

Honors English III Summer Reading Assignment

Read the following novel: *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

While reading, practice good annotation methods/strategies that we will be using in my course all year. Some students think that just highlighting and underlining is enough, but it isn't. Good annotating means not just knowing something needs to be highlighted, but asking why it should be. What makes it important? Is it relevant to theme, context, setting, characterization, etc.? Ask yourselves these questions as you read and annotate! Below, there are some strategies for annotating your text.

- Highlight/Underline important quotes and/or moments – Remember to ask yourself why these are important. Write in the margins why you think so.
- Mark moments (or words) where you are confused with question marks – write questions you may have in the margins that way you remember to ask those questions later as we discuss books.
- Make comments in the margins wherever you feel necessary. Do you agree or disagree with actions made by characters? Do you personally relate to a moment? Etc.
- Some people find it useful to summarize at the bottoms of pages.
- Circle page numbers that you feel were important.

Basically, annotating is taking notes inside your book. It's interacting with the work to help you better understand it and to be prepared for discussions in class. **I will be looking at your books to ensure that you carefully annotated. Remember, simply underlining and highlighting is not enough!!**

After you've read the book, I want you to address the following topics.

1. **Theme:** Pick out themes in the novel. Find specific places where those themes are developed in the text (include page numbers). Discuss how those themes are important to understanding the text, the messages the text attempts to get across, etc. What do these themes mean to you?
2. **Characterization:** List some of the characters that are particularly compelling to you. Discuss are they characterized? (This is more than looks – but personality, how they interact with other characters, etc.)
3. **Setting:** Discuss the important elements of setting in the novel. This includes time (including relevant contexts surrounding that time period), place, weather, etc.
4. **Self-Connection:** How do you relate to what happens in the text, to the characters (major or minor), etc.? Connect the real world to the text in various ways. It is not acceptable to simply say "I do not connect in any way to this book." **EVERY** book relates in some way to today. Every book contains universal themes, messages, ideas, etc. that directly relate to the human experience.
5. **Important Questions:** As you ask questions throughout the book, write some down that you think may be particularly important. Do not include simple reading comprehensions questions you may be confused about, but rather the deeper questions you're asking that help you interact with the text.

6. Consider the ending and discuss what you think it may mean.