The history of women as a whole up until the 20-centuryth is one of bondage for women, limited roles in society. In many of the worlds cultures Women have a specific role, which is to tend to family. The west has been labeled as the leaders in the advancement of human liberty with works such as the Magna Carta or more recently the constitution. The Sad reality is it fact its only in recent time has those very rights to been extended to all members of society. The last groups to be granted basic human rights are women. Through movement such as the suffrage movement, the feminist movement, and the sexual revolution women have been able to crave out an identity for themselves. One were a women has rights, such as the right to a voice, the right to make choices, the right to chase their desire and dreams what ever they may be. The literary works of Kate Chopin and Charles W. Chesnutt’s give readers a out look on the reality was for women in the most restrictive era of our countries history.

The more radical of the two works is the awakening. The awakening features Edna a trophy wife of the Victorian age who goes through an awakening. With Edna being in the Victorian era she had to live a strict life mostly confided to the home. There wasn't much choice outside being a trophy wife and a homemaker. Even though Edna lives in the Victorian era she lives a life of leisure,. She began to seek freedom through self-reliance. In similar a text there chestnuts Rena a young mulatto women who trap between two worlds to live a better life she denies herself and conforms to the social order of the time in her awaken she takes the side against her what she original conformed to. The individualistic philosophy flows in both these works as well as the ideas of Emerson. In my essay I will use the awakening of Edna potenllier as well as Rowena (Rena) Walden awaken and the implication their new found self discovery to present an argument why an awakening was essential for the characters also why "true artist" are needed in a Society

 An awakening is the growth of a self-aware individual; the definition of self-awareness is "Self-awareness is a psychological state in which people are aware of their traits, feelings and behavior. Alternatively, it can be defined as the realization of oneself as an individual entity."(Crisp&Turner, 2010) in other words it's a state where an individual seeks to focus on self. What pushes Edna to such a state? I believe that Edna path to self-awareness is mostly due to the fact she is a young woman. She needs love a romance and excitement like what dreamt of when she was longer. What she desire Léonce Pontellier lacks this causes her to feel trapped which causes Edna to build a sense of regret. Mr. Pontellier is 40 will Edna is 28 the age gap make it difficult for Edna to relate to Mr. Pontellier their outlook on life is different. He is a successful businessman she is a young hopeless romantic. Even though they have a family a Mr. Pontellier isn't a family man he does not spend time with the family more importantly he do not spend much time with Edna. To Mr. Pontellier Edna is "a valuable piece of personal property or better yet as a trophy wife as long as he keeper her well cared for she will be happy. He expects Mrs. ponetellier to care for the home and the kids, as she is a woman.

   I believe that Mrs. Pontellier notices Mr. Pontellier treats her and the family as a chore and she dislike that she must reside home with the kids while he travels with free will. Mr. Pontellier isn't a bad husband he makes sure Edna is without need a is well cared for. The lack of true union between the two is what leads to her awaken.    She forces to care about what he cares for which are the children and the home. I believe the reason she starts to neglect the home and the children to spite him for not tending to her need for true affection.   Enters Robert a young man that knows her way around women. Edna bonds with him because Robert is the most relatable person in vacation home though the month they bond grows stronger   as he teaches Edna to swim. Connecting Edna with the metaphor or the theme of the book that is the sea. The process of learning to swim Edna is special it signal change. The sea represents a sense of freedom for Edna it takes her back to her child hood to one moment where she felt free by running through the grass like she was swimming, Edna associates that memory with being free

The second time Edna swims with Robert two thing happens she develops she becomes more rebellious  and a stronger bond develops with Robert. She begins to develop feeling for Robert who she feel gives her affection instead of her husband. Mr. Pontellier will leave Edna at a whim such as the leaving dinner to eat at the club which anger's   her to the point were she tries to destroy her wedding ring, this another moment in Edna awakening she rejecting her marriage she is becoming self aware.   She begins to look inward and acknowledges her own feeing's and as well as herself. She now begins to see the situation that she is in as a trap. She looks down on marriage calling it  a “lamenting spectacle” She goes as far as to pity Madame ratigolle because she adores her family and dedicates herself to them Edna thinks that by doing that she will not be able to see what she capable if dedicates all her time to children.

Edna continues to change her view on life and herself by chapter 19 Edna is a new person “She was becoming herself and daily casting aside that fictitious self which we assume like a garment with which to appear before the world.”She no longer suffers in silence she now does as she desires she is no longer submissive. She begins to plaint more this is largely due to Mademoiselle Reisz influence who Edna look up because she is different un other like other women she is an accomplish musician and is an outcast and doesn't care what others think, Which Edna admires Edna seek to emulate that. Edna in her mind is no longer married she seeks more freedom from mr pont she uses money that she won from races sold sketches to rent her own place that belongs to her. “Mrs. Pontellier was beginning to realize her position in the universe as a human being, and to recognize her relations as an individual to the world within and about her”. With her new found sense of independence She begins to have relations with a Arobin part time lover.  Edna uses Alcee Arobin for entertainment in Robert absences that she has fell for. When Robert does appear back in her life she does stop seeing Arobin why because she does not want to because she is her own woman who makes her decisions.

She expresses that she is her own woman to Robert when he tells he hopes mr pontellier will give up her so he could marry her instead which, makes her laugh because to marriage is a lamenting spectacle.  The larger problem of the story and the cause of her demise is even though is Edna see herself as her own woman everyone else does not. She is still a married Victorian women and Robert of the iera a man who believes in marriage.    Robert realizes that he must leave Edna if she found out tube a cheater her good name and reputation will be destroyed. Edna realizing that cannot have Robert and she can't escape her role as a mother kills herself. I believe Edna has no choice but to kill herself due to fact Edna desires want she can't have. It’s impossible for her to free self-because shes a mother. In her heart she cannot forget the children also she does not have stable income to continue to live the life she desire.

Which is what Emerson preached and what Edna and Chopin practiced they pursed the interest. Emerson said "To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men, -- that is genius. Speak your latent conviction, and it shall be the universal sense; for the inmost in due time becomes the outmost." Edna at the beginning was shy and reserved but in the process of her awakening what was inward come out. Inside she hated her realty so she acted. As in Chopin I believe she saw that there were a great deal of women so were just like Edna. She wrote the book because it was a story that worth telling but she did not see what was coming. Being artist goes wrong for cipolin as well as Edna because they goes against the norm to be an artist is to different and people tend not to like different. Their are vested interest in keeping the status quo and those who benefit will fight tooth and nail it only takes one bad apple that comes with an idea that can spread people that what conformist are afraid of. What the book did was start a discussion/ debates which is the last thing those that want thing to stay, as they are desire. Emerson says “Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members. Society is a joint-stock company in which the members agree, for the better securing of his bread to each share-holder, to surrender the liberty and culture of the eater. The virtue in most request is conformity.”

People are afraid of what if these ideas spread that why Edna has to be punished as Rena in chestnut the house behind the cedars a similar a romantic story with Rena being the main character she is mulatto. To black in that era went you were going no and her hometown that what she was but if she was able to leave she could assimilate and pass for white, which why her brother came for her.

 Her brother knows because he has done it. But for Rena thing is not so easy Rena is black and women, which works against her. As a woman even if she is a pass for white. Her role is to find some one to marry and in married there still restriction because she is a women. To forces that work against her is that she does no come from a family of distinction and if she was to have kids her secret will be found out, . She meets George Tryon who she falls for though series of unfortunate event he finds so she really black he turns against her due to her mixed race which breaks her heart. She comes to realize that its wrong to conform to be like a race of people whom solely hates for racial difference. She decides to be true self and accept she is black and live her people who she believes is just like her. Because Rena is black she will not be able to be with the one she desires which is George. Rena must also meet her end because she will escape These story were created by authors who went were other authors did not this speaks to my larger point.

“Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignoring them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.” Is great quote that sums up the point I am trying to make it's the nonconformist   that we remember because they were brave enough to stand above the crowd. Any in history who's has accomplished any likely fit in this quote. You have to be crazy to defy the crowd. They will destroy you the authors, politicians or civil right leader, we remember as stood for a did something the someone would if they didn't would anyone care about them. Chopin and Chestnut wrote ground breaking pieces yes they were destroyed in there time be the works created has made them immortal.