**Reading Guide for *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin – The Last Section**

Assignments are based on about 60 pages of reading. The pacing is generous in order to provide time to select excellent quotes and examples and to contemplate choices judiciously.

**This paper is to be typed. Set line spacing at 1.5 and margins at 1 inch.**

**You may print front and back. Label all sections. Provide a standard heading and header.**

Address the tasks below for assignments 1 and 2. Assignment 3 tasks will be slightly different.

1. Read 171 to 233 (to XV) – Oct. 11 – Friday

2. Read 233 to 292 (from XV to XXVI) – Oct. 21 – Monday

3. Read 292 to 351 (from XXVI to the end) – Oct. 31– Thursday

**Set up quotes with page and chapter numbers, like this:**

“Mr. Pontellier, unable to read his newspaper with any degree of comfort, arose with an expression and an exclamation of disgust” (171; ch. 1).

**Tasks are based on “Understanding and Evaluating Fiction” (*Perrine’s* 94-96)**

**1. Plot and Structure:** (three long paragraphs)

Discuss three different conflicts. Try to bring closure to situations you have already written about. Make note of what happened and how the problem is handled and resolved, providing it is resolved. If the problem is not resolved, analyze what obstacle(s) deterred that resolution. Choose at least one quote to help reveal each conflict. Determine if the conflict is physical, intellectual, moral, emotional or a combination thereof.

**2. Characterization:** (two long paragraphs)

How do contrasts between characters bring plot to a close? Discuss two different interactions and provide quotes that reveal the contrast and the point. Consider Chopin’s purpose for creating this conflict and how it plays out.

**3. Theme:** (one long paragraph)

Provide at least three themes. Does the theme appear to reinforce or oppose popular notions? Does it furnish a new insight or refresh or deepen an old one? Quotes are optional for this task.

**4. Point of view:** (two long paragraphs)

In what ways does Chopin use point of view to reveal or conceal? Provide two examples with quotes to support your assertion. In each example, explain why something is revealed or concealed? How does that contribute to Chopin’s message?

**5. Symbol:** (quotes in bullet-point form)

Track one symbol (two if you’d like) throughout the story: birds, water/the sea, art/music, the moon, sleep, houses/setting, or clothing. Collect three to five quotes about the symbol you’ve chosen. Organize all your quotes in chronological order and make a comment about what you learned be virtue of this collection. If the quote you wish to include is longer than a few sentences, provide the most significant sentence(s) and then note how much more must be read to benefit fully from your choice.

**6. General:** (a statement or two, followed by two quotes)

Make an observation about Chopin’s writing style. Use two quotes to exemplify your observation.