

Essay 4 - due in Ses #20 (5 pages)

Choose one of the following and write a five page essay in which you do your best to convince readers to share your understanding of either Flaubert's "A Simple Heart" or Chopin's *The Awakening* by using the work's specific words, speeches, and scenes. Try your best to distinguish between observations that arise from plot summary and analyses that advance an argument. Try, too, to captivate your reader's interest in your opening and concluding paragraphs, and to strive toward a clear logical arrangement of paragraphs. Vary the types of sentences you use. Read out loud. Give your essay a thoughtful title, double space throughout, number your pages, and proofread very carefully. Remember that if you would like to explore another topic, talk to me ahead of time.

1.

In church she was forever gazing at the Holy Ghost, and one day she noticed that it had something of the parrot about it. This resemblance struck her as even more obvious in a colour-print depicting the baptism of Our Lord. With its red wings and its emerald-green body, it was the very image of Loulou. (50)

Do we laugh at Felicite's identification of Loulou with the Holy Spirit? Should we?

2. What is the significance of the Corpus Christi festival? What does it celebrate? Why do you think Flaubert used the almost-cinematic technique of going back and forth between the festival and Felicite's death?
3. Why do you think that Chopin adapted the traditional elements of a *Bildungsroman* in *The Awakening* rather than dispensing with them entirely?
4. "The trouble is,' sighed the Doctor, grasping her meaning intuitively, 'that youth is given up to illusions. It seems to be a provision of Nature; a decoy to secure mothers for the race. And Nature takes no account of moral consequences, of arbitrary conditions which we create, and which we feel obliged to maintain at any cost'" (120). Why is it that a medical doctor is the only one who can understand exactly what has been plaguing Edna Pontellier?