

Applied Practice
in

The Awakening
PRE-AP/AP**

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RESOURCE GUIDE

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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
tenuous
doting
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

petulant
incredulous
diminutive
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

resplendence
approbation
contemptuous
jocular
pejorative
imperious
presumptuous
nonplused
patronizing

Directions: This part consists of selections from *The Awakening* and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading each passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the words NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Passage 1, Questions 1-8. Read the following passage from Chapter 3 carefully before you choose your answers.

(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.

(35) 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.

(40) Mrs. Pontellier was by that time thoroughly awake. She began to cry a little, and wiped her eyes on the sleeve of her *peignoir*. Blowing out the candle, which her husband had left burning, she slipped her bare feet into a pair of satin *mules* at the foot of the bed and went out on the porch, where she sat down in the wicker chair and began to rock gently to and fro.

(45) It was then past midnight. The cottages were all dark. A single faint light gleamed out from the hallway of the house. There was no sound abroad except the hooting of an old owl in the top of a water-oak, and the everlasting voice of the sea, that was not uplifted at that soft hour. It broke like a mournful lullaby upon the night.

(45) The tears came so fast to Mrs. Pontellier's eyes that the damp sleeve of her *peignoir* no longer served to dry them. She was holding the back of her chair with

one hand; her loose sleeve had slipped almost to the shoulder of her uplifted arm. Turning, she thrust her face, steaming and wet, into the bend of her arm, and she went on crying there, not caring any longer to dry her face, her eyes, her arms. She
(50) could not have told why she was crying. Such experiences as the foregoing were not uncommon in her married life. They seemed never before to have weighed much against the abundance of her husband's kindness and a uniform devotion which had come to be tacit and self-understood.

An indescribable oppression, which seemed to generate in some unfamiliar part
(55) of her consciousness, filled her whole being with a vague anguish. It was like a shadow, like a mist passing across her soul's summer day. It was strange and unfamiliar; it was a mood. She did not sit there inwardly upbraiding her husband, lamenting at Fate, which had directed her footsteps to the path which they had taken. She was just having a good cry all to herself. The mosquitoes made merry
(60) over her, biting her firm, round arms and nipping at her bare insteps.

The little stinging, buzzing imps succeeded in dispelling a mood which might have held her there in the darkness half a night longer.

The following morning Mr. Pontellier was up in good time to take the
(65) rockaway which was to convey him to the steamer at the wharf. He was returning to the city to his business, and they would not see him again at the Island till the coming Saturday. He had regained his composure, which seemed to have been somewhat impaired the night before. He was eager to be gone, as he looked forward to a lively week in Carondelet Street.

Mr. Pontellier gave his wife half of the money which he had brought away from
(70) Klein's hotel the evening before. She liked money as well as most women, and accepted it with no little satisfaction.

"It will buy a handsome wedding present for Sister Janet!" she exclaimed, smoothing out the bills as she counted them one by one.

"Oh! we'll treat Sister Janet better than that, my dear," he laughed, as he
(75) prepared to kiss her good-by.

The boys were tumbling about, clinging to his legs, imploring that numerous
(80) things be brought back to them. Mr. Pontellier was a great favorite, and ladies, men, children, even nurses, were always on hand to say good-by to him. His wife stood smiling and waving, the boys shouting, as he disappeared in the old rockaway down the sandy road.

A few days later a box arrived for Mrs. Pontellier from New Orleans. It was
(85) from her husband. It was filled with *friandises*, with luscious and toothsome bits—the finest of fruits, *patés*, a rare bottle or two, delicious syrups, and bonbons in abundance.

Mrs. Pontellier was always very generous with the contents of such a box; she
(90) was quite used to receiving them when away from home. The *patés* and fruit were brought to the dining-room; the bonbons were passed around. And the ladies, selecting with dainty and discriminating fingers and a little greedily, all declared that Mr. Pontellier was the best husband in the world. Mrs. Pontellier was forced to admit that she knew of none better.

1. The statement that Mr. Pontellier's wife "was the sole object of his existence" (lines 10-11) most likely reflects the point of view of
 - (A) Mrs. Pontellier
 - (B) Mr. Pontellier
 - (C) the narrator
 - (D) friends of Mrs. Pontellier
 - (E) the Pontelliers' children

2. The details in the first six paragraphs (lines 1-30) combine to present Mr. Pontellier primarily as
 - (A) compassionate
 - (B) self-centered
 - (C) conscientious
 - (D) inattentive
 - (E) irresponsible

3. The phrase "Such experiences" in line 50 refers to
 - (A) Mrs. Pontellier's crying uncontrollably
 - (B) Mrs. Pontellier's being kept awake
 - (C) the children's illnesses
 - (D) the verbal exchanges between Mr. and Mrs. Pontellier
 - (E) Mr. Pontellier's expression of concern for the children

4. Which of the following serves LEAST to convey Mrs. Pontellier's distress?
 - (A) "It broke like a mournful lullaby" (line 43)
 - (B) "The tears came so fast to Mrs. Pontellier's eyes" (line 45)
 - (C) "Such experiences as the foregoing were not uncommon" (lines 50-51)
 - (D) "filled her whole being with a vague anguish" (line 55)
 - (E) "It was like a shadow, like a mist" (lines 55-56)

5. The relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Pontellier can best be characterized as
 - (A) fond but disconnected
 - (B) relaxed and carefree
 - (C) tenuous and impermanent
 - (D) doting yet contentious
 - (E) gratifying and matchless

6. The statement "it was a mood" (line 57) serves to
 - (A) hint at Mrs. Pontellier's emotional instability
 - (B) cast doubt on the cause of Mrs. Pontellier's tears
 - (C) fully explain the vehemence of Mrs. Pontellier's reaction
 - (D) somewhat minimize the intensity of Mrs. Pontellier's experience
 - (E) foreshadow Mrs. Pontellier's happiness the next day

7. The sentence which begins “He had regained his composure” (lines 66-67) implies that Mr. Pontellier finds resistance from his wife to be primarily
- (A) abhorrent
 - (B) disconcerting
 - (C) inevitable
 - (D) deplorable
 - (E) deliberate
8. The tone of the last two sentences of the passage (lines 87-90) could best be described as
- (A) tongue-in-cheek
 - (B) triumphant
 - (C) matter-of-fact
 - (D) contemptuous
 - (E) ironic

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.

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