



Z LIT BOOK CLUB



Women Writing about Women:

- **The Awakening and Other Stories** by Kate Chopin
- **Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott
- **Sense and Sensibility** by Jane Austen

BREAK IT DOWN

These three novels are considered literary classics, though upon publication there may have been mixed reviews (especially for *The Awakening*). What did you like about the books, and why? What didn't you like? Why do you think the books have endured till now?

What are some common themes the three books share? Name any other commonalities you may have noticed, whether it be something about the characters, plot, setting, or motifs.

What are some ways the books completely differ and diverge from the others? How are they unique?

PUT IT IN CONTEXT

Consider when each book was published and where. What was happening during the author's time of writing the book? How does the historical context affect the unique challenges that women of each time period faced?

Take a dive through each of the authors' lives and read short bios on Kate Chopin, Louisa May Alcott, and Jane Austen. How does each book fit when you put it in context of the author's life?

Why do you think the authors wrote their respective books? Who do you think they were writing it to or for?

MAKE IT MODERN

With all the progress women have made since then, how would our modern eyes interpret these books? What observations did the authors make are still relevant today? What are more outdated concepts?

Written by women and about women, all three books have actually reached a far wider audience than intended. Why do you think that is?

Merriam-Webster defines feminism as "the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes." Given this definition, would you consider these books to be feminist? Why or why not?