

West Eng 11 <i>The Awakening</i> Discussion Questions Chapters 10-13
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1. In chapter 10, Edna discovers how to swim. At first she is elated, and afterward she has a “vision of death” (47). What does swimming symbolize for her? Discuss this question in some depth (pun intended).
2. In chapter 11, Edna and Leonce engage in a kind of battle of wills. Edna is “awake” and wants to stay outside most of the night. Leonce doesn’t want her to—maybe he thinks it’s not safe. At one point, she says, “Leonce, go to bed. I mean to stay out here. I don’t wish to go in and I don’t intend to. Don’t speak to me like that again; I shall not answer you” (50). What kind(s) of characterization is involved in this statement?
3. Who ‘wins’ the battle of wills in chapter 11? Why do you think so?
4. In chapter 12, Edna and Robert go to an island for church, but Edna becomes sick so they go to a Cajun woman’s home to rest. Find and discuss three symbolic elements in this chapter.