

The Awakening

Kate Chopin

What does Edna object to in Robert's idea that her husband could 'set her free'?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Edna rejects the language of possession
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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 XXXVI
START	She leaned over and kissed him—a soft, cool, delicate kiss, whose voluptuous sting penetrated his whole being—then she moved away from him.
END	I should laugh at you both.
PASSAGE ID	sec-aw-04

THE MOVE

Distinguish love from ownership in an argument

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Robert imagines Edna’s freedom as something her husband could grant, which still treats her as property transferred or released by a male owner. Edna objects not to love but to the ownership assumption inside his language.

MARK

Underline Robert’s language about Mr. Pontellier setting Edna free. Circle Edna’s replies that reject the idea of being anyone’s possession. Star the line where she separates loving Robert from belonging to him.

NOTICE

- What assumption about marriage is built into Robert's idea of being 'set free'?
- Why does Edna reject Robert's language even though she loves him?
- What would a relationship without ownership have to look like according to her argument?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What does Edna object to in Robert's idea that her husband could 'set her free'? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What does Edna object to in Robert's idea that her husband could 'set her free'? 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 objects to the ownership assumption hidden inside the phrase 'set her free.' If her husband has the authority to grant freedom, then she is still being imagined as property; loving Robert does not mean transferring that ownership.
EVIDENCE	Use Robert's language about Mr. Pontellier releasing Edna and her replies rejecting possession or belonging to anyone.
WATCH FOR	Do not make the disagreement simply about whether Edna loves Robert. The argument is about who has the authority to define her freedom.
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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What does Edna object to in Robert's idea that her husband could 'set her free'?

START ANCHOR	She leaned over and kissed him—a soft, cool, delicate kiss, whose voluptuous sting penetrated his whole being—then she moved away from him.
END ANCHOR	I should laugh at you both.

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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 - Underline Robert's language about Mr. Pontellier setting Edna free. Circle Edna's replies that reject the idea of being anyone's possession. Star the line where she separates loving Robert from belonging to him.
2. NOTICE - What assumption about marriage is built into Robert's idea of being 'set free'? Why does Edna reject Robert's language even though she loves him? What would a relationship without ownership have to look like according to her argument?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: What does Edna object to in Robert's idea that her husband could 'set her free'?
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.