

The Awakening

Kate Chopin

Why does the wedding ring resist the meaning Edna tries to force onto it?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The ring and the broken vase
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter XVII
START	Once she stopped, and taking off her wedding ring, flung it upon the carpet.
END	Edna held out her hand, and taking the ring, slipped it upon her finger.
PASSAGE ID	sec-aw-03

THE MOVE

Compare symbolic action with its actual effect

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Edna throws down and tries to crush the wedding ring as if damaging the symbol could damage the institution it represents. The ring survives, and she eventually puts it back on, exposing the difference between symbolic rebellion and actual freedom.

MARK

Circle each action Edna performs on the ring. Underline what physically happens to the ring in response. Star the moment when the object’s survival defeats the meaning she tries to impose on the gesture.

NOTICE

- What does Edna want the act of throwing or crushing the ring to mean?
- What does the ring actually do?
- How does putting the ring back on complicate the idea that symbolic rejection is the same thing as changed circumstances?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the wedding ring resist the meaning Edna tries to force onto it? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the wedding ring resist the meaning Edna tries to force onto it? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Edna wants the ring to carry the meaning of rejection, but the object remains physically intact and ultimately returns to her finger. Symbolic action fails to alter the institution or circumstances the symbol represents.
EVIDENCE	Use the acts of throwing or crushing the ring, the ring's physical resistance, and her later restoration of it.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the ring 'wins' because it is magical or powerful. The point is the gap between symbolic gesture and actual changed conditions.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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Why does the wedding ring resist the meaning Edna tries to force onto it?

START ANCHOR	Once she stopped, and taking off her wedding ring, flung it upon the carpet.
END ANCHOR	Edna held out her hand, and taking the ring, slipped it upon her finger.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Circle each action Edna performs on the ring. Underline what physically happens to the ring in response. Star the moment when the object’s survival defeats the meaning she tries to impose on the gesture.
2. NOTICE - What does Edna want the act of throwing or crushing the ring to mean? What does the ring actually do? How does putting the ring back on complicate the idea that symbolic rejection is the same thing as changed circumstances?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does the wedding ring resist the meaning Edna tries to force onto it?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.