

TEXT ADOPTION REQUEST

Instructional Materials Committee

Text Title: *The Awakening*

Author: **Kate Chopin**

Publisher: **Dover Thrift Editions**

Copyright Date: **1993**

Course Title and Grade Level: **AP Literature and Composition, 12th Grade**

This text is: New **X**

Replacing

(Title)

Number of Copies Needed: **35**

Unit Price: **\$3.15**

This text is intended for use: **2015-16**

I have taken the following steps to determine the suitability of the above text:

- (Yes) 1. I have read it and found that it meets the criteria of the district Instructional Materials Committee, including criteria for the elimination of sex bias. This is a mandatory step:
Chopin is considered one of the forerunners of the feminist movement. When published, the book was banned in many cities, but was later credited with helping bring about social change for women's issues.
- (Yes) 2. I have compared it with these other available texts:
The other texts available for AP Lit are some are *King Lear*, *Henry V*, and other histories. We will read *Hamlet*; I believe one Shakespeare play will suffice.
- (Yes) 3. I have compared review of it with review of these other available texts:
I need a class set of Existential literature. *The Awakening* fulfills this need and it has been on the AP Literature and Composition Exam ten times.
- (Yes) 4. I have evaluated the reading level and found it averages about grade:
This novel is written at the college level (grade 13+ on the Frye Readability Scale).
- (Yes) 5. I have used the text on a trial basis, per district policy and the Curriculum Director's approval:
I have taught this in AP Lit courses at other high schools.



Text Selector Signature

9-21-15

Date



Principal or Dept. Head

9-25-15

Date

Instructional Material Committee

Date

Board of Directors Approval

Date

Instructional Materials Committee Evaluation Form

Evaluated By: **Karla Bickmore**

Date: **9/19/15**

Department: **English**

School: **High School**

Subject Area: **A.P. Literature & Composition**

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Reading Level (use Fry Readability Graph): **13+ grade**

1. Will this material be the basic text or will it supplement the basic text? If it is supplementary, what is your basic text?

Supplementary. The text is *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* textbook which contains short stories, plays, poetry, and excerpts of larger works. The only book that WHS has for AP Lit is the novella *Heart of Darkness*. The previous teacher relied on students to purchase additional books on their own. My rationale for wanting to purchase class sets is a) it is helpful for discussion purposes to have the same edition (and page numbers) and b) that would alleviate any burden to students.

2. How did you become aware of this material? (Professional journals, salesman, publisher's catalog, know someone who has used it, used material before, etc.)

This was a book used/recommended in the AP Lit course I took at Vancouver Summer Institute. I have taught it in AP Lit courses in other districts. It is a good example of Existential literature, and also helps to teach Postmodernism and the absurd.

3. What other materials did you consider?

I considered *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton as well as the other books on the list above. In addition to reading the novel, students will read excerpts from Walden, Thoreau, Sartre, Camus, Kafka, and other existential philosophers and authors.

4. In what ways is this material better than the other materials? (Text format, organization content, unbiased content concerning minorities and women, teacher's guide, etc.)

This novel is well-written, is full of literary devices (which AP students need to read, in context, and practice analyzing them) and is a great example of Existential literature.

5. How does this material fit the students learning objectives for the subject area? One focus of AP Lit is to expose students to texts from a variety of time periods and genres. *The Awakening* was written by a female author (all other texts that Woodland has set aside for

The Awakening

AP Lit are by white male authors), and was written by an American author during the 1890s. This book created a wide-social reaction at the time it was written. It was banned in most cities because of its content (the revolutionary idea that a woman could leave her husband's home and live on her own, because she was unhappy). It is different from the other AP Lit books and it is extremely well written.

6. How does this material ensure continuity with the District's overall program?

This is a book of literary merit. Having looked at the books used in Woodland High School, I would argue that we need more books by female authors, more books by authors of color, and more books from the AP Reading List for the AP Lit class.

7. Bias content check list:

Bias Content	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	N/A
1. Presents more than one viewpoint of controversial issues	X				
2. Presents minorities realistically		X			
3. Includes contributions of minority authors					X
4. Presents non-stereotypical models	X				
5. Facilitates the sharing of cultural differences	X				
6. Promotes the positive nature of differences	X				
7. Includes contributions/inventions/discoveries of minorities					X
8. Includes contributions/inventions/discoveries of women	X				
9. Presents minorities in a manner that promotes ethnic pride	X				
10. Facilities environment that is open to discovery	X				

8. Other:

Currently WHS owns class sets of *Hamlet* and *Heart of Darkness* for AP Lit. This is not enough for an AP Lit class. I would like to acquire class sets of three additional titles (two titles in addition to *The Awakening*).

I would also like to procure several **Lit Circle** books (6 copies each) of the following titles (the number after the title indicates the number of times the book has appeared on the AP Literature and Composition Exam):

- *Jane Eyre* (14) by Charlotte Bronte
- *As I Lay Dying* (8) by William Faulkner
- *The Things They Carried* (1) by Tim O'Brien
- *The Color Purple* (7) by Alice Walker
- *Invisible Man* (21) by Ralph Ellison
- *The Scarlet Letter* (11) by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- *Ceremony* (9) by Leslie Marmon Silko