Jasmine and Larke

**“’Yes,’ she said. ‘The years that are gone seem like dreams—if one might go on sleeping and dreaming—but to wake up and find—oh! well! perhaps it is better to wake up after all, even to suffer, rather than to remain a dupe to illusions all one’s life” (The Awakening, p 621).**

1. Overall theme/meaning: In this passage, what kind of awakening is the character referring to?

1. Waking up in the morning
2. Springtime
3. Waking up from a long-lasting nightmare
4. The awakening of her true self
5. The Resurrection of Christ

2. The line “The years that are gone seem like dreams” is an example of which of the following literary devices?

1. Simile
2. Metaphor
3. Personification
4. Allusion
5. Verbal Irony

3. Which of the following describes the author’s tone towards Edna in this passage?

1. Critical
2. Sympathetic
3. Reflective
4. Jaded
5. Mocking

4. What other word in the passage is most closely related to “dreams”

1. Suffer
2. Years
3. Sleeping
4. Illusions
5. Life

5. The “illusions” in this context are defined as

A.) Restrictions from peers

B.) A perception of something not real

C.) Dreams

D.) Hallucinations

E.) Delusions

6. The repetition of dreams are meant to:

A.) Instill a sense of sleepiness in the reader

B.) Reinforce the concept that it is better to sleep through life without upsetting your peers

C.) Support the idea that the suffering from her awakening is better than living a life of dreams

D.) Cause the reader to start thinking about what his or her own dreams mean

E.) The entire text was a recollection of a dream

7. The word “seem” makes the point that:

A.) The past years have been magical so much that they’re described as dreams

B.) The years do not feel real as though she was sleeping through life

C.) They only appear to be a dream but in fact are not

D.) These years were the happiest of her life

E.) These years were a hallucination

ANSWERS:

1. D- In this passage, Edna is speaking about the awakening of her true sense of identity rather than being duped by the “illusions” of pretending to be someone else.
2. A-The comparison of “years” to dreams” with the use of the word “like” causes this phrase to be a simile.
3. C- This passage portrays Edna reflecting on her thoughts and actions. The author displays no sign of criticism or sympathy towards her, therefore causing the answer to be reflective.
4. D- Both dreams and illusions refer to Edna’s inability to express herself as her own person because of the expectations put on her by everyone else.
5. A- These illusions are metaphorical in the sense that Edna did not have any real hallucinations. Instead, she was kept from being her true self, which included being criticized for seeing her true friends such as Mademoiselle Reisz.
6. C- Edna makes a clear comparison to her past years as being dreams and says that it is better to wake up and “suffer” than to be something she is not.
7. B- It is clear in the phrase “might go on sleeping and dreaming” that all through her life Edna feels like she has been sleeping, and she has just now awakened to reality.