

Anna VanSeveren

Dr. Pennington

ENGL 305

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New Historicism Proposal

Texts: *The Awakening* and “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin

Main idea (working thesis): The deaths of Edna Pontellier and Louise Mallard in Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening* and “The Story of an Hour” reflect the views of society in the 1800s that rebellious women were dangerous and instead needed to be docile and obedient, allowing their husbands to take charge. There was no place in society for women who wanted to be free from the constraints of the patriarchy.

Potential Paragraph Topics:

- Kate Chopin’s life/possible motivations for writing the two texts
- Role of women in society during the late 1800s (probably two paragraphs at least)
- Focus specifically on Edna and Louise and what they represent, specifically what both of their deaths represent

Other Sources (Parallel Readings):

Abbasi, P. "The Masculine Sea and the Impossibility of Awakening in Chopin’s The

Awakening." *k@ ta lama* 14.1 (2012): 37-42.

Acton, William. *The Functions and Disorders of the Reproductive Organs in Childhood, Youth, Adult Age, and Advanced Life, Considered in Their Physiological, Social and Moral Relations*. J. & A. Churchill, 1862.

Cunningham, Mark. "The Autonomous Female Self and the Death of Louise Mallard in Kate Chopin's "Story of an Hour"." *English Language Notes* 42.1 (2004): 48-55.

Patmore, Coventry. *The Angel in the House*. Macmillan, 1866.

Rosenberg, Charles E. "Sexuality, class and role in 19th-century America." *American Quarterly* 25.2 (1973): 131-153.

Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, and Lucretia Mott. "Declaration of Sentiments." (2002).

Toth, Emily. *Unveiling Kate Chopin*. Univ. Press of Mississippi, 1999.

Toth, Emily. "Kate Chopin on Divine Love and Suicide: Two Rediscovered Articles." *American Literature* 63.1 (1991): 115-121.

Toth, Emily, and Per Seyersted, eds. *Kate Chopin's Private Papers*. Indiana University Press, 1998.