

Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

Teacher: Brown Grade: 9-12 School: Olentangy High School

Book Title: The Awakening Genre: Fiction

Author: Kate Chopin Pages: 334

Publisher: W.W. Norton; 2nd edition Copyright: 1993

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

From Amazon.com:

The Awakening begins at a crisis point in twenty-eight year-old Edna Pontellier's life. Edna is a passionate and artistic woman who finds few acceptable outlets for her desires in her role as wife and mother of two sons living in conventional Creole society. Unlike the married women around her, whose sensuality seems to flow naturally into maternity, Edna finds herself wanting her own emotional and sexual identity. During one summer while her husband is out of town, her frustrations find an outlet in an affair with a younger man. Energized and filled with a desire to define her own life, she sends her children to the country and removes herself to a small house of her own: "Every step she took toward relieving herself from obligations added to her strength and expansion as an individual. She began to look with her own eyes; to see and apprehend the deeper undercurrents of life. No longer was she content to 'feed upon the opinion' when her own soul had invited her." Her triumph is short-lived, however, destroyed by a society that has no place for a self-determined, unattached woman. Her story is a tragedy and one of many clarion calls in its day to examine the institution of marriage and woman's opportunities in an oppressive world.

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

Conceptual Understanding

1. Formulate the meaning of unknown words through context clues and the author's use of comparison, contrast and cause and effect. 10AVA

Conceptual Understanding

2. Integrate new vocabulary into writing and conversation by analyzing literal and figurative meanings of words, including how historical events have impacted the English language. 10AVC

Structural Understanding

3. Analyze and apply new vocabulary using knowledge of Greek, Latin and Anglo-Saxon roots, prefixes and suffixes. 10AVE

4. Explain how an author uses rhetorical devices to achieve purpose. 10RAIB

7. Interpret an author's style. 10RALB
8. Analyze the use of figurative language, sound devices and literary techniques in literary works. 10RALF
9. Compare and contrast literary elements focusing on plot and conflict, literary styles in diverse literary works. 10RALC
10. Analyze literary elements focusing on sub genres. 12RALC
11. Evaluate plot, character, theme, point of view and setting in varied genres. 10RALA,B, 12RALA
12. Explain how figurative language expresses tone. 10RALF

Pre-Writing

1. Determine a purpose and plan strategies (eg. adapting, focus, content structure and point of view) to address purpose and audience. 10WPA

Drafting, Revising and Editing

2. Establish and use a thesis statement for informational writing or outline for narrative writing. 12WPB
3. Employ independent editing and proofreading to improve the sophistication of writing, (i.e. parallel structures, literary devices and figurative language). 12WPC,D

5. Write well organized responses that reflect insightful interpretation that support judgments beyond specific references to the original texts, to other texts, authors and prior knowledge. 12WAB

7. Write expository essays or reports that include relevant, clear and accurate perspectives, supported by documented sources. 12WAD

8. Write persuasive compositions that establish a clear position with detailed evidence that includes relevant information and cites sources. 10WAE, 12WAE

Grammar and Usage

10. Use correct grammar (eg. verb tenses, parallel structure, indefinite and relative pronouns). 10WCC
11. Use style guides to produce oral

and written reports that give proper credit for sources and include a standardized format for source acknowledgment (MLA). 10RD

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be “cut and pasted” (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

Publishers Weekly

Chopin's (1850-1904) *The Awakening*, whose heroine rejects her husband and children as she indulges in solitude and in an adulterous infatuation, was embraced by the women's movement 70 years after its publication. Although they pale in comparison to the novel, these stories, which comprise Chopin's third and last short-fiction collection, serve to flesh out the Chopin oeuvre and deserve a place on women's studies syllabi. As in *The Awakening*, the author's social critiques here demythologize women, marriage, religion and family. A woman escapes "the incessant chatter" of other females at a party and retires to the male domain of the smoking room, where she puffs on hashish and dreams of a love affair torn asunder. The perverse Mrs. Mallard revels in her newfound freedom when informed that her husband is a casualty of a train accident and dies of a heart attack when he shows up alive. Her fiancé is wasted by illness and reeks death, and a repulsed Dorothea bolts; elsewhere, a monk is lured by the voice of a woman, a former intimate. And in a twist on the plot of *The Awakening*, a husband, plagued by suspicions of his late wife's infidelity, casts himself in the river.

Review #2

From the Publisher

Novelist and short story writer Kate Chopin (1851-1904) was the first American woman to deal with women's roles as wives and mothers. *The Awakening* (1899), her most famous novel, concerns a woman, dissatisfied with her indifferent husband, who gives in to her desire for other men and commits adultery. This is a searing depiction of the religious and social pressures brought to bear on women who transgress restrictive Victorian codes of behavior.

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

Title: *The Rise of Silas Lapham* Author: William Dean Howells

Title: *O Pioneers* Author: Willa Cather

Title: *My Antonia* Author: Willa Cather

Title: *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* Author: Stephen Crane

Title: Author:

Title: Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Extramarital affair and implied suicide

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated Regular At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Reading level of this title (if applicable):

Date Submitted to Department Chair: 11/06/2007

Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults