

Draft of Student Essay for Peer Revision

Just as Edna in The Awakening, Ginny in Thousand Acres sets out on a quest of self discovery and independence. Though Edna is searching for women's rights and Ginny aspires to become a more assertive and strong individual, both share the common struggle of leaving their family and old customs.

Both women wanted to rid themselves of their passive wife roles and gain the freedom to become a respected individual. Edna was bored of her meaningless life as a wife and mother. She felt her days were filled with trivial tasks and yearned to feel useful and important. Her husband who felt women were created to have babies and serve their husbands and didn't support Edna in her search of self-sufficiency. Ginny's husband Ty was quiet and passive, and like Edna's spouse believed women should keep their opinions to themselves. He was angered by Ginny's new aggressive stand she took against her father and didn't think it was appropriate for her to act in such a way. Also like Edna's husband Ty didn't support Ginny in her quest of self discovery and independence. Though both women longed for the freedom to be an individual, neither received any assistance from their husband.

Edna and Ginny each had an affair with a younger man they felt understood them and helped them where their husbands had failed. Joe (??) was the only one who actually treated Edna as a person rather than a mother or wife. He liked to talk with her and respected her opinion, something no one else had ever done. He made her feel important and that her feelings really mattered, leading her to fall in love with him. Her love for Joe however, was not necessarily with him as a person, but rather the idea that someone saw her as an individual and treated her with respect. Ginny had an affair with Jess Clark, an old childhood playmate who left the farm years before and returned an exciting yet mysterious stranger. Jess was daring. He became a vegetarian and wanted to try new methods of farming. Jess was the antithesis of Ty as he didn't hesitate to speak his opinion or do things his own way. Like

Edna, Ginny wasn't truly in love with Jess, but the excitement and change he brought to the life she was tired and bored of. Both Ginny and Edna have an affair with men who seem to fit the change they are yearning for in their unsatisfying lives.

As each succeeds in breaking away from their original unhappy lifestyle, they discover that although they gained freedom, they failed in their attempts of finding a life that would bring them solace.. Edna was unhappy because Joe left her, for he knew their love was forbidden, and she was left with no one who understood or supported her individual lifestyle. Her husband and society thought she was going insane and believed her dreams and aspirations were inappropriate and weird. She was a woman ahead of her times trapped in a world that supported old-fashioned beliefs. With no strength or support from other Edna saw no other solution to her dilemma than to commit suicide which admitted her defeat in her efforts to find happiness through independence. Ginny lives her dream of being out on her own and raising Rose's daughters, but like Edna she is not content with her new life. Her nieces don't trust her and there's a strained and uncomfortable feeling in their lives. Although she broke all ties with her family like she had originally wanted to, things still felt unfinished and problems unresolved as the entire family either left or died without making amends. Ginny no longer had Rose to talk to or to understand or support her, all she did was work and sleep. Edna and Ginny both wanted freedom unaware that it would also bring lonely solitude.

Edna and Ginny were both trapped in boring unsatisfying lives. They wanted independence from their husbands who they believed were keeping them from escaping from their miserable lives and preventing them from being free. As each broke away and attained control of their own life, they discovered that complete independence from everyone is not what they needed, but someone who understood that they wanted to be respected as an individual.