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**"Analysis of the novel The Awakening by Kate Chopin from a Feminist Point of View, Analyzing
the novel on its Own Era and Modern Times"**

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Chapter I Introductory Framework

Equality between men and women has been analyzed for a long time so that all people can enjoy doing the same, regardless of gender, and also have the same responsibilities. Gender roles are social and cultural expectations that dictate how individuals should behave based on their sex or gender identity. These roles often influence the division of labor, responsibilities, and expectations within a society, assigning certain tasks or characteristics to specific genders.

However, it is essential to recognize that these roles are evolving within modern societies, challenging traditional norms and advocating for more equitable and flexible expressions of gender, promoting a more inclusive and diverse understanding of identity and capabilities. For example, women should have the same opportunities as men when acquiring jobs or studying. Although this has changed little by little over the years.

Literature plays a very important role because, with it, we can observe the mentality of previous times and even compare old books with recent books. Thanks to this, people can analyze, for example in previous centuries there were not many women who were writers because they would be exposed to ridicule. For example, some women writers used a man's name to publish, so that they could be able to publish a book.

Over the years, women writers were gradually rebelling themselves against the system that prevented them from writing and expressing their thoughts, ideas or opinions. Also in the last century, not all women had access to education. Therefore, women who were educated through literature were changing the lives of women and movements arose that currently sought gender equality.

1.1 Problem Statement

The shifting roles of women, both in the past and in contemporary society, present a complex and multifaceted challenge. While significant progress has been made towards gender equality in recent decades, remnants of traditional gender roles and persistent inequalities continue to shape the experiences of women. This problem statement aims to explore the stark contrasts between the roles assigned to women in the past and the evolving landscape of gender roles in the present day.

By examining the historical context, societal expectations, and the impact of feminist movements, this study seeks to address the persistent issues faced by women, highlight the achievements in dismantling gender stereotypes, and identify the remaining barriers that hinder the full realization of gender equality. How does Kate Chopin's novel 'The Awakening' exemplify and challenge traditional gender roles and societal expectations, and what insights does a feminist analysis offer into the protagonist Edna Pontellier's journey of self-discovery and liberation?

1.1 Objectives of the Investigation

1.2 General Objectives.

To analyze the novel *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin with an emphasis on feminism on how women were seen and treated during the 19th Century and what were considered to be women's tasks and duties.

1.2.1 Specific Objectives.

1.2.1. To analyze the situations in the book's plot versus the present to understand how women continue to be oppressed.

1.2.2. To make a comparative table with what was considered to be female-specific duties on previous centuries versus current ones in which women are still often forced to fulfill roles that should be taken by both genders.

1.2.3 To identify male domination attitudes that have been normalized throughout history in which women continue to be affected throughout their lives.

1.3. Justification of the Study

The purpose of this analysis is to raise awareness on the readers about the discrimination women have endured that has existed for millennial and how feminism has helped women on their path to equal rights and opportunities. Although some people still consider the feminist movement as negative, the researcher has focused on a feminist analysis to compare the past versus the present time based on the book. Also, the investigator researched on the concepts related to the feminist movement, so that readers along with the researcher can expand their knowledge in various historical movements. The researcher has applied the feminist movement on Kate Chopin's novel to find several examples related to this.

Literary analysis of feminism also serves as a means to reclaim women's stories and histories that have been overlooked or erased. It provides a platform to celebrate women's achievements, highlight their contributions to literature and society, and reclaim their agency in a male-dominated world. By critically examining texts, we can uncover the silences, gaps, and omissions that marginalize women, allowing us to fill those voids with narratives that center and empower women.

Moreover, feminist literary analysis facilitates a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between literature and the social, cultural, and political contexts in which it is produced. Literature is not created in a vacuum; it is shaped by the world in which it emerges. Feminist literary analysis examines how the social, cultural, and historical factors influence and shape the representation of women in literature. It illuminates the ways in which literature both reflects and reinforces gender norms, and it provides insights into the struggles women face in a patriarchal society.

Additionally, the literary analysis of feminism offers a tool for self-reflection and personal growth.

Through engaging with feminist literature, readers can develop a critical lens that enables them to recognize and challenge their own internalized biases and prejudices. It encourages readers to question the status quo, interrogate their own assumptions about gender, and foster empathy and understanding for diverse experiences. By examining the complexities of gender, power, and identity in literature, individuals can become more aware and conscious of the inequalities and injustices that exist in the world around them.

Seeking equality should be the dream of most people because we are all human beings and we all have a voice, when equality really exists, we will have advanced as a society and it will be easier

to solve future conflicts.

This research is to analyze and compare the treatment that women received by society and also to analyze how feminism has influenced that time as in the present. Also, to show with examples from the book how women suffered injustices from society, and if this has had a change or not.

The research is developed in order to make people think on how the treatment and role of women have changed over the years and to realize that all people have the same rights and search for equality because today we continue seeing cases where women are repressed and often are violated either psychologically or verbally which are the most common and sadly are normalized. This analysis also seeks to benefit many people who read the book and can understand it a little through the point of view of the researcher and future colleagues.

The researcher wants to generate conscience by means of the literary analysis of the book *The Awakening* because through reading, reflection can be generated, and future readers can compare if there has been any change in society or if it remains the same. Analyzing is a good method because with it, people can realize if they really want to make and seek a change.

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1.3 Kate Chopin's life and personal influence

Kate Chopin in her time was very criticized for her writing because her books had feminist thoughts, something that was not well seen in those years. She was inspired by her own life to write her texts because she grew up in an environment where women had the voice and was the sustenance of the house. The reason was because her father died when she was just a child. Also, for that reason, she was in a boarding school for nuns, then she went to live with her great-grandmother, grandmother and mother who were widows, her great-grandmother taught her about literature and cultivated her love for writing, which helped her intellect. Kate not only learned to write, but to play piano more than her great-grandmother encouraged her to explore "unconventional ideas". At the academy, she was taught to be independent but also to be submissive to men. She married Oscar Chopin at the age of 25, they had a happy marriage and six children. She was severely criticized for the way she dressed which according to them was seductive, also that she smoked in public something that a woman could not do and people considered her a bad mother because she did not exercise motherhood as it should be according to the ideas of that time. In spite of the gossip and criticism she received, Oscar did not care because

these things made his wife different from the others. Her husband died, and she took on the role of mother and father, unfortunately she also acquired the debts of her deceased husband. These experiences greatly impacted her point of view and writing as in "The Story for an Hour" which was inspired by the death of her father in which she imagined the thoughts she would have had if she had been her mother. In addition, she also lost her half-brother and great-grandmother who were a month apart.

Her childhood was marked by the death of several loved ones, and she was forced to grow up. Her feminist point of view can also be appreciated in the book "The Storm" which was a song that she composed long after her relationship with Albert Stipe. As with many of her characters' names, she named the male many of her novels and short stories as Albert, with only minor changes. For example, when Chopin wrote: "Albert", she wrote: "Alcée". For example, when Chopin wrote: "of the men who kindle desire and who do it for sexual pleasure, he called them Alcée. For sexual pleasure, he called them Alcée, which happens to be an "abbreviated form". Albert Summit: To. S Alcée and Alcée are both pronounced 'Al-say'." In "At the Cadian Ball" and "The Storm," which was a sequel, Alcée Laballière is a "handsome young planter" who plays cards and enjoys "talking fruit and politics"-unless "[a few] drinks don't put the devil in his head". Like Alcée, Albert had a drinking problem and became so violent that he beat his wife. He beat his wife.

That may also have been the reason Chopin gave up on him. However, the most significant use of the name and character of Albert was seen in "The Awakening," in which "Kate shared the name Albert Edna between two lovers: Alcée and Robert". It is believed that even Chopin could not deal with Albert, he unloaded his frustrations and desires on many people's works. Chopin used several literary elements to convey her message of liberation and repression of marriage, she used the metaphor "She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression" which shows the reader her depression, in her works she always tried to show her feelings and thoughts through images and phrases.

1.3 The feminist ideas in the novel the awakening

Writer Kate Chopin has made her mark with her books on feminism and liberalism. She became an independent and intelligent woman because of her hard life experiences and excelled in writing. Kate suffered from depression due to the death of several loved ones, she also had to raise her children alone and pay the debts left by her husband. She went to a psychologist who recommended writing to help her feel better and assimilate the death of her husband. Living in an era where

patriarchalism was very present. It was very difficult for her to have the role of mother and father, also her books were strongly criticized and banned. Unfortunately, her wonderful works became popular after a longtime, and she was no longer alive. "The Awakening" published in 1899, is a seminal work in American literature that explores feminist ideas within the context of its time. Set in the late 19th century, the novel revolves around the protagonist, Edna Pontellier, a woman who undergoes a profound awakening to her own desires, independence, and the limitations imposed by societal expectations. The narrative unfolds against the backdrop of the conservative Creole society of New Orleans, providing a poignant commentary on the limitations placed on women's autonomy and the consequences of defying societal norms.

The 19th century was influenced by culture, industry and social reforms. These situations were consequences of the industrial revolution, and Kate Chopin had to look for solutions to get food and she did it by working under terrible conditions. The role of women during this decade did not have a significant change, since women had to enslave themselves to men and were oppressed by them. This book offers a critical examination of the societal expectations that constrain women. Edna's social circles, epitomized by characters like Madame Ratignolle, embody the societal norms of the time, emphasizing the importance of conforming to prescribed roles. Edna's departure from these expectations, however, highlights the suffocating nature of societal norms and the cost of rejecting them. "The Awakening" challenges the Cult of Domesticity, a prevailing ideology of the time that idealized women as the moral and spiritual guardians of the home. Edna's rejection of traditional domesticity and her pursuit of individual desires deconstruct this ideal, emphasizing the limitations imposed by confining women to the domestic sphere.

The novel **The Awakening** is considered feminist because it seeks social equality between men and women exemplifying macho actions but as time goes by women become stronger and more independent, but the protagonist Edna Pontellier expresses that she is not the property of anyone, also that in the book you can express the two types of women the first that is submissive, pure, domestic, and the second type shows us an independent, strong and somewhat rebellious woman. Also, When Edna realizes that all of her frantic efforts were for naught, the internal struggle reaches a breaking point. She fervently wants relief from fatigue, discomfort, and mental torment. Culturally speaking, women do not have many options, and ideas like independence or even equality were heavily resisted at this period in society. She is fully aware that disobeying nature and turning her back on societal conventions will have devastating and negative effects. She is on the verge of breaking since Raoul and Etienne previously shared her body and will always be a part of her life. She thus adopts the viewpoint that death is a rebirth and ultimately kills herself.

1.4 Feminism and postmodernism

Analysis of the contributions and limitations of postmodern feminism in recent years. Its contributions have been present in the development of humanity, especially in Western society, despite its radicalism in some ideas, its proposals have been heard in discussions of feminist theorists. Feminism in its theoretical approach contains a high degree of political commitment and hence the analytical proposals are strongly lived by its creators to analyze the process of social change. The article contains several sections of feminist theory as a current of analysis that tries to respond to gender relations and women specifically, as a central aspect to eradicate the roots of women's oppression in terms of gender. One of the goals of feminist theory is to highlight the part of the dual world that has been excluded as in the world of emotions, poetry, music, and others. It is about rescuing these areas to explain and understand society and recognizing that the intellect is not only built through science. Feminism studies women through their present or past lives, whether documented or not.

In general, feminism is based on gender research as a central theme, as well as the central theory that men dominate most of the social spaces and impose a vision of the world. However, there are different postulates. In the 1970s, the sex/gender system was proposed as a concept that contributed to the development of feminist theory by differentiating the biological from the cultural. The slogan of Simone de Beauvoir in 1953 became the central slogan "Women are not born, women are made". After years, this phrase can also be applied to men: "Men are not born, men are made". For years feminist writers sought equality with men and masculinity was not the object of study or criticism. Postmodernism thus questions universal concepts, notions of progress, science itself, the existence of a human nature and reality, a linear history and the powers of reason. For feminist postmodernism replicated the same errors of masculine science in that it pushed for the development of universal and essential principles that represented only the voices of white, bourgeois, heterosexual, Christian, Western women.

Postmodern feminism emerges as a complex and multifaceted theoretical framework that intersects with and challenges traditional feminist perspectives. Originating in the mid-to-late 20th century, postmodernism, and feminism together ushered in a period of critical examination and deconstruction of established norms, institutions, and power structures. This essay delves into the vast and intricate landscape of postmodern feminism, exploring its origins, key tenets, and the ways it has transformed feminist discourse. It criticizes and deconstructs traditional narratives, questioning the representation of gender, sexuality, and power in literature. Texts are examined not only for

their content but also for the ways in which they construct and perpetuate cultural norms. Represents a vibrant and complex theoretical framework that challenges, expands, and complicates traditional feminist perspectives. Through the deconstruction of essentialism, the exploration of language and discourse, the embrace of intersectionality, and the engagement with technology, postmodern feminism redefines the terrain of feminist discourse. While facing criticisms, its emphasis on the fluidity of identities and the recognition of multiple, interconnected oppressions have greatly enriched feminist thought. Postmodern feminism invites scholars and activists alike to navigate the intricate web of power relations, embracing the diversity of human experiences and challenging the very foundations upon which societal norms are built.

However, there are several feminist postulates that have taken from postmodern thought, such as the theme of diversity, postmodern feminism advocates identities as white woman, western woman, lesbian woman, Central American woman, Third World woman etc. There is a multiplicity of identities, seeking solidarity in our opposition to the fiction of a human goal.

1.5 Feminism as a social alternative movement

Feminism, as a social alternative movement, has played a pivotal role in reshaping societal structures, challenging traditional power dynamics, and advocating for gender equality. Emerging in various waves throughout history, feminism encompasses a diverse range of perspectives, ideologies, and strategies aimed at dismantling patriarchal systems.

The participation of women in history is a broad topic of research. There is little historiography on women, their individual and collective actions from a gender perspective. The official history does not give testimony of half of the population, women, for these reasons new approaches of feminist theory call women to reconstruct our own history and the actuality of feminist movements. The concept of gender is under construction and is part of a broad debate in Latin America. Gender is seen as the result of the production of cultural norms on the behavior of men and women, mediated by the complex interaction of a wide spectrum of economic, social, political and religious institutions. It is assumed that gender is a kind of cultural filter through which we interpret the world, as well as a kind of armor with which we constrain our lives.

On the other hand, from a political point of view, it is defined as "gender is a primary form of significant power relations" that gives rise to a system in which men are awarded the capacity to generate political life and appropriate the public space, relegating women to a natural life in the private space as subordinates. For the moment there are few women who have dedicated

themselves to unveiling the origins of the subordination of women in the continent, one of the first to assume part of the theoretical debate has been Teresita Barbieri who said "She identifies the discrimination of women as a problem of power" that is to say of patriarchal power. Defining feminism is a complicated task that has occupied many theoreticians for many years, resulting in a wide diversity of criteria and the existence of different currents within feminism. The feminist movement has gone beyond the limits of theoretical formulation, participating directly in women's social movements.

At its core, feminism advocates for the equality of all genders. It seeks to liberate individuals from restrictive gender roles and challenges the societal norms that perpetuate inequality. Feminism asserts that the rights and opportunities available to individuals should be independent of their gender identity. Feminism emphasizes the agency and autonomy of individuals, particularly women, to make choices about their bodies, careers, and lives. This principle rejects paternalistic attitudes that dictate how women should live and affirms the importance of personal agency in decision-making. It contributes to a broader social and cultural transformation by challenging ingrained norms and stereotypes. Through literature, media, and activism, feminists promote alternative narratives that counter harmful gender stereotypes and encourage a more inclusive and diverse representation of individuals.

Feminism, as a social alternative movement, continues to be a driving force in challenging oppressive structures, advocating for equality, and promoting justice. From its historical roots to contemporary intersections with issues of race, class, and sexuality, feminism offers a transformative vision for a society that values the agency, autonomy, and dignity of all individuals. As the movement evolves to address emerging challenges, feminism remains a powerful force for social change, inviting individuals to critically examine and reshape the foundations of a more equitable and inclusive world.

1.6 Literary criticism and gender politics

Literary criticism, as a field of study, has been instrumental in dissecting the nuances of language, narrative structures, and societal representations found in literature. Within this landscape, feminist literary criticism emerges as a vital lens through which scholars analyze and deconstruct gender politics embedded in literary works.

The twentieth century will be considered as the century of literary recovery properly feminine. At the beginning it was lamented the absence of precedents and models of their sex and at the same

time drew attention to the complications that had the women writers of previous years. The biological reproduction with literary creativity has crystallized in several schools of feminist thought when it has been accepted without great reservations that the Anglo-American and French proposals are irreconcilable. The first pit of these processes concerns the teaching of feminine or feminist texts, which led to the creation of an anti-canon by deconstructing the conventionally transmitted masculinist canon.

A second important line of thought and research since the early 1970s was what Showalter called, as opposed to "gyno criticism" and "feminist reading of texts that examines the images and stereotypes of women in literature, the omissions and misconceptions about women in criticism, and the place assigned to women in semiotic systems, an oppositional reading aimed at identifying the nature of the option that a text can offer, also the possibility of reading to affirm the condition of being a woman as another paradigm is valid from the human experience, if this condition is fulfilled the text becomes a meeting point for a dialogue between the subjectivity of the author and the subjectivity of the reader. Feminist studies have later sought to delve deeper into the characteristics of women readers, sometimes from psychoanalytical approaches and hermeneutical practices borrowed from disciplines related to structuralism, such as narratology and stylistics. They tend to focus on content rather than on the construction of a theoretical model of reading from a gender perspective.

Consequently, feminist literary criticism has called for a revision of the history and theory of genres, and the defense of spaces that have traditionally been categorized as extra-literary because of their relation to the realm domestic or private "feminine." However, you have to escape from time to time more than absolute assertions of an essentialist nature because while these more intimate literary the most intimate literary works were the only ones that were mostly accessible to women in our history and should therefore be and must therefore be given the attention they deserve nowadays. Today, women are capable of cultivating many literary genres (although some are more receptive than others, depending on socio cultural factors, sociocultural factors).

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

A theoretical framework in literature analysis refers to the overarching structure of concepts, ideas, and assumptions that underpin the examination of literary works. It serves as a theoretical lens through which the critic approaches the text, offering a systematic way to interpret, contextualize, and critique the themes, characters, and narratives within the literary piece.

The primary purpose of a theoretical framework is to provide a structured approach to literary analysis. It helps critics avoid subjective interpretations by grounding their analyses in established theories, methodologies, or philosophical perspectives. By employing a theoretical framework, scholars can navigate the complexities of literature and contribute to a deeper understanding of the text's cultural, social, and historical implications. Feminist theoretical frameworks center on gender and explore how literature reflects, challenges, or perpetuates societal norms related to women and gender roles. This approach considers issues such as representation, patriarchy, and the construction of femininity and masculinity within the text.

In this second chapter, the reader be able to learn about definitions, symbols, motifs, and themes in feminist literature. Also, they will learn about the author's life and how the books written by Kate Chopin influenced the current feminist. Also, in this second chapter will find books that are related to feminism with this information the reader will able to expand their knowledge about women's history in the last century and nowadays.

2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

2.1.1 Definition of Literature

Literature is a multifaceted and dynamic form of artistic expression that encompasses a wide range of written works, including novels, poems, plays, essays, short stories, and more. It serves as a powerful means of communication, allowing individuals to convey ideas, emotions, and experiences through the creative use of language. Literature reflects and engages with the human condition, offering insights into our shared experiences, values, and aspirations. “*Sasha Blakeley, 2022*” At its core, literature is a form of storytelling. It captivates readers by presenting narratives that unfold in imaginative and thought-provoking ways. Through the artful arrangement of words, authors create characters, settings, and plots that transport readers to different times, places, and realities. It has the ability to evoke a wide range of emotions, from joy and love to sadness and despair, and it often leaves a lasting impact on its audience. One of literature's fundamental qualities is its aesthetic appeal. Authors employ various literary devices and techniques, such as metaphor, imagery, symbolism, and rhythm, to create rich and vivid descriptions that engage the senses and

stimulate the imagination. This aesthetic dimension of literature enhances its beauty and elevates it beyond mere information or entertainment, making it an art form that can be appreciated for its craftsmanship and creativity.

Literature also serves as a reflection of society and culture. It provides a view through which we can examine and understand the social, political, and historical contexts in which it is produced. Works of literature often explore complex themes and issues, such as love, identity, power, morality, and justice, shedding light on the human experience and offering critical perspectives on the world we inhabit. By portraying diverse characters and exploring diverse perspectives, literature fosters empathy and encourages dialogue, helping us to better understand and connect with others. *“Muhammad Hassan, 2020”*

Furthermore, literature has the power to challenge and subvert established norms and conventions. It can be a vehicle for social critique, offering alternative visions and possibilities. Many works of literature have played a crucial role in social and political movements, advocating for change and inspiring individuals to question and challenge the status quo. Literature can be a catalyst for introspection and personal growth, inviting readers to reflect on their own lives, values, and beliefs. Moreover, literature has a timeless quality that allows it to transcend barriers of time, language, and culture. Great works of literature have the ability to resonate across generations, speaking to universal truths and enduring human experiences. They continue to be read, studied, and celebrated long after their initial creation, demonstrating the enduring power and relevance of literary works. It encompasses a vast array of written works that serve as a means of artistic expression, storytelling, social critique, and cultural reflection. It engages readers through its aesthetic appeal, emotional resonance, and ability to provoke thought and introspection. *“Aris Zavitsanos, 2018”*. It enriches our understanding of the world, expands our perspectives, and provides a medium for communication, connection, and empathy. It is a testament to the creativity, imagination, and depth of the human spirit, and it continues to shape and inspire us as individuals and as a society.

2.1.2 Theory and Literary Theory

2.1.3 Literary Theory

Literary theory refers to the systematic study and analysis of literature from a theoretical perspective. It involves examining the various aspects of literary texts, including their structure, form, language, themes, and cultural context, with the aim of interpreting and understanding their

meaning and significance. Literary theory encompasses a wide range of approaches and methodologies, each offering unique insights into the nature of literature and its role in society. Feminist literary theory emerged as a response to the patriarchal prejudices within traditional literary criticism. “*Vince Brewton, 2018*”.

Feminist critics seek to expose and challenge the representation of women in literature, examining issues such as gender roles, stereotypes, and the social and cultural construction of femininity. They explore how gender intersects with other aspects of identity, such as race, class, and sexuality, and analyze the ways in which women's voices have been marginalized or silenced throughout history. ” *Jennifer C. Nash, 2008*”

2.1.4 Feminism

Feminism is a social, political, and cultural movement that advocates for the rights, equality, and empowerment of women. “*Laura Brunell and Elinor Burkett, 2015*” It seeks to challenge and dismantle systems of oppression, discrimination, and gender-based inequality that have historically marginalized women. Feminism recognizes that gender is a social construct and asserts that all individuals, regardless of their gender, should have equal opportunities, rights, and freedoms. At its core, feminism strives to address and rectify the historical and continuing imbalances of power between men and women. It challenges traditional gender roles, stereotypes, and expectations that limit women's autonomy, agency, and potential. Feminism seeks to create a more equitable society that embraces diversity, dismantles oppressive systems, and promotes social justice for all. It recognizes that individuals' experiences of oppression and privilege are shaped by the intersections of various social categories, such as gender, race, class, sexuality, and ability. It asserts that individuals should not be disadvantaged or discriminated against based on their gender. This includes fighting against pay, glass ceilings, and systemic barriers that perpetuate gender-based discrimination. It recognizes the importance of women having control over their bodies, reproductive choices, and personal lives.

Feminism encourages women to challenge societal expectations, pursue their aspirations, and have equal access to resources and opportunities. It critiques and challenges systems of oppression, including sexism, misogyny, racism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism. “*Hooks 2000,26*” Feminism seeks to dismantle these systems, promote inclusivity, and create a more just and equitable society for all individuals, irrespective of their gender or other social identities.

2.15 Feministic approach with an emphasis in history

This investigation aims at making an analysis from both points of view historic and feminism since the way authors and history in general treat women has changed since the novel **The Awakening** was written. Literature is a good form to compare the last century with current time the reason is the written form is changing as time passes and the plot shows how this time was and the most common situation. Despite time changes, some thoughts and norms continue nowadays because many people create the gender role which means women have determined tasks in their lives, and they can't be successful in many areas of work because people try to make them fail or break their dreams. The man role is that they need to work and maintain their houses. They can't show their feelings because society calls them "Weak".

Also, mass media and culture have played a significant role in perpetuating traditional gender roles and stereotypes. Women have often been portrayed as passive, decorative, or overly emotional, while men have been depicted as strong, assertive, and rational. Other situations are gender-based violence and discrimination which remain critical issues, affecting both women and men. Women are disproportionately affected by domestic violence, sexual harassment, and human trafficking, which can limit their freedom and opportunities. Men, too, can experience violence and discrimination, particularly when they do not conform to traditional expectations of masculinity. These issues highlight the importance of addressing gender stereotypes and promoting healthy and respectful relationships for all.

The novel **The Awakening** has many examples of the treatment that woman received in the XIXth Century. It shows situations in which woman was criticized for the way that they lived, how their husband was rude to them, and how kids had a lack of affection from their father. Also, the novel shows characters that had completely different thoughts compared to other characters (Adele Ratignolle and Mademoiselle Reisz)

2.2 Themes, Symbols, Motifs

In literature, a theme refers to the central idea or underlying message conveyed by a literary work. It is a broad concept that encapsulates the author's perspective on a particular subject or issue. Themes often explore fundamental aspects of the human condition and can be found in various literary genres such as novels, plays, poems, and short stories.

Themes in literature serve as the backbone of the narrative, providing deeper meaning and resonance to the story. They help readers connect with the characters, events, and settings on a more profound level. Themes can be universal, reflecting experiences and emotions that resonate with people across different cultures and time periods. They can also be specific to a particular time, place, or social context, shedding light on the unique issues and concerns of a specific era or community.

Themes can be explicit, directly stated by the author, or implicit, requiring readers to delve deeper and analyze the text to uncover the underlying messages. Examples of common themes in literature include love, betrayal, redemption, power, justice, identity, freedom, and the conflict between good and evil. Each theme allows authors to explore complex human emotions, ethical dilemmas, social issues, and philosophical questions. Besides, themes in literature are essential for enriching the reading experience and encouraging critical thinking. They invite readers to reflect on the deeper implications of the narrative and draw connections to their own lives and the world around them. Through the exploration of themes, literature becomes a powerful tool for exploring and understanding the complexities of the human experience. In fact, in the book the researcher will explain topics about the role of women, feminism and how society was at that time. One example in the book is that the protagonist is mistreated psychologically by her husband who makes comments like "She does not fulfill" her role as a "good" woman, which is somewhat ironic because the wife of the protagonist pays almost no attention to her children in the sense that she gives more importance to work and prefers to go play at the casino instead of playing with her children. Another theme is when the woman frees herself.

Symbols in literature are powerful tools used by authors to convey deeper meanings and evoke emotions within a narrative. They are objects, characters, events, or settings that carry symbolic significance beyond their literal representation. By employing symbols, writers add layers of complexity, metaphor, and ambiguity to their works, engaging readers in a rich and multi-dimensional reading experience. A symbol can take various forms, and its interpretation often relies on context, cultural references, and the reader's own experiences. They can be universal, transcending cultural boundaries, or specific to a particular literary work or culture. Regardless, symbols serve as vehicles for expressing themes, ideas, and emotions that may be difficult to articulate directly. Besides, symbols often possess a duality or multiple interpretations, allowing for a rich and open-ended exploration of themes. They can represent abstract concepts, such as love, freedom, or mortality, or they can embody more concrete objects that carry metaphorical weight. For example, a rose can symbolize love and beauty, but it can also represent fragility or

the fleeting nature of life. Moreover, a symbol can also be used to foreshadow events, add depth to characters, or create a sense of unity within a narrative. For instance, a recurring symbol throughout a story can provide coherence and reinforce thematic elements. It can also serve as a visual or thematic motif, enhancing the overall reading experience and adding layers of meaning.

Moreover, symbols in literature often operate on both a personal and cultural level. They can tap into collective consciousness, invoking shared cultural or archetypal associations. For example, the image of a snake may evoke notions of temptation or evil, drawing on biblical and mythological references. However, symbols can also hold individual significance, carrying personal resonance for readers based on their own experiences and interpretations.

The interpretation of symbols in literature is subjective and can vary from reader to reader. A symbol meaning may evolve or change over time, influenced by shifts in cultural contexts or individual perspectives. Different readers may uncover different layers of meaning or resonate with specific symbols based on their own backgrounds and beliefs. It is important to note that symbols should not be seen as fixed or prescriptive interpretations imposed by the author. Rather, they offer readers opportunities for exploration, reflection, and engagement with the text. Symbolic analysis encourages readers to delve beyond the surface of the narrative, actively participating in the construction of meaning.

In literature, a motif refers to a recurring element, image, symbol, theme, or narrative device that serves as a unifying thread throughout a text. It can be a word, phrase, object, action, or idea that reappears consistently, often with variations, to create a pattern or theme within the work. Motifs enhance the depth and coherence of a literary piece, contributing to its overall meaning, structure, and aesthetic effect. Unlike symbols, which can carry multiple layers of meaning, motifs tend to be more specific and focused. They often serve to reinforce or emphasize a particular theme, idea, or mood. The repetition of a motif throughout a literary work can create a sense of unity, continuity, and resonance for the reader. Authors utilize motifs strategically to enhance the impact and understanding of their work. By employing a motif, writers can create a sense of cohesion and interconnection, allowing readers to make connections between different parts of the text and to discern underlying patterns and themes. Undoubtedly, motifs function as literary devices that deepen the reader's engagement with the text. They invite readers to identify patterns, make connections, and interpret the significance of recurring elements. The repetition of a motif can create a sense of expectation, anticipation, or tension, leading to a heightened emotional or intellectual response. It is important to note that the interpretation of motifs can vary depending on

the reader's perspective and the larger context of the work. While authors may have intended specific meanings or effects with the use of motifs, readers bring their own experiences and interpretations to the text, contributing to the richness and diversity of meaning.

The novel shows some motifs such as the child, house, and piano, these three elements show how she feels about motherhood, as the pressure that society puts on her, how the thoughts start to affect her daily life, and how she questions her life. For the research, she will take as a reference several books which contain the necessary information such as **“An Overview on feminism and its Categories.”** To understand the context in which many women lived, as well as the situations that were used as inspiration in their books. The information provided by each book and article, the researcher has several sources of information that contain the necessary data to conduct a complete investigation. Each of them explains in detail what is required. Feminism, being an old movement, has a lot of history and also an ideology that can be adapted to any person because it not only talks about social issues but also politics and other topics. This movement does not seek to make people hate men and not to belittle them but to find equal opportunities.

All books have symbols and motifs, which show the time in which the book was written. Often the symbols represent situations or feelings of the protagonists or what will happen in the plot. Motifs are important in literature because with them the authors indirectly represent feelings. Literature plays a vital role in the lives of individuals and society as a whole. It has been a fundamental aspect of human civilization for centuries, serving as a means of communication, expression, and reflection. Here are several reasons why literature is important to people:

1.Exploration of Human Experience: Literature allows individuals to explore the depths of the human experience. It provides insights into different cultures, periods, and perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding. Through literature, people can encounter diverse characters, circumstances, and emotions, broadening their worldview and enhancing their ability to relate to others. *“Katherine Castro, 2020”*

2.Self-Reflection and Personal Growth: Literature often presents characters who face challenges, triumphs, and moral dilemmas. By engaging with these stories, readers can reflect on their own lives and gain a deeper understanding of their own values, beliefs, and desires. Literature offers a space for introspection and personal growth, enabling individuals to navigate their own journeys of self-discovery.

3. **Development of Critical Thinking Skills:** Literature challenges readers to think critically and analyze complex ideas. It presents themes, symbols, and motifs that require interpretation and evaluation. By engaging with literature, individuals learn to question assumptions, identify patterns, and draw connections. " *Terese Bondas, 2013*" These skills extend beyond the realm of literature, benefiting individuals in their academic pursuits, professional careers, and everyday decision-making.

4. **Preservation of Cultural Heritage:** Literature serves as a repository of cultural heritage and historical context. It captures the essence of a particular time and place, offering insights into the beliefs, values, and struggles of past generations. By engaging with literature, individuals gain a deeper appreciation for their own cultural roots and the collective human experience.

5. **Catalyst for Social Change:** Literature has been a powerful catalyst for social change throughout history. Writers have used their words to challenge oppressive systems, advocate for marginalized communities, and provoke societal reflection. Literature has the potential to inspire empathy, challenge prejudices, and encourage dialogue, fostering a more inclusive and just society.

6. **Communication of Complex Ideas:** Literature provides a platform for the exploration and communication of complex ideas. It enables authors to tackle profound philosophical, ethical, and existential questions through narrative and metaphor. Literature engages readers in intellectual discourse, promoting intellectual curiosity and expanding the collective understanding of the human condition.

2.3 The Author's Biography

Kate Chopin, born as Katherine O'Flaherty on February 8, 1850, was an influential American author known for her groundbreaking literary works that explored themes of female independence, sexuality, and societal constraints. She is often associated with the feminist movement and is considered a forerunner of modern feminist literature. Although her writing career was relatively short-lived, spanning less than two decades, her works have had a lasting impact on American literature. Kate Chopin's image in the late 19th century became associated with rebellion against traditional gender norms. Her writings, particularly "The Awakening," positioned her as a figure challenging the prescribed roles of women."Megan, Kaplo, 2012" Chopin's exploration of themes related to female autonomy and intellectual independence further contributed to her image as a rebellious figure. In an era when women were expected to prioritize domestic concerns, Chopin's literary pursuits were emblematic of her refusal to conform to societal expectations.

Early Life and Background

Kate Chopin was born in St. Louis, Missouri. Growing up in a predominantly French-speaking community, Chopin was exposed to both American and Creole cultures, which would later influence her writing. The term Creole in Louisiana refers to the combination of French and African languages with a little Spanish. Chopin's childhood was marked by tragedy, as her father was killed in a train accident when she was only four years old. Following her father's death, she was raised by her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, who were strong, independent women. These female influences would shape Chopin's perspectives on gender roles and contribute to her feminist sensibilities. Kate's father, Thomas O'Flaherty, was an Irish immigrant and a successful businessman. Unfortunately, his success did not shield the family from tragedy. When Kate was just five years old, her father died in a train accident. This event had a profound effect on her life and would later surface in her writing, influencing her portrayal of characters grappling with loss and existential questions.

Tragedy struck the Chopin family again in 1882 when Oscar Chopin died of swamp fever. At the age of 32, Kate became a widow with the responsibility of providing for her six children. In the aftermath of her husband's death, Kate assumed control of his business affairs and, with the help of her mother, managed the plantations. This period of widowhood proved to be a turning point in Kate's life, fostering her independence and strengthening her resolve.

With financial difficulties mounting, Kate made the bold decision to return to St. Louis in 1884, where she could live more economically and focus on supporting her family. This move marked the beginning of her journey as a professional writer. Despite the challenges she faced as a widow and a single mother in a society that limited women's opportunities, Kate Chopin was determined to carve out a space for herself as a writer.

Education and Marriage

At the age of 19, Kate O'Flaherty married Oscar Chopin, a wealthy Creole businessman, in 1870. The couple settled in New Orleans, where Kate became immersed in the vibrant and diverse culture of the city. She quickly adapted to the Creole way of life, learning the language and customs of the local population. The Chopins had six children together, with their marriage lasting for over a decade until Oscar's sudden death in 1882. Following her husband's death, Kate Chopin was left

as a widow and became responsible for managing their business and raising their children on her own. These experiences as a single mother and businesswoman would later find their way into her fiction. In 1879, the Chopin family faced a financial setback when Oscar's business encountered difficulties. To overcome their financial struggles, the Chopins moved to Cloutierville, a small village in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, where Oscar managed several plantations. This change in location exposed Kate to a different social milieu, providing her with new insights into the lives of Southern women and the complexities of race and class in the post-Civil War South.

Writing Career

Kate Chopin's writing career began in her late thirties when she started submitting her short stories and essays to various magazines and literary publications. Initially, her work received mixed reviews, but she persevered and continued to write. In the 1890s, she gained recognition for her realistic portrayal of women's experiences and her bold exploration of controversial subjects. Chopin's most famous work, "The Awakening," published in 1899, drew widespread attention and controversy. The novel tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a married woman who embarks on a journey of self-discovery and liberation from the confines of societal expectations. "The Awakening" challenged traditional notions of marriage, motherhood, and female sexuality, and it was met with harsh criticism and condemnation at the time of its publication. Despite the controversy surrounding "The Awakening," the novel also garnered praise for its literary merit and its honest depiction of women's desires and frustrations. However, the negative reception and public backlash took a toll on Chopin, and it marked a turning point in her writing career. After the publication of "The Awakening," she struggled to find a publisher for her subsequent works, and she gradually withdrew from the literary scene.

"The Awakening" faced severe criticism for its candid depiction of female sexuality and its challenge to traditional gender roles."ML Schaefer,2017" The novel was deemed scandalous by some critics and was even banned in certain circles. Chopin's exploration of a woman's desire for independence and fulfillment outside of marriage was considered radical and subversive, particularly in the conservative moral climate of the late 19th century.

The negative reception of "The Awakening" had a profound impact on Chopin's literary career. The controversy surrounding the novel, coupled with the societal expectations placed on women, led to a decline in Chopin's literary reputation during her lifetime. Disheartened by the harsh criticism and the commercial failure of her most ambitious work, Chopin turned her attention to

shorter fiction and continued to write short stories that delved into the complexities of human relationships.

Chopin's works are rooted in the literary movements of Realism and Naturalism, which gained prominence in the late 19th century. Realism emphasized the depiction of everyday life and the struggles of ordinary people, while Naturalism focused on the impact of deterministic forces on individuals."Ja Witherow,2010" Chopin's keen observation of human behavior, attention to detail, and exploration of characters' motivations align with the principles of these literary movements.

Legacy and Impact

Although Kate Chopin's literary career was relatively short-lived, her works have had a lasting impact on American literature, particularly in the realm of feminist literature. In her writings, she explored themes of female autonomy, sexual desire, and the limitations placed on women by society. She was one of the first American authors to write openly about female sexuality and to portray women as complex, multi-dimensional characters. Chopin's work gained renewed attention and appreciation in the latter half of the 20th century, with the rise of feminist literary criticism. Scholars and readers recognized her contributions to the feminist literary canon, and her works were reevaluated in light of changing societal attitudes toward women's rights and gender roles. Today, Kate Chopin is celebrated as a pioneer of feminist literature and a prominent figure in American literary history. Her works continue to be studied in classrooms and universities, and her writings have inspired generations of readers and writers. She has been recognized posthumously for her groundbreaking contributions, and her works have been included in anthologies of American literature and feminist literature.

Chopin can be viewed as a feminist writer, laying the groundwork for later feminist literature. Her exploration of female desires, independence, and the complexities of marriage paved the way for later feminist authors to delve deeper into these themes. While the societal constraints in Chopin's works may reflect the realities of her time, her characters' internal struggles resonate with the broader feminist narrative. While Chopin's works are often celebrated for their progressive portrayal of women, feminist critiques have also been directed at her. Some argue that Chopin's female characters, despite challenging societal norms, ultimately meet tragic ends or face societal disapproval. Others contend that Chopin's depiction of female characters reflects the limitations of her time and societal expectations, rather than presenting truly liberated women.

An interesting fact about her lifetime, she was known as a Local writer who produced a large number of important short stories. History tells that women in the 19th century didn't have the opportunity to publish their works as men did because society had a false idea that the place of women was in their homes, breaking their desires. The researcher read the biography and learned more about Kate Chopin, shared her thoughts, and supported her ideas. The reason is that women were oppressed in history and sadly still in many societies, in this century and days, society still critic the lifestyle of many women for example if a woman doesn't want to get married or form a family the people see her as an egoist. Also, maternity is romanticized because society has created an image of the mother that they represent love, and kids only need to be raised by the mother and the father can contribute with money and house, but the reality is completely different. Kids need both parents, but society lies the responsibility to the mother, which is not fair. The reason is that women give their lives to the children and men can continue with their normal life.

2.4 PLOT

The Awakening by Kate Chopin is a deep and controversial novel that tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a young married woman who embarks on a journey of self-discovery and freedom from social expectations. Set in New Orleans and the Louisiana Gulf Coast in the late 19th century, the novel explores themes of female independence, sexuality and the repression of marriage. The story begins during a summer vacation in Grand Isle, a Gulf Coast resort town, where Edna spends time with her husband Leonce and their twins' young daughters. During her stay, Edna meets Robert Lebrun, a charming and charismatic young man who is vacationing with his mother and brother. Edna is attracted to Roberts free spirit. As Edna spends more time with Robert, she begins to question her role as wife and mother, and she becomes increasingly discontented with the expectations society places on her. She feels very insecure and longs for something beyond the limits of her traditional family life. Returning to New Orleans after the summer vacation, Edna's unquiet continued. She's best friend Adele Ratignolle a close friend and model of the ideal Victorian woman, who embodies conventional expectations of femininity and motherhood. Adele encourages Edna to take on the duties of wife and mother, but Edna is not at all comfortable in these roles.

Edna's discontent continues to deepen, and she begins to explore her desires and passions. She pursued painting, was passionate about music, and participated in small rebellions against social norms. She began to defy her husband expectations, neglecting housework and refusing to follow his wishes. During her awakening, Edna meets Mademiselle Reisz, a famous pianist with

an unusual lifestyle. Miss Reisz becomes Edna's confidence and inspiration, encouraging her to pursue her desires and embrace her individuality. Through her conversation with Mademoiselle Reisz, Edna becomes aware of her autonomy and her desires as a woman. Edna's growing sense of independence leads her to engage in an extramarital affair with Alcée Arobin, a notorious womanizer. The affair offers Edna a taste of passion and sensual liberation, but it also exposes her to the judgment and scrutiny of society. Despite the risks, Edna refuses to be confined by societal conventions and seeks her own fulfillment. As Edna's transformation progresses, she becomes increasingly aware of the limitations imposed by her marriage and the societal expectations placed upon her. She questions the validity of her role as a wife and mother, challenging the notion that her identity should be defined solely by her relationships with others. Edna longs for true love, passion, and self-fulfillment, which she believes cannot be found within the confines of a conventional marriage. (Haley Bracken, 2019)

Throughout her journey, Edna faces internal conflicts and external pressures. Her awakening is met with resistance from her husband, Leonce, who fails to comprehend her changing desires and aspirations. She also faces criticism from her friends, family, and society at large, who view her actions as selfish and immoral. Ultimately, Edna's pursuit of personal freedom and self-expression leads her to make a fateful decision. Feeling trapped and unable to fully reconcile her desires with societal expectations, she chooses to break free from the constraints of her life. In a symbolic act of liberation, Edna takes to the sea and swims out into the open waters, embracing her newfound independence and defying the confines of the world that suffocates her.

The Awakening concludes with the ambiguous fate of Edna. While the novel does not explicitly state her fate, it implies that Edna's act of defiance and pursuit of personal freedom come at a great cost. Her quest for self-fulfillment ultimately conflicts with the rigid societal expectations of the time, leaving her isolated and unable to find a place within society. **The Awakening** is a powerful and controversial novel that challenged the prevailing notions of marriage, motherhood, and female identity in the late 19th century. It explores the complexities of women's desires and the struggle for selfhood within a restrictive social context. Chopin's work continues to resonate with readers, raising important questions about gender roles, societal expectations, and the pursuit of personal freedom. Kate Chopin recurring theme of the conflict between the social constraints imposed on women and their desire for independence, the novel tells the story of Edna Pontellier, a Creole woman who gradually comes to realize her injustice. her satisfaction with her identity as a wife and mother. Focused on her own needs and desires, Edna disregards social conventions by leaving her husband's house and embarking on an affair.

Due to its controversial subject matter and sympathetic depiction of its unconventional heroine, the novel attracted hostile reviews from critics who called it "trivial and sordid", even "perverted" and "vulgar". Although Chopin did not completely abandon her writing career after the poor reception of **The Awakening**, she was still annoyed by critics and her literary output declined. She died five years later from a brain hemorrhage. *Awakening* sold poorly in its day and was largely ignored until the mid-20th century when it was recognized as a masterpiece of feminist and realist literature.

The background of this book is situated in the nineteenth century and shows how the role of women was, it was markedly different from their status in contemporary society. This century was marked by profound social, political, and economic changes, but women often found themselves confined to traditional gender roles, facing significant limitations in terms of education, employment, and political participation. The prevailing ideology known as "separate spheres" assigned women to the private domain of the home, while men were expected to operate in the public sphere. This concept was deeply ingrained in society, reinforcing the idea that women's primary roles were to be wives and mothers, responsible for nurturing and maintaining the family. Employment opportunities for women were primarily limited to domestic work, factory jobs, or teaching. While the Industrial Revolution expanded the need for female labor in factories, these jobs were often low-paying and came with poor working conditions.

Women were also legally and politically disenfranchised in most parts of the world. They were denied the right to vote and participation in political affairs. In the United States and many European countries, women were excluded from full citizenship rights, and their voices were largely absent from the political arena. In addition, the fight for women's suffrage in the 19th century was a pivotal moment in the history of gender equality in both England and the United States. Women in both countries faced significant challenges in their quest for the right to vote, but their relentless determination and activism ultimately paved the way for a more inclusive and equitable society. In the United States, the struggle for women's suffrage gained momentum in the mid-19th century. Key figures in the movement included Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott. These early suffragists organized conventions and began advocating for women's right to vote, basing their arguments on the principles of equality and justice.

The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848, held in upstate New York, is often considered the birth of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. progress was slow, and the suffrage movement faced significant opposition. Women's suffrage was seen as a radical idea, and many

politicians and members of the general public were resistant to the idea of women participating in the political process. In England, the women's suffrage movement also took root in the mid-19th century. Prominent suffragists like Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia Pankhurst, as well as Millicent Fawcett, played significant roles in advocating for women's voting rights. "Niall Cullen, 2022". One of the most well-known suffrage organizations in England was the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), founded by Emmeline Pankhurst in 1903. The WSPU adopted militant tactics, such as hunger strikes and public protests, to draw attention to their cause. The suffragettes, as they were called, were often met with resistance and violence, both from the authorities and anti-suffrage groups.

In both the United States and England, the 19th century marked the beginning of a long and arduous journey toward women's suffrage. The tireless efforts of suffragists and their commitment to the cause of gender equality eventually led to significant legislative changes and a more inclusive political landscape. These achievements remain a testament to the power of organized activism and the unwavering pursuit of justice and equality. The societal thought about women in the 19th century was deeply influenced by prevailing cultural norms, which relegated women to a subordinate and restrictive role. This era was marked by a complex interplay of ideas, attitudes, and societal expectations that varied across regions and social classes. Understanding how women were perceived and treated in the 19th century requires exploring various facets of their lives. In the 19th century, ideal woman was seen as the guardian of morality, virtue, and domestic tranquility. Domesticity was highly praised, and women were expected to create a warm and nurturing home environment for their families. They were responsible for raising and educating their children and managing the household. In addition, marriage was seen as the ultimate goal for women, and societal thought emphasized that a woman's identity was closely tied to her husband. Once married, a woman's legal and property rights were often subsumed by her husband's. This doctrine of coverture meant that married women could not own property, make contracts, or have legal standing in their own right.

Based on the information before, the book demonstrates many situations that women in the 19th century had to deal with in the society because the education, work and lifestyle was limited. Freedom was a dream and women had to find a solution created movement and fights for their rights to achieve their liberty and had the chance to decide what they wanted in their lives.

One of the central and recurrent themes in Kate Chopin's works is feminism and the quest for women's independence. In a time when women's roles were largely confined to the domestic

sphere, Chopin's narratives often feature female protagonists who grapple with societal expectations and yearn for autonomy.” Kari Meyers,2003”

In "The Awakening," the character of Edna Pontellier becomes the embodiment of this theme. Edna, a married woman and mother, undergoes a profound transformation as she discovers her desires and aspirations beyond the conventional roles assigned to women. Her journey towards self-discovery and liberation challenges the patriarchal norms of 19th-century society. Looking back, this was seen as a threat back in the Victorian Era, as women were expected to be dedicated wives and mothers. Therefore, failing to fulfill such goals was considered to be un-lady like as well as selfish as women were and sometimes still are expected to think on their families first.”LC Demir,2019”

The Awakening is not Chopin’s only work that explores this, "The Story of an Hour" is a short story that explores the theme of female independence through the character of Louise Mallard. The news of her husband's death initially elicits grief, but as the story unfolds, Louise experiences a complex range of emotions. Her realization of newfound freedom from the constraints of marriage serves as a powerful commentary on the limitations imposed on women during that era.”Ashley Robinson,2019” Chopin portrays marriage as a prison for Louise Mallard, she even whispers under her breath the fact she is free. This character feels trapped since as mentioned before, women were expected to fulfill a role, their own hopes or expectations tended to be ignored. "The Story of an Hour" also touches on the theme of self-discovery as Louise Mallard confronts her own emotions and desires. Her brief moment of freedom becomes a catalyst for introspection, challenging the societal expectations that have shaped her identity.

Closely tied to the theme of feminism is Chopin's critique of marriage and its constraints on women. “S Bommarito, 2003”.Many of her stories, including "The Awakening" and "The Story of an Hour," portray marriage as a societal institution that restricts women's freedom and hinders their individual growth.

In "The Awakening," Edna's marriage to Leonce Pontellier becomes a symbol of societal expectations. Her dissatisfaction with the roles of wife and mother propels her towards a journey of self-discovery, leading to her eventual rejection of the traditional expectations imposed by marriage.

"The Story of an Hour" takes a poignant look at the constraints of marriage through Louise Mallard. "Taylor Mendelsohn, 2015" Her brief taste of freedom upon learning of her husband's death highlights the oppressive nature of her marriage. The story raises questions about the societal expectations tied to marital relationships and the toll they take on individual agency.

Kate Chopin's exploration of female sexuality is a groundbreaking aspect of her works. At a time when discussions of women's desires were often considered taboo, Chopin fearlessly delved into the complexities of female sexuality and its role in shaping women's identities. Additionally, men were the ones to judge female sexuality and general behavior; a strong indicator on how women were systematically silenced as discussing sexuality and one's own expectations (in case on women) was frowned upon as these types of conversations were not "fit for a lady".

"The Awakening" is a prime example of Chopin's meaning of female sexuality. Edna's journey involves not only a search for independence but also a quest for sexual fulfillment. Her relationships, particularly with Robert Lebrun, challenge the societal norms surrounding female desire and its expression.

In the short story "The Storm," Chopin continues to explore female sexuality through the character of Calixta "Esther Lombardi, 2017" The storm becomes a metaphor for unleashed passion, and Calixta's affair challenges traditional notions of fidelity and morality.

Chopin's works serve as a powerful critique of the social norms that defined the late 19th-century American society. Whether addressing issues of class, race, or gender, Chopin's narratives often expose the limitations and injustices embedded in societal expectations.

In "Desiree's Baby," Chopin confronts the racial prejudices of the time. The revelation of Desiree's mixed-race heritage leads to tragic consequences, highlighting the destructive impact of racism on individuals and families "T Gibert, 2004". Through this story, Chopin challenges the racial hierarchies that were deeply ingrained in the societal fabric.

"At Fault" is Chopin's debut novel, and while it may not be as widely known as her later works, it sets the stage for her exploration of complex relationships and societal expectations. The novel revolves around the character of Thérèse Lafirme, a widow, and her relationships with individuals in a Creole community in Louisiana. Chopin delves into the intricate dynamics of marriage, widowhood, and societal norms, showcasing her early interest in the exploration of female autonomy within the constraints of 19th-century expectations. "MH Hazazi, 2022" The novel

examines the societal expectations placed on individuals within the institution of marriage, revealing the conflicts that arise when personal desires clash with societal norms. Thérèse's status as a widow allows Chopin to explore the complexities of female independence. The character's journey reflects the challenges and opportunities that arise when a woman navigates life without the traditional structures of marriage. It was set in a Creole community, "At Fault" also delves into the cultural influences that shape individuals' lives, providing a rich backdrop for the exploration of personal identity.

While "Bayou Folk" is a collection of short stories rather than a novel, it is an important work that exemplifies Chopin's skill in capturing the essence of Louisiana life. Through these stories, she explores the lives of Creole and Acadian people in the Bayou region, shedding light on the societal roles of women, the struggles of class and race, and the impact of cultural heritage on individual identities. "Ja Witherow,2010" "Bayou Folk" is a prime example of Chopin's use of regionalism, capturing the unique cultural and social landscape of Louisiana. The stories provide readers with a vivid portrayal of the Bayou region and its inhabitants. Chopin continues her exploration of women's roles within a specific cultural context. The stories depict women navigating societal expectations, highlighting their strengths and challenges within the framework of their communities. Through her realist lens, Chopin portrays the everyday lives of the Bayou folk, addressing issues of poverty, racial dynamics, and the impact of historical events on the region.

Going back to "The Awakening" extends this critique to encompass class distinctions. Edna's desire to break free from the constraints of her privileged social class adds another layer to Chopin's exploration of societal norms. The novel questions the expectations associated with social status and the limitations they impose on individual freedom.

A recurring theme in Chopin's works is the exploration of individualism and the journey towards self-discovery. Her characters often deal with their own identities and societal expectations, leading to profound internal conflicts and transformations. transformations since they feel trapped by marriage, the behavior a lady was expected to exhibit, and expectations of self-sacrifice over fulfillment imposed on women.

In sum Edna Pontellier's pursuit of individualism in "The Awakening" is at the core of the novel. Her rejection of societal norms and the awakening of her own desires underscore the importance of self-discovery. Edna's tragic fate serves as a testament to the challenges individuals face when seeking authenticity in a society that demands conformity.

Kate Chopin's use of symbolism and imagery adds layers of meaning to her narratives. Symbolic elements often serve as metaphors for the themes she explores, enriching the reader's understanding of the characters and their journeys.

In "The Awakening," water emerges as a powerful symbol. The sea represents both freedom and confinement, mirroring Edna's internal struggles. The ocean's vastness becomes a metaphor for the expansive possibilities and dangers that accompany the pursuit of an unconventional path.

Similarly, in "The Story of an Hour," the open window serves as a symbolic gateway to freedom. Louise Mallard's gaze through the window becomes a visual representation of her longing for a life beyond the constraints of marriage. These symbols enhance the thematic depth of Chopin's works, inviting readers to engage in a more nuanced interpretation.

Many of Chopin's works feature tragic endings or ambiguous resolutions that leave room for interpretation. Whether it's Edna Pontellier's ultimate fate in "The Awakening" or the shocking revelation in "Desiree's Baby," Chopin often concludes her stories in a manner that prompts reflection on societal norms and individual choices.

The tragic ending of "The Awakening" is a departure from conventional narratives of the time. Edna's suicide challenges readers to grapple with the consequences of societal expectations on individual lives. The ambiguity surrounding her death invites various interpretations, further emphasizing the complexity of the issues Chopin addresses.

Similarly, "Desiree's Baby" concludes with a shocking revelation about the protagonist's heritage. The tragic outcome raises questions about the impact of societal prejudices on personal relationships and the devastating consequences of adhering to societal norms at the expense of individual happiness.

Kate Chopin's literary work is limited in size, her impact on American literature is enduring. One intriguing aspect of her works is the recurrence of certain themes across her major pieces, including "The Awakening," and her short stories such as "The Story of an Hour" and "Desiree's Baby." Chopin's repetition of themes, such as feminism, critique of marriage, and exploration of female sexuality, can be seen as a deliberate response to the challenges and changes in the cultural landscape of her time (D Holck, 2004). By revisiting these themes, she contributed to ongoing conversations about the evolving roles of women, the limitations of marriage, and the complexities of identity.

Her cultural background and exposure to the diverse influences of Louisiana, where she later lived, definitely shaped her perspectives on race, class, and gender. Chopin's early exposure to strong female figures in her family and the matriarchal Creole society she was a part of likely influenced her portrayal of independent and complex female characters. Her travels and experiences in different cultural settings provided her with a rich tapestry of inspiration for her narratives.

Moreover, Chopin's experiences as a wife and mother may have influenced her exploration of themes related to marriage and the constraints imposed on women. Her marriage to Oscar Chopin and subsequent move to Louisiana may have exposed her to the complexities of Southern society, contributing to her nuanced depiction of the region's cultural and racial dynamics. “Bonnie Stepenoff, 2015”

Authors often revisit certain themes throughout their careers as a form of artistic exploration and evolution. Chopin's repetition of themes can be seen as a deliberate choice to delve deeper into the nuances of subjects she found particularly compelling. Each iteration of a theme allowed her to approach it from different angles, bringing new insights and perspectives.

For instance, in "The Awakening," Chopin explores the theme of female independence through the character of Edna Pontellier, whereas in "The Story of an Hour," she examines a similar theme through the lens of a woman's reaction to her husband's death. By revisiting these themes in various contexts and settings, Chopin was able to offer a more comprehensive exploration of the human experience.

Chopin's works were published in a time when literature played a significant role in shaping public opinion and discourse. By repeating certain themes, Chopin may have aimed to reinforce her message and impact societal attitudes. Through her stories, she confronted readers with thought-provoking narratives that challenged conventional norms.

"The Awakening," for example, with its powerful exploration of female liberation, impressed controversy upon publication. By revisiting similar themes in her short stories, Chopin maintained a consistent narrative thread, reinforcing her stance on issues such as women's rights and societal expectations.

As with many great authors, certain themes become synonymous with the artistic signature of the writer. Chopin's thematic repetition could be seen as part of her unique literary identity. These

recurring motifs create a thematic coherence across her body of work, allowing readers to recognize and appreciate the consistent exploration of certain ideas.

Chopin's themes, while repeating, are not redundant. Instead, they contribute to the construction of a cohesive literary universe where characters and narratives intersect in a dialogue about the human condition.”C Holmgren, 2022” The repetition of themes becomes a distinctive feature of Chopin's style, inviting readers to engage with her work on a deeper level.

Chopin's works, particularly "The Awakening," faced criticism and controversy upon publication. The themes of female independence, sexuality, and societal critique challenged the norms of the time. By repeating these themes in various stories, Chopin may have been responding to critiques and interpretations of her earlier works. Each iteration allowed her to refine and expand upon her ideas, addressing different aspects of societal expectations and individual agency.

Chopin's philosophy can be situated within the broader context of feminist thought and individualism. “N McAfee, 2018” Her writings consistently challenged the prevailing norms that confined women to rigid roles within the domestic sphere. Through her characters and narratives, Chopin questioned the societal expectations placed on women and explored the consequences of rebellion against these norms. Her work, particularly "The Awakening," has been considered a precursor to feminist literature, as it examined a woman's journey towards self-discovery and the consequences of defying societal expectations.

Chopin's philosophy can be seen as a critique of patriarchal structures that limit individual freedom. Her characters often engage in subtle or overt acts of rebellion against the patriarchal norms of the time.” FH Khan ,2022” Edna Pontellier's defiance in "The Awakening" serves as a poignant example. Chopin challenges the notion that women should conform to societal expectations at the expense of their own aspirations and well-being.

The critique of patriarchy in Chopin's works extends beyond the confinement of women. Male characters, too, grapple with societal expectations and the limitations imposed by traditional gender roles. By depicting the struggles of both genders, Chopin contributes to a more comprehensive examination of the impact of societal norms on individual lives.

Chapter III

Methodological Framework

In the realm of academic research, a systematic and structured approach is essential for producing meaningful and reliable findings. This process involves the selection of a research approach, the development of a research design, and the application of specific analysis categories. These components work in harmony to ensure that the research study is rigorous, comprehensive, and capable of generating valid conclusions. In this article, we will explore these three fundamental elements of analytical literature in detail. The research approach serves as the overarching framework for the study, guiding the researcher's decisions and actions throughout the research process. It encompasses the philosophical perspective and the general methodology employed to investigate the research problem. There are several common research approaches, including positivism, interpretivism, and critical theory. Once the research approach is established, the next step is to develop a research design. The research design outlines the specific procedures and methods that will be employed to gather and analyze data. It encompasses decisions related to the research setting, data collection techniques, sample selection, and data analysis procedures. Common research designs include experimental designs, correlational designs, case studies, and ethnographic studies.

Experimental designs involve the manipulation of independent variables to assess their impact on dependent variables. Correlational designs explore the relationship between variables without manipulating them. Case studies delve deep into a specific phenomenon or context, while ethnographic studies aim to understand cultural practices and behaviors. The research design must be carefully crafted to ensure that it aligns with the research objectives and provides an appropriate framework for data collection and analysis. Analysis categories play a crucial role in the interpretation and presentation of research findings. These categories provide a structured framework for organizing, classifying, and analyzing the data collected during the research process. The specific analysis categories used will depend on the research question and the type of data collected. Descriptive statistics summarize the characteristics of the data, while inferential statistics allow for generalizations to be made about the population from which the sample was drawn. Regression analysis examines the relationships between variables and predicts outcomes. In qualitative studies, thematic analysis, content analysis, and discourse analysis are frequently used.

3.1 Research Approach

Qualitative methods in literary analysis encompass a range of approaches that aim at capturing the subjective and nuanced aspects of literary works. These methods go beyond numerical data and statistical analysis to focus on the interpretation, understanding, and exploration

of literature through close reading, textual analysis, and contextual examination. Qualitative analysis emphasizes the exploration of language, characters, symbols, themes, and the overall artistic expression employed by authors. At the core of qualitative analysis lies the practice of close reading and meticulous textual analysis. Close reading involves a detailed examination of the language, style, structure, and literary devices employed within the text. By scrutinizing the word choice, sentence structure, and rhythm, researchers can uncover hidden meanings, stylistic nuances, and the author's deliberate choices to convey certain ideas or evoke particular emotions. Textual analysis focuses on understanding the interplay between different elements within the text, such as dialogue, descriptions, and narrative voice, to extract deeper layers of meaning. It is obtained by exploring the complexities of characters and their development throughout a literary work. By examining the characters' thoughts, emotions, motivations, relationships, and actions, researchers gain insights into their psychological depths and the intricacies of their portrayal. Through character analysis, qualitative methods enable the interpretation of character acts, transformations, and the impact of external factors on their development. This approach sheds light on the author's intentions, thematic concerns, and the exploration of human nature within the text.

Symbols and imagery play a significant role in literature, often carrying multiple layers of meaning. Qualitative methods allow for the interpretation and analysis of these symbolic elements. Researchers explore the cultural, historical, and contextual significance of symbols and imagery, unveiling the hidden messages and associations they evoke. Through qualitative analysis, the richness of metaphors, allegories, and other symbolic devices is unraveled, providing a deeper understanding of the author's intentions and thematic concerns. Qualitative methods facilitate the identification and exploration of underlying themes within literary works. Thematic analysis involves identifying recurring motifs, patterns, and ideas that are interwoven throughout the text. Researchers examine the thematic connections, exploring how different elements contribute to the overall meaning of the work. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the author's overarching messages, social commentaries, philosophical inquiries, and the exploration of universal human experiences.

It acknowledges the importance of examining the historical, cultural, and social contexts in which a literary work was created. Literature does not exist in isolation; it reflects and responds to the world in which it was written. Qualitative analysis considers the author's background, historical events, literary movements, and societal influences to gain a comprehensive understanding of the text. By placing the work within its appropriate context, researchers can unveil the underlying motivations, cultural implications, and significance of the text within its historical and cultural

framework. Qualitative methods play a crucial role in literary analysis, as they provide a deeper exploration of the subjective dimensions of literature. By employing these methods, researchers can uncover hidden meanings, interpret symbols and imagery, understand character motivations, and explore overarching themes. This approach fosters a nuanced understanding of the artistic choices made by authors and their intended effects on readers. Qualitative analysis enables a more profound engagement with the text, encouraging readers to reflect on the complex human experiences, societal issues, and universal truths depicted within literature.

3.2 Research Design

Research design in literature refers to the structured plan or blueprint that outlines the systematic investigation and collection of data to answer a specific research question or test a hypothesis. It serves as a roadmap for researchers, guiding them through the entire research process and ensuring the validity and reliability of their findings. The design of a research study in literature encompasses various elements, such as the overall strategy, data collection methods, and data analysis techniques. One key aspect of research design is the selection of the research paradigm or philosophy that underlies the study. Common paradigms in literature research include positivism, interpretivism, and critical theory. Positivism focuses on objective, observable facts and aims at discovering universal laws, while interpretivism emphasizes the subjective interpretation of meanings and contexts. Critical theory, on the other hand, explores power dynamics and societal structures that shape literature and culture. The research design also involves choosing between quantitative and qualitative research methods or employing a mixed-methods approach. Quantitative research involves the use of numerical data and statistical analyses to identify patterns and relationships, while qualitative research relies on non-numerical data, such as interviews, observations, or textual analysis, to explore the depth and complexity of literary phenomena. Researchers may opt for a mixed-methods design to benefit from the strengths of both approaches, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the research problem.

The qualitative method will be used in this research, comparative tables will be used which will talk about the differences between the past and the present, also how was the role of women to know if there is a change or remains the same, investigate how the feminist movement manifested itself in the past, and how it does in the present, conducting a questionnaire in which people give their personal opinion on this movement as they perceive it.

3.3 Information Sources

Information sources in literature refer to the various outlets, materials, or channels through which researchers, scholars, and readers access information related to literary topics. These sources play a crucial role in supporting the exploration, analysis, and understanding of literature, enabling individuals to delve into different genres, historical periods, and cultural contexts. Information sources in literature encompass a broad range of materials, from traditional print resources to digital and online platforms.

- **Primary Sources**

Primary sources are original, firsthand materials created or produced at the time of the events or phenomena under investigation. In literature, primary sources include the actual literary works, manuscripts, letters, diaries, autobiographies, and other documents directly authored by the writers or participants. These sources provide direct insight into the thoughts, experiences, and creative processes of the individuals involved.

- **Secondary Sources**

Secondary sources are interpretations, analyses, or evaluations of primary sources by scholars, researchers, or experts in a particular field. In literature, secondary sources include critical reviews, literary analyses, scholarly articles, and books that discuss, interpret, or contextualize literary works. These sources provide insights, commentary, and perspectives that build upon or respond to the content of primary sources.

Secondary sources are essential for gaining a broader understanding of literary works, their historical and cultural contexts, and the critical discourse surrounding them. Researchers often consult secondary sources to explore existing scholarship, deepen their understanding, and situate their own analysis within a larger academic conversation.

- **Tertiary Sources**

Tertiary sources compile and summarize information from primary and secondary sources, providing overviews or general explanations of a topic. Encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, and textbooks are common examples of tertiary sources. While not typically used as the main sources for literary research, they can be valuable for obtaining background information, definitions, or brief summaries of literary movements, genres, or authors.

3.4 Analysis Categories

Qualitative analysis in literature refers to a method of studying and interpreting literary texts that emphasizes subjective interpretations, nuanced understandings, and the exploration of underlying themes, symbols, and literary devices. In qualitative analysis, researchers or critics engage in close reading, carefully examining the language, imagery, narrative structure, and character development within a text. The researcher will analysis gender roles in the 19th century were deeply entrenched in traditional norms and expectations, perpetuating a rigid division of labor and societal expectations based on one's assigned gender. During this era, the prevailing ideology emphasized the separate spheres of men and women, attributing distinct roles and responsibilities to each gender. Men were primarily associated with the public sphere, where they engaged in paid employment, political activities, and intellectual pursuits. Women, on the other hand, were confined to the private sphere, centered around domestic duties, child-rearing, and maintaining the household.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

In this chapter, the researcher will analyze the chosen approach, develop the overall story of the book and compare the situation that women deal in 19th century with the modern society. Also, this chapter will compare the characters, the society and show the differences between gender role with examples. Data analysis in literature refers to the systematic examination and interpretation of literary texts, often employing both quantitative and qualitative methods to

uncover patterns, trends, and deeper meanings within the narrative landscape. While traditionally associated with fields such as science and social sciences, the application of data analysis techniques to literature has emerged as a valuable tool for researchers, scholars, and literary critics seeking to explore texts in innovative and comprehensive ways.

4.1 Approaches to the investigation:

This investigation will use the Feminist Approach and the Historical Approach. The Feminist Approach is defined as a critical lens that seeks to explore and analyze the representation of women, their roles, and the power dynamics inherent in literary works. This approach emerged as a response to the historical marginalization of women in literature, aiming to deconstruct and challenge traditional gender norms. A feminist approach involves a multifaceted exploration of themes, language, and representation, often guided by intersectionality – an understanding that gender is entwined with other social categories like race, class, and sexuality. In this comprehensive discussion, we will delve into the key steps of a feminist literary approach, shedding light on the nuanced process of dissecting gender dynamics within literature.

1. Historical Context:

The foundation of a feminist literary approach rests on an understanding of the historical context that gave rise to feminist criticism. The mid-20th century marked a turning point when women began to articulate their discontent with the predominantly male-centric literary canon. Visionary writers like Virginia Woolf and Simone de Beauvoir questioned the absence of authentic female voices in literature.

2. Identification of Gendered Language:

A crucial step in the feminist literary approach is the identification and analysis of gendered language within a text. This involves examining how language is used to describe and characterize female characters, as well as considering the broader linguistic structures that may reinforce gender stereotypes. Feminist critics scrutinize not only the explicit paradigms of gender but also the implicit biases embedded in the linguistic choices made by authors.

3. Exploration of Female Agency:

Central to feminist literary analysis is the exploration of female agency and empowerment. Critics assess the portrayal of women as active agents in their narratives, breaking free from traditional roles and expectations. This step involves looking for instances where female characters defy societal norms, challenge patriarchal structures, or assert their independence. Celebrating works that empower women and acknowledging the agency of female characters is essential in reshaping the narrative landscape and challenging stereotypical representations of women in literature.

4. Deconstruction of Stereotypes:

This step involves identifying and challenging conventional cores and archetypes that have historically confined women to limited roles within literature. Whether it be the damsel in distress, the femme fatale, or the nurturing mother, feminist critics aim at dismantling these stereotypes and advocating for a more diverse and authentic representation of women. By dismantling stereotypes, feminist analysis contributes to a more nuanced understanding of the complexities of female identities.

5. Analysis of Feminist Themes and Motifs:

A feminist literary approach entails a meticulous analysis of themes and motifs that align with feminist principles. This includes themes related to women's rights, equality, reproductive rights, and the overall struggle against patriarchal structures. By identifying and exploring these feminist themes, critics can highlight the ways in which literature serves as a reflection and critique of societal norms and values. This step encourages a deeper understanding of how literature can contribute to the broader feminist discourse.

The other approach is The Historical Approach, and it is defined as a critical method that involves examining literary works within the context of their historical period. This approach recognizes that literature is not created in a vacuum; rather, it is intricately connected to the social, political, cultural, and economic conditions of the time in which it was produced. This book is situated in the 19th century a period when the patriarchy was common and normalized.

Employing the historical approach enriches the interpretation of literary texts by providing insights into the motivations of authors, the influences that shape their works, and the ways in which literature reflects, critiques, and participates in the unfolding tapestry of human history.

1. Understanding the Historical Context:

The first and foremost step in a historical approach is to understand the historical context surrounding the literary work. This involves researching the time period in which the author lived and wrote. Consider the political landscape, socio-economic conditions, cultural movements, and technological advancements of the era. This foundational understanding serves as a lens through which the literary work can be analyzed, allowing for a more nuanced interpretation that considers the influences and challenges the author faced.

2. Author- Biographical Research:

Authors are products of their time, and their personal experiences, beliefs, and ideologies are often reflected in their works. Conducting biographical research on the author helps in uncovering the motivations behind the writing. It explores the author's life, relationships, and significant life events that may have influenced their perspective. This step humanizes the author, making their literary creations more relatable and contextualizing their work within their lived experiences.

4. Exploring Social Structures and Norms:

Social structures and norms play a pivotal role in shaping the characters and narratives of literary works. It is vital to investigate the societal expectations, class structures, gender roles, and racial dynamics prevalent during the historical period. This step allows for a deeper understanding of how these social factors influenced character motivations, relationships, and the overall portrayal of individuals within the literary landscape.

4.2 Theories vs literary work:

Literary theories are analytical tools or perspectives that scholars and critics use to examine, deconstruct, and derive meaning from texts. These theories offer various lenses through which readers can approach literature, unraveling its layers of meaning, cultural implications, and artistic techniques. Here, we delve into the expansive world of literary theories, exploring their diverse forms and applications. A literary work is a creation of written or spoken language that seeks to convey ideas, emotions, and experiences through artistic expression. It encompasses a broad range of forms, including novels, short stories, poetry, plays, essays, and more. At its core,

a literary work is a product of human creativity, a carefully crafted composition that transcends mere conveyance of information to explore the complexities of the human experience.

Social aspects		
Novel	Reality	Currently
<p>The value of the women through the eye’s men: In the novel the women were presented as an object that belongs to men and the women had to accomplish the “rules”.</p> <p>“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.”</p>	<p>In the 19th century the societal values placed on women were deeply rooted in prevailing cultural, social, and economic norms, and these values varied based on factors such as race, class, and marital status. It's crucial to note that the experiences and perceptions of women were diverse and shaped by gender role.</p>	<p>Nowdays the value of women is recognized and celebrated across diverse spheres, reflecting a paradigm shift towards gender equality and empowerment.</p> <p>Women now play pivotal roles in shaping economies, driving social change, and contributing to every facet of human progress, this is due to the feminist movement and women who have fought for women's rights, although not all of them have them.</p>
<p>The treat that received black women: the novel shows how dark-skinned people were treated differently from others, for example, most of the maids in the house were black, and if they made the smallest mistake they were insulted or made to feel inferior.</p>	<p>In 19th-century Louisiana, as in many parts of the United States, black women faced systemic racism, discrimination, and various forms of mistreatment. It’s important to note that experiences varied widely based on factors such as social status, economic</p>	<p>Black women continue to face a complex web of challenges and systemic issues that intersect with race and gender, creating a unique set of circumstances that shape their experiences. Despite progress in various areas, black women often confront discrimination, and structural inequalities that impact their access to opportunities, healthcare, education, and justice.</p>

<p>“He instructed the black woman to go at once and inform Madame Lebrun that Mrs. Pontellier desired to see her. The woman grumbled a refusal to do part of her duty when she had not been permitted to do it all and started back to her interrupted task of weeding the garden. Whereupon Victor administered a rebuke in the form of a volley of abuse, which, owing to its rapidity and incoherence, was all but incomprehensible to Edna. Whatever it was, the rebuke was convincing, for the woman dropped her hoe and went mumbling into the house.”</p>	<p>circumstances, and geographic location.</p>	
<p>The motherhood: It was an important and obligation role to the women. It consisted in that woman was the only responsibility of the kids, the husbands didn't help them. They only gave money, and if the mother didn't give her life</p>	<p>The role and experience of motherhood were shaped by the prevailing social, economic, and cultural norms of the time. It's important to note that the experiences of mothers in this period were diverse and influenced by factors</p>	<p>Motherhood is the emphasis on choice and autonomy. Women today have greater agency in deciding when, how, and if they want to become mothers. The postponement of motherhood for educational and career pursuits is increasingly common, challenging the traditional timeline associated with family planning. This shift</p>

<p>for their kids, they will see her as a bad mother.</p> <p>“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.”</p>	<p>such as race, class, and regional differences.</p>	<p>underscores the importance of recognizing and respecting diverse paths to motherhood.</p>
<p>In the period that the novel was situated men did not give much importance to the raising of children and all their responsibility was given to the woman. They thought that by giving money they were fulfilling their duty, and they had the idea that by giving material things to women, they would be happy without taking into account the love</p>	<p>One of the primary roles of men in 19th-century Louisiana families was that of the breadwinner. Men were expected to provide for their families economically, whether through agricultural work, trade, or other professions.</p>	<p>Challenges persist in the realm of fatherhood. Gender norms and stereotypes still influence societal expectations, sometimes creating barriers for fathers who wish to take on more caregiving responsibilities. The stigma surrounding stay-at-home dads or fathers seeking flexible work arrangements highlights the persistence of traditional expectations.</p>

<p>or affection that many wanted to receive.</p> <p>“Mr. Pontellier gave his wife half of the money which he had brought away from Klein’s hotel the evening before. She liked money as well as most women, and accepted it with no little satisfaction.”</p>		
<p>In the last century, society placed high expectations on women regarding motherhood. Women had to give their lives and give up their dreams to take care of their children and if they did not do so they were considered irresponsible.</p> <p>“In short, Mrs. Pontellier was not a mother-woman. The mother women seemed to prevail that summer at Grand Isle. It was easy to know them, fluttering about with extended, protecting wings when any harm, real or imaginary, threatened their precious brood. They were women who idolized their children, worshiped their husbands, and</p>	<p>Women were expected to embody the ideals of True Womanhood, which emphasized four cardinal virtues: piety, purity, submission, and domesticity. The latter virtue, domesticity, placed a high value on a woman's ability to create a nurturing and harmonious home environment. Motherhood was seen as the pinnacle of domestic achievement.</p>	<p>Women continue to grapple with a complex set of expectations surrounding motherhood, reflecting a dynamic interplay of cultural, societal, and individual factors. While progress has been made in challenging traditional stereotypes, women often face a delicate balancing act as they navigate the expectations imposed on them as mothers.</p>

<p>esteemed it a holy privilege to efface themselves as individuals and grow wings as ministering angels”</p>		
<p>Marriages were often forced; most women did not marry the person they loved and could not deny it since their opinion was not worth much in that century.</p> <p>“Her marriage to Léonce Pontellier was purely an accident, in this respect resembling many other marriages which masquerade as the decrees of Fate.”</p>	<p>Romantic love did play a role, arranged marriages were not uncommon, especially among the upper classes. Families often played a central role in selecting suitable partners based on factors such as social status, family reputation, and economic compatibility.</p>	<p>Marriage has undergone significant transformations, reflecting changing cultural norms, evolving gender roles, and diverse individual preferences. The modern understanding of marriage encompasses a spectrum of relationship dynamics, challenging traditional conventions and embracing a more inclusive definition of partnership. The recognition of marriage as a partnership of equals. Gender roles within marriages have evolved, with couples increasingly sharing responsibilities such as parenting, household chores, and financial management.</p>
<p>Women always had to do what the man asked them to do regardless of whether they wanted to or not. If a woman refused to do something, she was frowned upon or thought to be demented.</p>	<p>In the 19th century, the subordination of women to men was deeply entrenched in societal norms and legal structures. This prevailing ideology was rooted in various cultural, religious, and philosophical beliefs that perpetuated the idea of</p>	<p>Socially, changing attitudes and cultural shifts have contributed to a more inclusive understanding of women's roles. The destigmatization of choices such as remaining single, pursuing unconventional career paths, and delaying marriage or motherhood</p>

<p>“With a writhing motion she settled herself more securely in the hammock. She perceived that her will had blazed up, stubborn and resistant. She could not at that moment have done other than deny and resist. She wondered if her husband had ever spoken to her like that before, and if she had submitted to his command. Of course, she had; she remembered that she had. But she could not realize why or how she should have yielded, feeling as she then did.”</p> <p>It sometimes entered Mr. Pontellier’s mind to wonder if his wife was not growing a little unbalanced mentally. He could see plainly that she was not herself. That is, he could not see that she was becoming herself and daily casting aside that fictitious self which we assume like a garment with which to appear before the world.</p>	<p>women's inherent inferiority and their subservient roles.</p> <p>The prevailing belief in the preservation of social order and stability influenced the subordination of women. A patriarchal family structure was seen as integral to maintaining societal harmony, and women's compliance with male authority was considered crucial for this purpose.</p>	<p>exemplifies the expanding range of options available to women.</p> <p>However, challenges persist, including persistent gender stereotypes, workplace biases, and societal expectations. The concept of women's independence is not solely about detachment from men but emphasizes equality, choice, and the dismantling of systemic barriers that hinder women's progress.</p>
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<p>The novel shows how women prefer to give up everything and give themselves completely to their children, even though this costs them energy, health, and happiness because all the care was given to them, while men could go out and enjoy themselves with their friends. The protagonist realizes that what she wants is also important.</p> <p>“I would give up the unessential; I would give my money; I would give my life for my children; but I wouldn’t give myself. I can’t make it clearer; it’s only something which I am beginning to comprehend, which is revealing itself to me.”</p>	<p>In the 19th century, societal expectations placed a significant burden on women to prioritize the well-being and happiness of their children over their own personal fulfillment. This expectation was rooted in prevailing cultural, social, and moral norms that defined a woman's role primarily within the domestic sphere.</p>	<p>In the 21st century, women's roles have evolved significantly from the 19th century, challenging the traditional expectation that women should primarily dedicate their lives to the care of children. Unlike the societal norms of the 1800s, contemporary women are increasingly pursuing diverse paths, including careers, education, and personal interests, beyond the scope of motherhood.</p> <p>Today, women have greater opportunities for education and professional development, enabling them to pursue fulfilling careers and contribute to various fields. The concept of work-life balance has gained prominence, emphasizing that women can be devoted mothers while also engaging in professional endeavors and personal pursuits.</p>
<p>Women did not have the right to make their own decisions, so they had to consult to their husbands.</p> <p>“Out!” exclaimed her husband, with something like genuine consternation</p>	<p>The preservation of social order and stability was a prevailing societal concern. Upholding a patriarchal family structure was seen as essential for maintaining societal harmony. By reinforcing</p>	<p>In the 21st century, women's autonomy and decision-making power have markedly progressed compared to the restrictive norms of the 19th century. Today, women enjoy a range of rights that empower them to make choices</p>

<p>in his voice as he laid down the vinegar cruet and looked at her through his glasses. “Why, what could have taken you out on Tuesday? What did you have to do?”</p>	<p>male authority, society believed it could ensure a well-ordered and stable community.</p>	<p>about their lives, bodies, and futures.</p> <p>Legally, advancements have been made to grant women greater control over their destinies. Access to education, voting rights, and reproductive freedoms are now protected by laws that recognize women as equal citizens. Decades of feminist activism and legal reforms have dismantled discriminatory practices that once limited women's agency.</p>
<p>Women had to always look good, to look dressed up because people started to criticize them without knowing if they were good or had a problem.</p> <p>“The way to become rich is to make money, my dear Edna, not to save it,” he said. He regretted that she did not feel inclined to go with him and select new fixtures. He kissed her good-by and told her she was not looking well and must take care of herself.</p>	<p>Personal appearance was closely tied to perceptions of an individual's moral character. The ability to maintain a well-groomed and controlled appearance was associated with self-discipline, reinforcing the belief that a woman's inner virtues could be reflected in her outward presentation.</p>	<p>Contrary to the prevailing practices of the 19th century, contemporary women have witnessed a significant shift in attitudes towards makeup, with many embracing a more diverse range of choices that includes opting not to use cosmetics. The 19th century placed considerable emphasis on rigid standards of beauty, and cosmetics were often used to conform to societal expectations rather than as a matter of personal choice.</p> <p>In the 21st century, there has been a growing movement towards celebrating natural beauty and</p>

<p>She was unusually pale and very quiet.”</p>		<p>individual authenticity. Women today are challenging conventional beauty norms, embracing diverse representations of attractiveness, and questioning the societal pressures to conform to a specific standard of appearance.</p>
<p>Depression in the novel</p> <p>“Edna felt depressed rather than soothed after leaving them. The little glimpse of domestic harmony which had been offered her, gave her no regret, no longing. It was not a condition of life which fitted her, and she could see in it but an appalling and hopeless ennui [boredom]. She was moved by a kind of commiseration for Madame Ratignolle,—a pity for that colorless existence which never uplifted its possessor beyond the region of blind contentment, in which no moment of anguish ever visited her soul, in which she would never have the taste of life’s delirium. Edna vaguely wondered</p>	<p>Marriages were often arranged or guided by societal expectations rather than personal choice. Unhappy marriages, coupled with the pressure to conform to marital norms, could lead to depression. Women faced challenges expressing dissatisfaction due to limited agency and the stigma associated with marital discord.</p>	<p>The understanding and discourse surrounding depression in women have evolved significantly from the 19th century to the present day. In the 19th century, mental health was poorly understood, and societal attitudes often stigmatized those suffering from mental illnesses, particularly women. The term "hysteria" was frequently used to pathologize women's emotional distress, contributing to a lack of empathy and effective treatment.</p> <p>In the 21st century, there has been a notable shift towards recognizing and addressing depression in women as a serious mental health issue. Increased awareness, improved diagnostic criteria, and evolving societal attitudes have led to a more compassionate</p>

<p>what she meant by “life’s delirium.” It had crossed her thought like some unsought, extraneous impression.”</p>		<p>understanding of women's mental health struggles</p>
<p>Women who went against the norms were seen as a bad influence.</p> <p>“He knew Mademoiselle Reisz a good deal better than he wanted to know her; he informed his questioner. In truth, he did not want to know her at all, or anything concerning her—the most disagreeable and unpopular woman who ever lived in Bienville Street. He thanked heaven she had left the neighborhood and was equally thankful that he did not know where she had gone.”</p>	<p>Nonconforming women risked damage to their reputation. Society placed a high value on a woman's reputation, especially in matters related to morality and virtue. Actions perceived as deviant or rebellious could lead to the tarnishing of a woman's social standing, affecting not only her but also her family.</p>	<p>In the present day, there is a growing recognition and celebration of women who defy societal norms, challenging conventional expectations and carving out individual paths that diverge from traditional roles. This shift represents a broader societal acknowledgment of the diverse expressions of womanhood and a departure from rigid norms that have historically constrained women's identities.</p>
<p>Men had the idea that women did not have enough reasoning or logic to understand what they were saying.</p> <p>“She being a woman and not comprehending such things”</p>	<p>In the 19th century, pervasive gender stereotypes and societal expectations contributed to the perception that women were intellectually inferior to men. Several cultural, historical, and philosophical factors shaped these beliefs,</p>	<p>Nowadays society, there has been a significant shift in how men perceive the intelligence of women, reflecting changing attitudes, evolving social norms, and the recognition of women's intellectual capabilities. The stereotypical perceptions that once confined women to limited roles, often undermining their</p>

	<p>leading many men of the time to harbor the notion that women were, to varying degrees, less intelligent or capable</p>	<p>intellectual capacities, are giving way to a more enlightened understanding of gender equality in intelligence.</p> <p>One notable change is the increasing recognition of women's achievements in education and professional fields. Women are excelling in academia, pursuing advanced degrees, and making significant contributions to various industries.</p>
<p>In that period, it was very difficult for women to learn, also because education was for men and not for women, according to society.</p> <p>“Then Edna sat in the library after dinner and read Emerson until she grew sleepy. She realized that she had neglected her reading, and determined to start anew upon a course of improving studies, now that her time was completely her own to do with as she liked”</p>	<p>Some women engaged in self-education, often relying on books, newspapers, and other written materials. Women with access to libraries or personal collections could teach themselves various subjects, fostering intellectual development despite the lack of formal schooling.</p>	<p>The education of women has undergone transformative changes, reflecting a commitment to gender equality and recognizing the instrumental role women play in shaping societies. The 21st century has witnessed significant strides in providing educational opportunities for women, fostering empowerment, and challenging historical disparities.</p>

Main character analysis

A character analysis in literature is a critical examination of the traits, motivations, conflicts, and development of a character within a story. It involves delving into the complexities of a character's personality, relationships, and role in the narrative to gain a deeper understanding of their significance. Through a character analysis, readers can explore how characters contribute to the overall themes, conflicts, and messages of a literary work.

Character analysis is essential for a comprehensive understanding of a literary work. Characters serve as conduits for themes, ideas, and emotions, and a nuanced analysis enhances readers' engagement with the narrative. By dissecting a character's traits, motivations, conflicts, and relationships, readers gain insight into the author's intentions and the broader cultural or societal context of the work.

Edna Pontellier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complexity: Edna is a multi-faceted character, challenging societal norms and expectations.• Rebellion: She rebels against traditional gender roles and the stifling constraints of her time.• Artistic Inclinations: Edna is drawn to art and finds solace and expression through painting.• Independence: She seeks personal freedom and independence, often at odds with societal norms.• Sexuality: Edna explores her own desires and sexuality, breaking free from societal constraints.• Motherhood vs. Selfhood: Struggles with the societal expectation of being a devoted mother versus her desire for personal fulfillment.• Emotional Turmoil: Edna experiences intense emotional conflicts as she discovers her own identity.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolism: Represents the awakening of women to their desires and the limitations placed upon them. • Tragic Heroine: Edna's journey is tragic, reflecting the limitations of societal norms during her time. • Death as Liberation: Her ultimate act can be seen as a desperate bid for freedom from societal expectations.
<p>Leonce Pontellier</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventional Husband: Leónce embodies the typical husband of the late 19th century, adhering to societal norms. • Traditional Roles: He expects Edna to fulfill traditional roles as a wife and mother. • Cultural Divide: Leónce represents the Creole culture, creating tension in his marriage with Edna. • Work-Centered: His focus is on work and societal expectations rather than personal fulfillment. • Control: Leónce attempts to control Edna's actions to conform to societal norms. • Patriarchal Attitudes: He reflects the patriarchal values of the society in which they live. • Lack of Understanding: Leónce fails to comprehend Edna's desires and struggles.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict with Change: Leónce is resistant to the changing roles of women in society. • Father Figure: Represents the traditional father figure, emphasizing duty and responsibility. • Cultural Stereotype: Leónce embodies the Creole stereotype, emphasizing cultural expectations.
<p>Mademoiselle Reisz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artistic Mentor: Mademoiselle Reisz serves as a mentor to Edna, guiding her artistic endeavors. • Nonconformity: She represents a nonconformist artist, detached from societal norms. • Isolation: Mademoiselle Reisz leads a solitary life, reflecting the sacrifices of an artist. • Symbol of Freedom: Her character symbolizes the freedom that comes with abandoning societal expectations. • Musical Expression: Mademoiselle Reisz expresses herself through music, mirroring Edna's artistic journey. • Critical Observer: She observes and comments on the societal constraints placed on women. • Unconventional Wisdom: Mademoiselle Reisz provides

	<p>unconventional wisdom to Edna, challenging her perceptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tragic Isolation: Her isolation reflects the societal consequences of defying norms. • Artistic Legacy: Mademoiselle Reisz lives for her art, leaving a lasting legacy. • Enigmatic Presence: She remains mysterious, adding an element of intrigue to the story.
<p>Robert Lebrun</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youthful Enthusiasm: Robert is portrayed as youthful and full of life. • Flirtatious Nature: He engages in a flirtatious relationship with Edna, defying societal norms. • Ambiguity: Robert's feelings toward Edna remain ambiguous, adding complexity to the story. • Symbol of Escape: Represents a temporary escape for Edna from societal expectations. • Conflict of Love: Robert struggles with his feelings for Edna and the societal constraints on their relationship. • Failed Rebellion: Despite his feelings for Edna, Robert ultimately cannot fully rebel against societal expectations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symbol of the Sea: The sea symbolizes freedom and escape, reflecting Robert's character.• Social Class Divide: His relationship with Edna is hindered by the societal divide in their social classes.• Tragic Romantic Figure: Robert's inability to break free leads to a tragic end for both him and Edna.• Symbolic Departure: His departure symbolizes the impossibility of escaping societal constraints.
Adele Ratignolle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traditional Motherhood: Adele epitomizes the ideal of motherhood and womanhood in her society.• Self-Sacrifice: She willingly sacrifices her own desires for the sake of her family.• Feminine Sensibility: Adele embodies the expected qualities of a delicate and nurturing woman.• Friendship: Adele is Edna's close friend, providing a contrast to Edna's nonconformity.• Limited Ambitions: Adele's ambitions are confined to her role as a wife and mother.• Lack of Self-Exploration: Unlike Edna, Adele does not question or explore her own desires.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Conformity: Adele conforms to societal expectations without questioning their validity.• Symbol of Contrast: She contrasts sharply with Edna, highlighting the societal expectations placed on women.• Maternal Love: Adele's love for her children is a driving force in her life.• Tragic Irony: Despite her fulfillment of societal expectations, Adele faces tragedy in the narrative.
Alcee Robin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensual Desires: Arobin represents Edna's exploration of sensual pleasures outside societal norms.• Affair: Edna engages in an affair with Arobin, challenging traditional notions of fidelity.• Cynicism: Arobin is cynical about societal expectations and the institution of marriage.• Manipulation: He manipulates Edna's desires for his own satisfaction.• Temporary Escape: Arobin provides a temporary escape for Edna from the constraints of her marriage.• Physical Attraction: Edna's relationship with Arobin is primarily physical.• Lack of Emotional Connection: Arobin lacks the emotional depth that Edna seeks.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbol of Hedonism: Represents the pursuit of pleasure without regard for societal norms. • Character Foil: Arobin contrasts with characters like Robert, emphasizing the different aspects of Edna's desires. • Consequence of Rebellion: Edna's affair with Arobin contributes to the tragic consequences of her rebellion.
<p>The colonel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description: Edna's father, a conservative and traditional Southern gentleman. • Influence: The Colonel's views reflect the prevailing attitudes of the society at the time. His disapproval of Edna's non-conformity contributes to her inner conflict. • Traditional Values: The Colonel embodies traditional values and expectations. • Paternal Authority: He holds a position of authority in the family, resembling a father figure.

4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

Themes in literature are the fundamental and recurring ideas or concepts that underlie the narrative of a literary work. It serves as the unifying thread that connects various elements of a

story, providing it with depth, meaning, and relevance beyond the surface plot. Through themes, authors delve into the complexities of the human experience, offering readers insights into universal truths, societal issues, and the intricacies of emotions. "The Awakening," Chopin's magnum opus, is replete with literary allusions that contribute to the novel's depth. The protagonist, Edna Pontellier, is often compared to Emma Bovary from Flaubert's "Madame Bovary." Both characters rebel against societal constraints and grapple with their desires in the face of societal expectations. The parallel highlights Chopin's engagement with the theme of female emancipation, showcasing her awareness of and response to French literary traditions.

At the heart of every well-crafted piece of literature lies a thematic foundation that reflects the author's perspective on life, society, and the world at large. Themes can manifest in various forms, ranging from broad concepts like love, justice, and power to more nuanced explorations of identity, alienation, and the passage of time. While the plot may drive the storyline forward, it is the themes that give the narrative its enduring significance.

Moreover, themes provide readers with a lens through which they can analyze and interpret the events and characters within a story. By examining the recurring motifs and ideas, readers gain a deeper understanding of the author's intentions and the underlying messages embedded in the narrative. Themes serve as a bridge between the fictional world created by the author and the real-world issues and dilemmas faced by readers.

Examples of themes in the novel:

- Gender Roles and Societal Expectations:

One of the central themes in "The Awakening" is the critique of traditional gender roles and societal expectations imposed on women in the late 19th century. The protagonist, Edna Pontellier, rebels against the conventional roles of wife and mother prescribed by society, seeking instead to define her own identity and desires.

- Self-Discovery and Individualism:

The novel explores the theme of self-discovery and individualism as Edna embarks on a journey to understand herself beyond the roles of wife and mother. Her awakening is a process of self-realization, as she grapples with her desires, emotions, and the constraints placed on her by societal norms.

- Conformity vs. Nonconformity:

The tension between conformity and nonconformity is a recurring theme in the novel. Edna's refusal to conform to societal expectations and her pursuit of personal freedom stand in stark contrast to the rigid norms of the society she inhabits. This theme highlights the challenges and consequences of resisting societal norms.

- Marriage

The Awakening portrays marriage as a trap and false promise of happiness for unwitting women. Edna's marriage to Léonce is described as an accident, as she falls for various men before meeting Léonce. She is saddled with a lifestyle she has not fully bargained for, while Adèle's happiness is seen as blind contentment. The marriages depict wives subverting their identities and desires in favor of their husbands, such as Edna's refusal to take visitors and Adèle's marriage to Monsieur Ratignolle. Although their marriage is happy, it is dependent on Adèle shrinking herself, living for her husband and children without considering her own needs.

In literature, a motif is a recurring element, theme, or idea that holds symbolic significance and contributes to the overall meaning and unity of a work. Like the threads in a tapestry, motifs are woven into the narrative to create a pattern that enhances the texture and depth of the story. These recurring elements may take various forms, including symbols, images, themes, or narrative devices, and their repetition serves to emphasize specific concepts or evoke particular emotions.

At its core, a motif is a narrative building block that writers use to convey deeper meanings and establish connections within a text. While a theme is a broader, overarching idea, a motif is a specific, recurring detail that reinforces or amplifies that theme. The repetition of motifs often invites readers to engage in a process of interpretation, encouraging them to explore the layers of meaning embedded in the narrative.

One of the essential functions of motifs is to provide cohesion and unity to a literary work. By strategically placing recurring elements throughout the story, authors create a sense of coherence and symmetry. This repetition serves as a literary device that helps tie together disparate elements, providing a sense of structure to the narrative. In this way, motifs contribute to the aesthetic and artistic qualities of a work, enriching the reading experience.

Examples of motifs in the novel are:

- **The Sea:**

The motif of the sea is a central and recurring element in the novel. The sea symbolizes both freedom and escape for the protagonist, Edna Pontellier. The sound of the waves and the vastness of the sea represent the possibilities of self-discovery and individualism. However, the sea also carries a sense of danger and the unknown, reflecting the challenges Edna faces in breaking free from societal expectations.

- **Art and Creativity:**

Artistic expression, particularly painting, serves as a motif in "The Awakening." Edna's interest in painting becomes a metaphor for her desire to create her own identity outside of traditional gender roles. The process of artistic creation symbolizes self-discovery and the pursuit of individual expression. As Edna immerses herself in art, the motif reflects her journey toward personal awakening and liberation.

- **Music:**

Music is a recurring motif that contributes to the emotional and thematic resonance of the novel. Various musical pieces, especially the piano playing of Mademoiselle Reisz, serve as a backdrop to key moments in Edna's journey. The emotive power of music heightens the intensity of Edna's experiences and reflects the internal conflicts she grapples with. The motif of music enhances the novel's exploration of passion, desire, and the complexities of the human soul.

- **Children:**

The novel features images of children and verbal allusions to them, with Edna often resembling a child. She experiences a rebirth and discovers the world from a childlike perspective. However, her childishness leads to self-absorbedness, disregard for others, and failure to think realistically about the future. Her thoughts of her children inspire her to commit suicide, realizing that societal opinion affects her children's lives and her irrevocable obligation to them.

Symbols in literature are potent and evocative elements that transcend their literal meanings, acting as conduits for deeper layers of meaning and significance within a text. They are the literary devices through which writers infuse their work with layers of interpretation, inviting

readers to delve beyond the surface narrative and explore the rich tapestry of ideas, emotions, and themes embedded in the story.

At its essence, a symbol is a tangible object, image, word, or concept that represents something abstract or beyond its literal definition. These symbolic elements are intentionally employed by authors to convey complex ideas, evoke emotions, or convey universal truths in a more profound and nuanced manner. Unlike straightforward language, symbols operate in the realm of suggestion and metaphor, engaging readers on a subconscious and emotional level.

Examples of symbols in the novel:

- **Clothing:**

The symbolism of clothing is evident in Edna's changing attire. Her choice of clothing represents her evolving attitudes toward societal norms. As she sheds restrictive garments and adopts unconventional attire, it symbolizes her rebellion against traditional roles assigned to women.

- **Swimming:**

Edna's learning to swim becomes a symbol of her quest for personal freedom and independence. The act of swimming represents her desire to navigate the currents of life on her terms, breaking away from the constraints that bind her.

- **Mademoiselle Reisz's Music:**

The music played by Mademoiselle Reisz, particularly the piano pieces, serves as a symbolic element. The emotional and evocative nature of the music mirrors Edna's internal conflicts and desires. The music becomes a conduit for Edna's passions and serves as a reflection of her evolving emotional state.

- **The Parrot and Mockingbird:**

The parrot and mockingbird are caged birds owned by characters in the novel. These birds symbolize the societal expectations and constraints placed on individuals, particularly women. The caged birds serve as a metaphor for the limited roles assigned to women during the time the novel is set.

Chapter V

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

Purpose of the conclusion is to provide a concise summary and recapitulation of the main points and arguments presented throughout the literary analysis. This recap serves to remind the reader of the key ideas, themes, and insights discussed in the body of the work. By revisiting these elements, the conclusion reinforces the coherence and unity of the entire piece, helping the reader to reflect on the significance of the analysis.

In literature, conclusions often play a crucial role in offering a resolution to the themes and ideas explored in the work. It is an opportunity to bring closure to the discussions initiated in the introduction and developed in the body of the text. The conclusion allows the writer to articulate any final thoughts on the literary work, characters, or broader implications of the analysis. This resolution contributes to a sense of completeness and leaves a lasting impression on the reader.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 To analyze the situations in the book's plot versus the present to understand how women continue being oppressed.

The Awakening by Kate Chopin is rich with situations that highlight the oppressive societal norms and expectations placed on women in the late 19th century. One poignant example is Edna Pontellier's experience during her vacation on Grand Isle. During Edna Pontellier's summer vacation at Grand Isle, a popular resort for the Creole elite, the oppressive expectations and constraints on women are vividly illustrated.

Her vacation is not merely a leisurely escape, but a microcosm of the restrictive societal norms that confine Edna and other women. At Grand Isle, women are expected to adhere to strict social conventions. They are to engage in polite conversation, participate in customary activities, and maintain a facade of contentment in their roles as wives and mothers. The pressure to conform to societal expectations stifles individuality and authentic expression.

Edna's desire for independence and self-discovery clashes with the prevailing attitudes of the time. Women at Grand Isle are confined to societal roles that prioritize the needs and desires of their husbands and children. Edna's attempts to break free from these constraints are met with disapproval and ostracism.

5.2.2 To make a comparative table with what was considered to be female-specific duties on previous centuries versus current ones in which women are still often forced to fulfill roles that should be taken by both genders.

19th Century:

- Traditional Gender Roles:

Men were typically seen as the primary breadwinners and decision-makers. Their roles were centered around providing for the family financially and occupying positions of authority in both public and private spheres. Women were predominantly confined to domestic roles, responsible for managing the household, raising children, and maintaining the family's moral and social well-being. Social norms dictated strict codes of behavior for men and women. Any deviation from these norms, particularly for women, could result in social ostracism and condemnation.

Nowadays:

Gender roles have become more fluid and less prescriptive. Men and women can pursue a wider range of careers and lifestyles, challenging traditional notions of masculinity and femininity. The concept of family roles has evolved. Both men and women are more likely to share responsibilities related to childcare, household chores, and financial provision. Dual-income households are now the norm in many societies.

5.2.3 To identify male domination attitudes that have been normalized throughout history in which women continue to be affected throughout their lives.

In the 19th century, male domination attitudes were deeply ingrained in societal structures, shaping norms, laws, and everyday interactions. These attitudes permeated various aspects of life, reinforcing a patriarchal system that subjugated women and limited their agency. Society prescribed rigid gender roles, assigning men as breadwinners and women as homemakers. This societal structure reinforced the belief that men were naturally suited for leadership and decision-making roles, while women were expected to prioritize domestic duties and child-rearing.

Men were expected to dominate the professional sphere, occupying leadership roles and pursuing careers outside the home. Today, certain fields and industries continue to grapple with gender

imbalances, with men often dominating leadership positions.

Today this type of attitude is still seen in society, but it has changed in that women can now study and work. Although not all women can enjoy this, since in some families they are required to have children or get married even though the woman does not want to.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

A restatement of the research question in literature involves revisiting and expressing the primary inquiry of a study in a renewed manner. This process is crucial in academic research as it allows for clarity, precision, and a more profound understanding of the research problem. In essence, it serves as a tool to refine the focus of the investigation and maintain a clear direction throughout the research process.

The research question is the cornerstone of any scholarly inquiry, guiding the researcher in exploring, analyzing, and interpreting information. It articulates the main issue or problem that the study aims to address and provides a framework for the entire research endeavor. In literature, the research question is particularly significant as it directs the investigation into the complexities and nuances of various literary works, genres, or themes.

Society in 19th century:

In the 19th century, societal expectations for women were deeply entrenched in the ideology of domesticity. The prevailing notion was that a woman's primary role was to be a devoted wife and mother, maintaining the sanctity of the home and adhering to societal norms. Edna Pontellier, the protagonist of "The Awakening," finds herself ensnared in this rigid framework, married to Léonce Pontellier, a man who epitomizes the conventional expectations of a husband in that era.

Marriage in the 19th century:

In the 19th-century society depicted in the novel, it was often more a societal contract than a romantic union based on mutual understanding and emotional connection. Women were expected to be dutiful wives, subordinating their desires and aspirations to the needs of their families. Edna's dissatisfaction with this prescribed role becomes evident as she grapples with a growing sense of individuality and a desire for personal freedom.

Motherhood:

The exploration of motherhood during the 19th century is a central theme that challenges and critiques the societal expectations and limitations placed on women in their roles as mothers. The novel provides a poignant depiction of the constraints and conflicts that women faced in navigating the complex terrain of motherhood within the rigid norms of the late 19th-century American society.

During this era, prevailing notions of motherhood were deeply entrenched in the ideology of domesticity, emphasizing a woman's primary role as a nurturer, caregiver, and moral guide within the confines of her home. Mothers were expected to prioritize the needs of their children and husbands over personal aspirations or desires, adhering to a strict code of self-sacrifice for the sake of familial harmony.

The role differences between women and men in the 19th century:

In the 19th century, the prevailing ideology emphasized a strict separation of gender roles. Women were expected to embody the qualities of domesticity, submissiveness, and self-sacrifice, primarily confined to the domestic sphere. Men, on the other hand, were assigned the roles of breadwinners and decision-makers, operating in the public realm. These rigid gender roles are evident in the novel and contribute to the central conflict faced by the protagonist, Edna Pontellier.

Edna, as a woman in the 19th century, is initially confined to the roles of wife and mother. Her marriage to Leonce Pontellier exemplifies the conventional expectations placed on women during this time. Leonce, as the husband and provider, is focused on his work and societal responsibilities, while Edna is expected to manage the household and fulfill her maternal duties.

In conclusion, the novel shows how men had more freedom than women, also the difference in roles was very marked, for example Leonce was the breadwinner of the family so he was not in charge of the affective part of their children and Edna had to take care of their children, the housework even though she often felt tired she had to fulfill them. She had no freedom if she wanted to go out she had to ask her husband. This happened before she realized that she should also have the same rights as a man.

5.5 Recommendations

Recommendations in literature typically refer to the suggestions, insights, or proposed courses of action that authors or researchers provide at the end of a scholarly work. These recommendations are based on the findings and conclusions presented in the literature and are meant to guide future research, inform practical applications, or offer insights for further exploration.

To analyze a book, it is necessary to know what topic you are going to research because in literature there are different genres and types of books. Then underline the ideas that are important or that seem to be useful in the work. You can make tables to make it easier for the reader to differentiate the topics, understand what you are reading and acquire new knowledge. It is important to research about the topic to be discussed and to know its history because the books reflect what they thought at that time, how the reader perceived the situations. Also, the book that will be analyzed needs to contain a topic that the researcher is interested in.

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Feminism

thesis

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Symbolism

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Motif

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