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- 12 multiple-choice practices (9-10 in genre-based guides)
- 6 free-response questions (6-10 in genre-based guides)
- Answer keys with detailed answer explanations
- Suggested teaching strategies
- Literary terms list
- Vocabulary lists by chapter or selection
- Free-response Scoring Guide

Middle School and High School Curriculum

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APPLIED PRACTICE
Resource Guide
The Awakening
Pre-AP*/AP* Version

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GLOSSARY OF LITERARY TERMS

- absolute**—a word free from limitations or qualifications (“best,” “all,” “unique,” “perfect”)
- adage**—a familiar proverb or wise saying
- ad hominem* argument**—an argument attacking an individual’s character rather than his or her position on an issue
- allegory**—a literary work in which characters, objects, or actions represent abstractions
- alliteration**—the repetition of initial sounds in successive or neighboring words
- allusion**—a reference to something literary, mythological, or historical that the author assumes the reader will recognize
- analogy**—a comparison of two different things that are similar in some way
- anaphora**—the repetition of words or phrases at the beginning of consecutive lines or sentences
- anecdote**—a brief narrative that focuses on a particular incident or event
- antecedent**—the word, phrase, or clause to which a pronoun refers
- antithesis**—a statement in which two opposing ideas are balanced
- aphorism**—a concise statement that expresses succinctly a general truth or idea, often using rhyme or balance
- apostrophe**—a figure of speech in which one directly addresses an absent or imaginary person, or some abstraction
- archetype**—a detail, image, or character type that occurs frequently in literature and myth and is thought to appeal in a universal way to the unconscious and to evoke a response
- argument**—a statement of the meaning or main point of a literary work
- asyndeton**—a construction in which elements are presented in a series without conjunctions

VOCABULARY LIST FOR *THE AWAKENING*

Note: Vocabulary from the literary passage is listed first, followed by vocabulary from the questions and answers.

Passage 1

anecdotes
indiscriminately
utterances
evinced
reproached
brokerage
monotonous
insistent
peignoir
mules
foregoing
tacit
anguish
upbraiding
lamenting
imps
dispelling
rockaway
toothsome
bonbons

compassionate
conscientious
inattentive
irresponsible
excoriating
railing
berating
minimized
abhorrent
disconcerting
inevitable
deplorable
tongue-in-cheek
triumphant
contemptuous
ironic

Passage 2

countenance
statuesque
instinctively
sun-bonnet
controversies
propensity
manifestation
imperceptibly
enamored
affliction
infatuation
tragedian
fidelity
acme
dissolution
intoxicated
draggingly

foreshadowing
malevolent
inauspicious
disastrous
pragmatic
perplexed

Passage 3

redoubling
tempered
discouragement
futility
tottering
exultation
enfeebled
dissenting
capricious
traversed
penetrating
semi-celestials
banter
flippancy
entreaty
supercilious
voluptuous
beneficent

approbation
contemptuous
jocular
pejorative
flippancy
imperious
presumptuous
nonplused

Passage 3, Questions 16-22. Read the following passage from Chapter 10 of *The Awakening* carefully before you choose your answers.

(5) The Pontelliers and Ratignolles walked ahead; the women leaning upon the arms of their husbands. Edna could hear Robert's voice behind them, and could sometimes hear what he said. She wondered why he did not join them. It was unlike him not to. Of late he had sometimes held away from her for an entire day, redoubling his devotion upon the next and the next, as though to make up for hours that had been lost. She missed him the days when some pretext served to take him away from her, just as one misses the sun on a cloudy day without having thought much about the sun when it was shining.

(10) The people walked in little groups toward the beach. They talked and laughed; some of them sang. There was a band playing down at Klein's hotel, and the strains reached them faintly, tempered by the distance. There were strange, rare odors abroad—a tangle of the sea smell and of weeds and damp, new-plowed earth, mingled with the heavy perfume of a field of white blossoms somewhere near. But the night sat lightly upon the sea and the land. There was no weight of darkness; (15) there were no shadows. The white light of the moon had fallen upon the world like the mystery and the softness of sleep.

(20) Most of them walked into the water as though into a native element. The sea was quiet now, and swelled lazily in broad billows that melted into one another and did not break except upon the beach in little foamy crests that coiled back like slow, white serpents.

(25) Edna had attempted all summer to learn to swim. She had received instructions from both the men and women; in some instances from the children. Robert had pursued a system of lessons almost daily; and he was nearly at the point of discouragement in realizing the futility of his efforts. A certain ungovernable dread hung about her when in the water, unless there was a hand near by that might reach out and reassure her.

(30) But that night she was like the little tottering, stumbling, clutching child, who of a sudden realizes its powers, and walks for the first time alone, boldly and with over-confidence. She could have shouted for joy. She did shout for joy, as with a sweeping stroke or two she lifted her body to the surface of the water.

(35) A feeling of exultation overtook her, as if some power of significant import had been given her to control the working of her body and her soul. She grew daring and reckless, overestimating her strength. She wanted to swim far out, where no woman had swum before.

(40) Her unlooked-for achievement was the subject of wonder, applause, and admiration. Each one congratulated himself that his special teachings had accomplished this desired end.

(45) "How easy it is!" she thought. "It is nothing," she said aloud; "why did I not discover before that it was nothing. Think of the time I have lost splashing about like a baby!" She would not join the groups in their sports and bouts, but intoxicated with her newly conquered power, she swam out alone.

(50) She turned her face seaward to gather in an impression of space and solitude, which the vast expanse of water, meeting and melting with the moonlit sky, conveyed to her excited fancy. As she swam she seemed to be reaching out for the unlimited in which to lose herself.

Once she turned and looked toward the shore, toward the people she had left there. She had not gone any great distance—that is, what would have been a great distance for an experienced swimmer. But to her unaccustomed vision the stretch of water behind her assumed the aspect of a barrier which her unaided strength would never be able to overcome.

A quick vision of death smote her soul, and for a second of time appalled and enfeebled her senses. But by an effort she rallied her staggering faculties and

managed to regain the land.

(55) She made no mention of her encounter with death and her flash of terror, except to say to her husband, "I thought I should have perished out there alone."

"You were not so very far, my dear; I was watching you," he told her. Edna went at once to the bath-house, and she had put on her dry clothes and was ready to return home before the others had left the water. She started to walk away alone.

(60) They all called to her and shouted to her. She waved a dissenting hand, and went on, paying no further heed to their renewed cries which sought to detain her.

"Sometimes I am tempted to think that Mrs. Pontellier is capricious," said Madame Lebrun, who was amusing herself immensely and feared that Edna's abrupt departure might put an end to the pleasure.

(65) "I know she is," assented Mr. Pontellier; "sometimes, not often."

Edna had not traversed a quarter of the distance on her way home before she was overtaken by Robert.

"Did you think I was afraid?" she asked him, without a shade of annoyance.

"No; I knew you weren't afraid."

(70) "Then why did you come? Why didn't you stay out there with the others?"

"I never thought of it."

"Thought of what?"

"Of anything. What difference does it make?"

"I'm very tired," she uttered, complainingly.

(75) "I know you are."

"You don't know anything about it. Why should you know? I never was so exhausted in my life. But it isn't unpleasant. A thousand emotions have swept through me to-night. I don't comprehend half of them. Don't mind what I'm saying; I am just thinking aloud. I wonder if I shall ever be stirred again as Mademoiselle Reisz's playing moved me to-night. I wonder if any night on earth will ever again be like this one. It is like a night in a dream. The people about me are like some uncanny, half-human beings. There must be spirits abroad to-night."

(80) "There are," whispered Robert. "Didn't you know this was the twenty-eighth of August?"

"The twenty-eighth of August?"

(85) "Yes. On the twenty-eighth of August, at the hour of midnight, and if the moon is shining—the moon must be shining—a spirit that has haunted these shores for ages rises up from the Gulf. With its own penetrating vision the spirit seeks some mortal worthy to hold him company, worthy of being exalted for a few hours into the realms of the semi-celestials. His search has always hitherto been fruitless, and he has sunk back, disheartened, into the sea. But to-night he found Mrs. Pontellier. Perhaps he will never wholly release her from the spell. Perhaps she will never again suffer a poor, unworthy earthling to walk in the shadow of her divine presence."

(90) "Don't banter me," she said, wounded at what appeared to be his flippancy. He did not mind the entreaty, but the tone with its delicate note of pathos was like a reproach. He could not explain; he could not tell her that he had penetrated her mood and understood. He said nothing except to offer her his arm, for, by her own admission, she was exhausted. She had been walking alone with her arms hanging limp, letting her white skirts trail along the dewy path. She took his arm, but she did not lean upon it. She let her hand lie listlessly, as though her thoughts were elsewhere—somewhere in advance of her body, and she was striving to overtake them.

(100) Robert assisted her into the hammock which swung from the post before her door out to the trunk of a tree.

(105) "Will you stay out here and wait for Mr. Pontellier?" he asked.

"I'll stay out here. Good-night."

"Shall I get you a pillow?"

"There's one here," she said, feeling about, for they were in the shadow.

- “It must be soiled; the children have been tumbling it about.”
- (110) “No matter.” And having discovered the pillow, she adjusted it beneath her head. She extended herself in the hammock with a deep breath of relief. She was not a supercilious or an over-dainty woman. She was not much given to reclining in the hammock, and when she did so it was with no cat-like suggestion of voluptuous ease, but with a beneficent repose which seemed to invade her whole body.
- (115) “Shall I stay with you till Mr. Pontellier comes?” asked Robert, seating himself on the outer edge of one of the steps and taking hold of the hammock rope which was fastened to the post.
- “If you wish. Don’t swing the hammock. Will you get my white shawl which I left on the window-sill over at the house?”
- (120) “Are you chilly?”
- “No; but I shall be presently.”
- “Presently?” he laughed. “Do you know what time it is? How long are you going to stay out here?”
- “I don’t know. Will you get the shawl?”
- (125) “Of course I will,” he said, rising. He went over to the house, walking along the grass. She watched his figure pass in and out of the strips of moonlight. It was past midnight. It was very quiet.
- When he returned with the shawl she took it and kept it in her hand. She did not put it around her.
- (130) “Did you say I should stay till Mr. Pontellier came back?”
- “I said you might if you wished to.”
- He seated himself again and rolled a cigarette, which he smoked in silence. Neither did Mrs. Pontellier speak. No multitude of words could have been more significant than those moments of silence, or more pregnant with the first-felt throbbings of desire.
- (135)

16. The first three paragraphs (lines 1-20) are notable for their

- (A) abrupt shifts of focus
- (B) various points of view
- (C) unusual syntax
- (D) hyperbolic language
- (E) similarity of structure

17. In line 44, the word “fancy” is best interpreted to mean

- (A) belief
- (B) imagination
- (C) impulsiveness
- (D) appreciation
- (E) resplendence

18. Edna’s delight over her new-found swimming ability (lines 27-50) is primarily connected to

- (A) attracting approbation and envy
- (B) feelings of accomplishment and pride
- (C) a sense of control and freedom
- (D) being accepted and included
- (E) an awareness of danger and power

19. Mr. Pontellier's reaction to his wife in line 56 could best be described as
- (A) contemptuous
 - (B) dismissive
 - (C) jocular
 - (D) pejorative
 - (E) incredulous
20. In the paragraph which begins in line 85, which of the following contributes LEAST to the playfulness of Robert's tone?
- (A) "and if the moon is shining—the moon must be shining" (lines 85-86)
 - (B) "With its own penetrating vision" (line 87)
 - (C) "some mortal worthy" (lines 87-88)
 - (D) "a poor, unworthy earthling" (line 92)
 - (E) "the shadow of her divine presence" (lines 92-93)
21. In their conversation which begins in line 105 and ends in line 131, Robert and Edna, respectively, could best be described as
- (A) solicitous and indifferent
 - (B) persistent and imperious
 - (C) fawning and condescending
 - (D) chivalrous and coy
 - (E) presumptuous and nonplused
22. The "first-felt throbbings of desire" (lines 134-135) are most likely induced by Edna's
- (A) offense at her husband's patronizing treatment
 - (B) fatigue and lightheadedness
 - (C) jealousy of the other women
 - (D) appreciation of Robert's poetic story
 - (E) newfound freedom she experienced in the water

Question 1

(Suggested time—40 minutes)

Read the following passage from Chapter 3 of *The Awakening*. Then, in a well-organized essay, discuss how the stylistic elements of the passage reflect the author's attitude toward Mr. Pontellier.

(5) It was eleven o'clock that night when Mr. Pontellier returned from Klein's hotel. He was in an excellent humor, in high spirits, and very talkative. His entrance awoke his wife, who was in bed and fast asleep when he came in. He talked to her while he undressed, telling her anecdotes and bits of news and gossip that he had gathered during the day. From his trousers pockets he took a fistful of crumpled bank notes and a good deal of silver coin, which he piled on the bureau indiscriminately with keys, knife, handkerchief, and whatever else happened to be in his pockets. She was overcome with sleep, and answered him with little half utterances.

(10) He thought it very discouraging that his wife, who was the sole object of his existence, evinced so little interest in things which concerned him, and valued so little his conversation.

(15) Mr. Pontellier had forgotten the bonbons and peanuts for the boys. Notwithstanding he loved them very much, and went into the adjoining room where they slept to take a look at them and make sure that they were resting comfortably. The result of his investigation was far from satisfactory. He turned and shifted the youngsters about in bed. One of them began to kick and talk about a basket full of crabs.

(20) Mr. Pontellier returned to his wife with the information that Raoul had a high fever and needed looking after. Then he lit a cigar and went and sat near the open door to smoke it.

(25) Mrs. Pontellier was quite sure Raoul had no fever. He had gone to bed perfectly well, she said, and nothing had ailed him all day. Mr. Pontellier was too well acquainted with fever symptoms to be mistaken. He assured her the child was consuming at that moment in the next room.

(30) He reproached his wife with her inattention, her habitual neglect of the children. If it was not a mother's place to look after children, whose on earth was it? He himself had his hands full with his brokerage business. He could not be in two places at once; making a living for his family on the street, and staying at home to see that no harm befell them. He talked in a monotonous, insistent way.

Mrs. Pontellier sprang out of bed and went into the next room. She soon came back and sat on the edge of the bed, leaning her head down on the pillow. She said nothing, and refused to answer her husband when he questioned her. When his cigar was smoked out he went to bed, and in half a minute he was fast asleep.

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