

Why you should read The Awakening...

- 1. Chopin creates a fascinating character study of a woman and her unconventional choices that are still relevant.*
- 2. Edna's pervasive sense of dread is compelling – we want to know what will happen next...*
- 3. Chopin's writing is beautiful and very “readable.”*
- 4. Despite the 3rd person narration, the reader gets to know Edna intimately.*
- 5. Short and accessible!! It is possible to read the novel in one sitting with an investment of only 3 or 4 hours.*

Why you may struggle with The Awakening...

- 1. None of the characters are particularly sympathetic – especially the protagonist, Edna.*
- 2. Edna's choices were unconscionable to readers in 1899 and will frustrate today's readers as well.*

Still interested? A few suggestions before you begin...

- *The novel is available on line, free of charge, at:
<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/ChoAwak.html>*
- *A little background on the setting:
http://www.literarytraveler.com/authors/kate_chopin_awakening_grandisle.aspx*
- *A little background on “Creole” and “Cajun” culture:
<http://www.cajunculture.com/Other/creole.htm>
<http://www.nathanielturner.com/livesandtimesofquadroons.htm>
<http://www.cajunculture.com/Other/cajun.htm>*
- *A little help pronouncing the names:
<http://www.ielanguages.com/french1.html>
Pontellier = Pon – tee – ay
Ratignolle = Ra – tuh – nol
Reisz = Ru – ees*