**Reading Guide for *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin**

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.

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 find situations between different characters. Nonetheless, if you prefer to track a specific type of interaction between two characters, that is acceptable. Make note of what happens and how the problem is handled and resolved, providing it is resolved. 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 drive plot? Discuss two different interactions and provide quotes that reveal the contrast and the point. Consider Chopin’s purpose for creating this conflict.

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

As far as you can tell at this point, what might the theme be? Feel free to change your mind after additional reading. 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)

Does Chopin use point of view to reveal or conceal? Provide two examples with quotes to support your assertion. In each example, what is revealed or concealed? How, why and how well?

**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. Let me know if you discover a different symbol you would like to track as you progress through the novel. For each reading assignment, collect three to five quotes about the symbol you’ve chosen. You do not need to write about the quotes at this point. 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.