs. Ratignolle when she applies for a new position. Write at least three paragraphs about her, updating mentions of her dress, manners, and attitude to reflect current-day expectations. Explain what you think her manner of dress and her actions reveal about the type of caregiver she is. We have begun the reference for you.

To Whom It May Concern;

For the years I have known Adèle Ratignolle,

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XV**Letter-writing****Objective:** Writing a letter**Activity**

In this chapter, Edna realizes that she is in love with Robert Lebrun and believes he loves her, too. When she finds out that he has plans to leave not only Grand Isle but Louisiana altogether, she is shocked and dismayed.

Edna has no one to turn to with her problem and desperately wants someone to talk to about it. Imagine that Edna can write to an advice columnist anonymously. As Edna, write a multi-paragraph letter explaining your situation and asking for advice.

Follow your letter with a one-paragraph answer from the columnist.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XVII –XXIV**Letter-writing****Objective:** Writing a letter asking for advice**Activity**

Léonce Pontellier is not likely to ask for advice from a woman, but he might anonymously seek advice from another man. He discusses his problems with Dr. Mandelet in Chapter XXII, for example, and, in Chapter XXIV, his father-in-law tells him that he is “too lenient by far” with Edna.

As Léonce, write a letter to a male advice columnist explaining your situation and asking for advice. Follow the letter with an answer from the columnist.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XXV – XXXI**Decision making****Objective:** Comparing decisions made by the main character**Activity**

In Chapters XXV-XXXI, Edna starts to utilize her new realizations about her life to make some changes.

Chapter XXIX, for example, begins this way:

“Without even waiting for an answer from her husband regarding his opinion or wishes in the matter, Edna hastened her preparations for quitting her home on Esplanade Street and moving into the little house around the block.” (Pg. 119)

Starting with Chapter XXV and going through Chapter XXXI, make a list of ten occasions on which Edna acts decisive and different than she would have in previous chapters. Quote from the book and include page numbers. Beneath each quote, write your opinion of how Edna might have acted before she decided to seek independence. The first one is done for you.

1 - “On rainy or melancholy days Edna went out and sought the society of the friends she had made at Grand Isle.” (Pg. 103)

Before, unaccustomed to going off on her own, Edna might have waited for someone to call instead.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XXXIII**Writing a poem****Objective:** Writing a poem from prose**Activity**

Write a poem of at least fourteen lines that captures the feeling of the passage in Chapter XXXIII in which Edna goes to Mademoiselle Reisz's apartment. (Pgs. 135-139) If you like, use the line below as your first line.

I go to seek the friendship of one who understands.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap Up**Writing to Kate Chopin****Objective:** Imagining and composing a letter**Activity**

In the space below, write a letter to Kate Chopin, telling her what you think of *The Awakening*. Include your opinion of the ending, the vocabulary, the plot, or any other topic you want to cover.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap Up

Writing a Review

Objective: Writing a review of the book

Activity

Now that you have finished *The Awakening*, write a review for a newspaper or magazine.

Write at least four paragraphs, and rate the book on a scale of one to five stars.