

HIGHLAND REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

AP Literature and Composition
Mrs. Blodgett

Welcome to AP Literature and Composition: Your summer reading for the course will be the following two short novels:

Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse and **The Awakening** by Kate Chopin

Although the novels take place in very different settings and cultures, Siddhartha 536-423 B.C. India and The Awakening, 19th Century Creole culture in New Orleans, the novels compare in one significant respect: the protagonist experiences a search for identity that results in a significant transformation that may have meaning for the reader as well. Siddhartha begins a quest for his spiritual identity at the start of the novel; Edna Pontellier experiences dissatisfaction with her life as a wife and mother that leads to dramatic changes.

While you read, trace the various stages of these transformations by keeping a reader's log. Write a journal entry every 4 to 5 chapters that discusses the thoughts and actions of your character and your feelings about them. The reader's log will serve as pre-writing for your essay and it will be handed in on the first day of class, Sept. 3, 2009.

Finally, when you have finished reading the novels, please write an essay, typed, 3 pages in length to answer the following: How do the thoughts and experiences of Siddhartha and Edna Pontellier compare and contrast? Discuss the search for identity and transformation that takes place in the course of each novel. You should quote from the novels to support ideas citing the page number in parentheses and include sufficient specific details to illustrate your points. Feel free to include literary criticism although it is not required at this time. If you do cite sources, make sure you are using MLA format.

I look forward to discussing these novels with you in Sept. If you have any questions over the summer feel free to write: mblodgett18@comcast.net.

Have a wonderful summer vacation!

Mrs. Blodgett