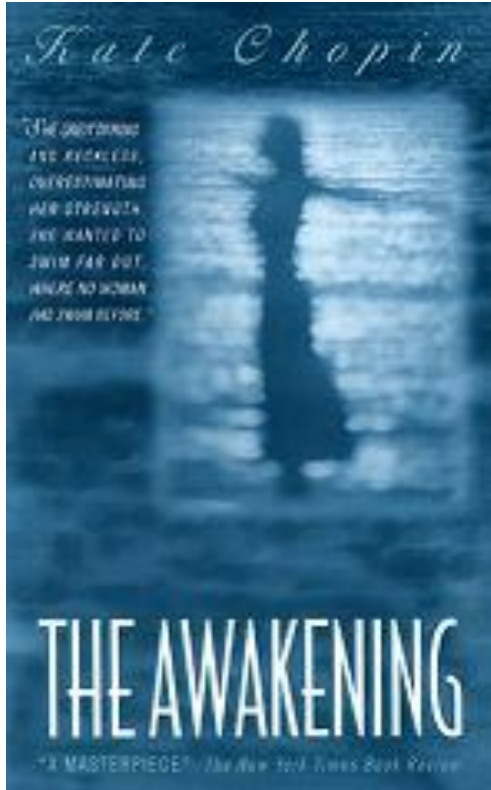


The Awakening Socratic Circle Questions



1. At the very beginning of chapter 1 it reads, "A green and yellow parrot, which hung in a cage outside the door, kept repeating over and over: "Allez vous-en! Allez vous-en! Sapristi!" which means, "Go away! Go away! For God's sake!" The narrator continues by saying, "He could speak a little Spanish, and also a language which nobody understood, unless it was the mocking-bird that hung on the other side of the door, whistling his fluty notes out upon the breeze with maddening persistence." What does the reference to these birds represent? What about other birds in the novel? What do they represent?
2. What event do you think triggers Edna's quest for independence and self-fulfillment?
3. There are two times in the novel when the narrator states, "The voice of the sea is seductive; never ceasing, whispering, clamoring, murmuring, inviting the soul to wander for a spell in abysses of solitude; to lose itself in mazes of inward contemplation. The voice of the sea speaks to the soul. The touch of the sea is sensuous, enfolding the body in its soft, close embrace." Where are those two places? What does that signify in relation to what the sea represents?
4. On page 111, what does Edna mean when she says, "The years that are gone seem like dreams – if one might go on sleeping and dreaming – but to wake up and find – oh! well! Perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions in one's life." How does this epiphany relate to the outcome of the novel?
5. Throughout the novel, Edna changes the way she dresses several times. By the time she swims in the last chapter, she is naked. What is the significance in the way she dresses herself?