

The Awakening

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By Maddie Williams

The background of the slide is a painting of a coastal landscape. In the foreground, a small boat with a red and white striped sail is on the water. The middle ground shows a sandy beach with some vegetation and a small building. The background features a large, dark, rocky island or headland under a dramatic, cloudy sky with shades of blue, grey, and white.

The story introduces us to Leonce Pontellier reading his newspaper at his summer retreat in New Orleans with other wealthy French Creoles. Him and his wife, Edna, live together with the two children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8vsuOXZBXc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg9ynbR8COI>

Fake Happy by Paramore is here because it talks about appearing happy on the outside but on the inside there is sadness and discontent which Edna feels in the relationship.

La Lune is here because it talks about two people in a relationship trying to be together but they both have changed and so the feelings they felt are not the same.

Chapter 3

Leonce and Edna get into a minor argument over their child maybe being sick. This moment sends Edna sobbing outside on her porch, she has realized she is actually unhappy in marriage.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSqLLiuHicw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEAmwtqnpuQ>

These two songs talk about a strained relationship. In Two Ghosts, Harry sings about two people who are no longer themselves and are more shells of themselves pretending to still love each other. On the line by Blood Orange talks about a couple knowing the relationship is rocky but wanting to talk about it and work it out.



and 7

Edna is slowly starting to think of herself as an individual within her relationship. During a walk to the beach with Adele, Edna confesses that before her marriage she was a very passionate person who also loved passionately. She also said that she got married because she it as a way to rebel against her family but she also liked the lack of passion in her marriage. When it came to her children though, she loved them but enjoyed when they were away and admits she “blindly assumed the responsibilities of motherhood.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Woj9YtolLKw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ckv6-yhnfY>

E.V.P by Blood Orange was chosen for the scene because of the lyric “choosing what you live for is never what you make your life, How could you know if your squandering your passion for another?” This describes how Edna feels about blindly taking on the responsibilities of being a wife and mother, this makes her want to rediscover herself and her passions.

Don't let me be misunderstood by Nina Simone was chosen because at this point Edna has felt misunderstood for most of her life, she is very different from everyone she has met in her life and feels that no one understands her.



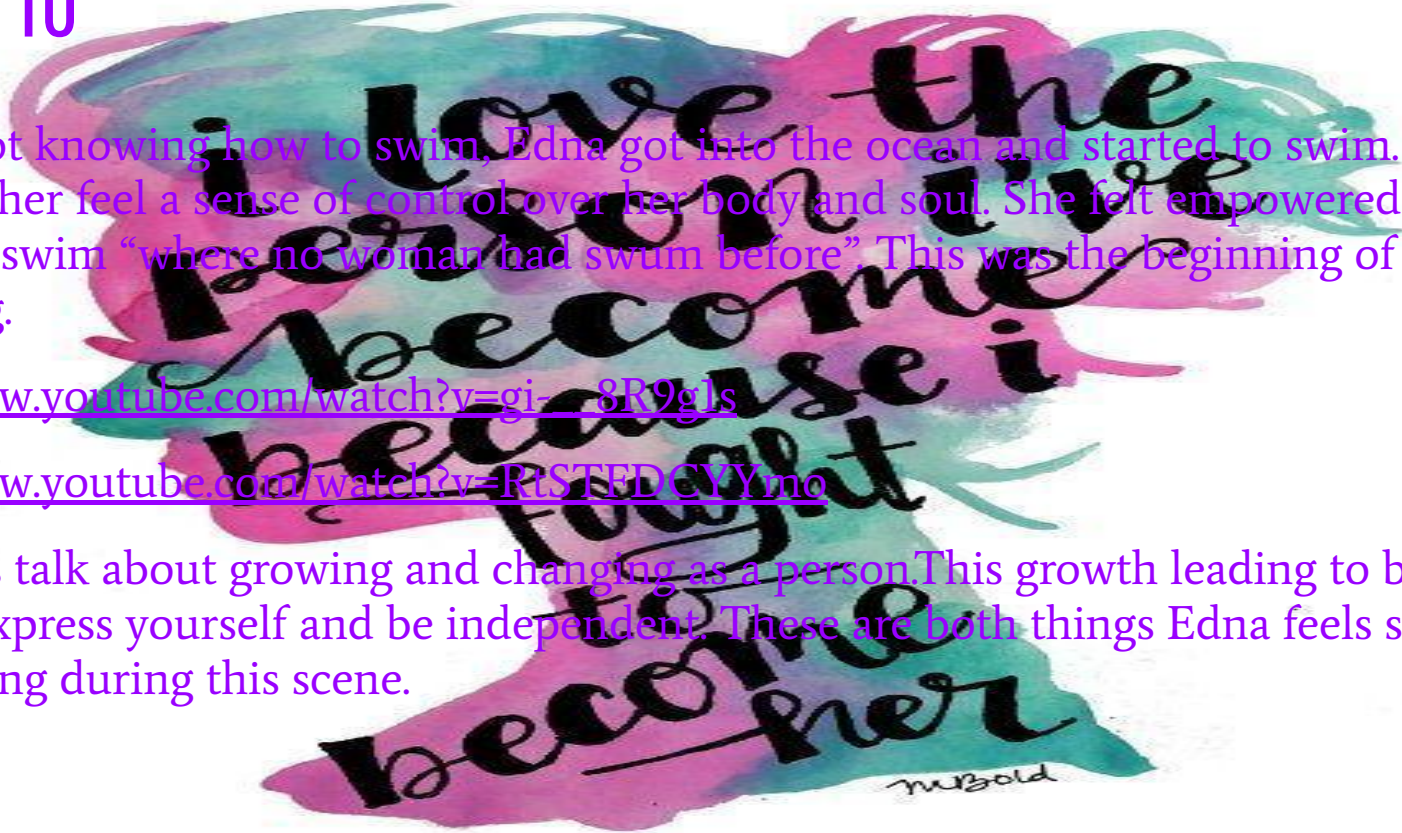
Chapter 10

Despite not knowing how to swim, Edna got into the ocean and started to swim. Doing this made her feel a sense of control over her body and soul. She felt empowered and wanted to swim “where no woman had swum before”. This was the beginning of Edna’s awakening.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gi-8R9gls>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtSTEDCVYmc>

This songs talk about growing and changing as a person. This growth leading to being to freely express yourself and be independent. These are both things Edna feels she is experiencing during this scene.



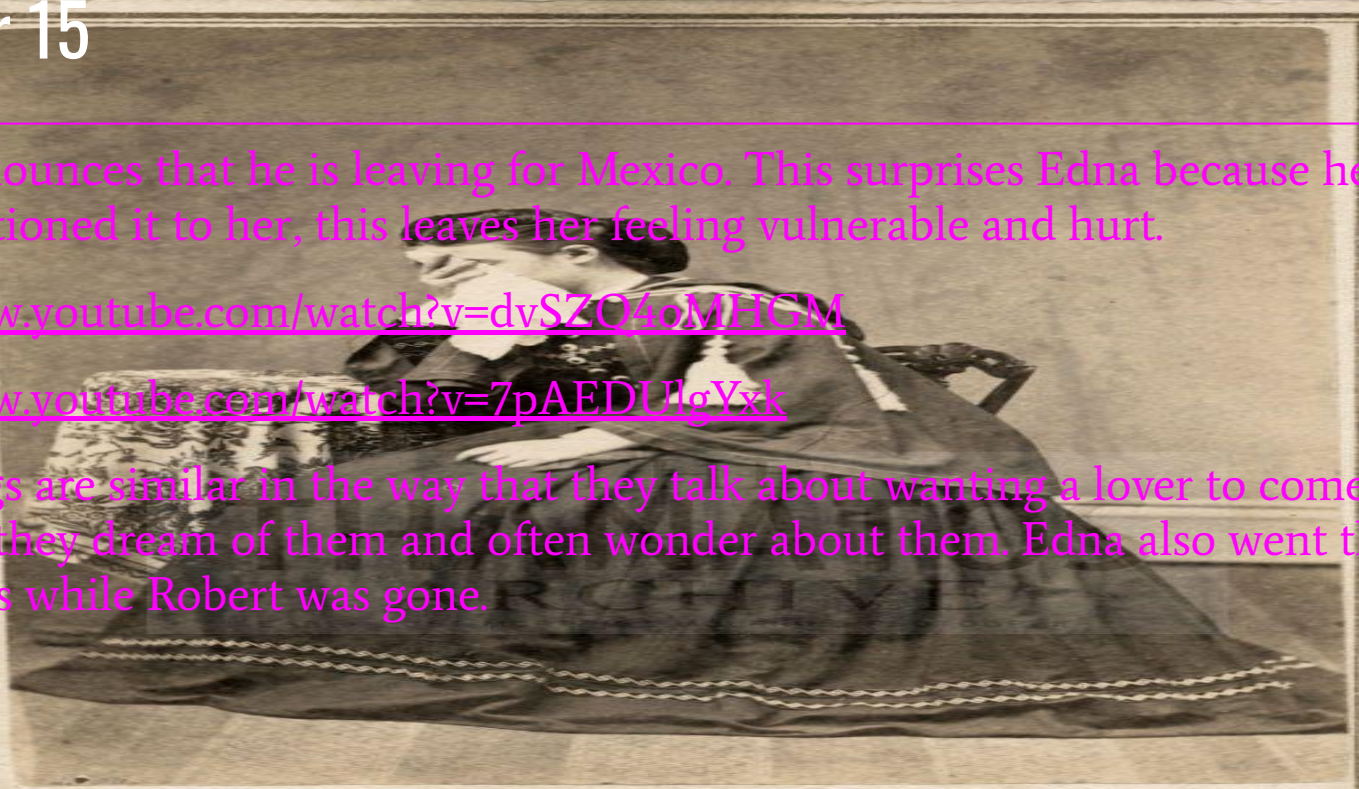
Chapter 15

Robert announces that he is leaving for Mexico. This surprises Edna because he had never mentioned it to her, this leaves her feeling vulnerable and hurt.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvSZO4oMHGM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pAEDUlgYxk>

These songs are similar in the way that they talk about wanting a lover to come back so badly that they dream of them and often wonder about them. Edna also went through this process while Robert was gone.



Chapter 26

Edna tells Mademoiselle Reisz that she is planning to move out of her house and rent a small house around the corner. She explains she wants to move out because she wants to feel independent and free. Edna also confesses that she has feelings for Robert.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UVNT4wyIGY>

I chose this song because I think it could represent both Edna's and Leonce's feelings and point of view about the move.

Chapter 27

Edna tells Alcee about her day and her talk with Mademoiselle during which she advises Edna that “the bird that attempts to fly above tradition and prejudice must have strong wings or it will fall back to earth, battered and bruised”. After their conversation Alcee kisses Edna and have a passionate night together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MByUQJQrLI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVniMFJYY1o>

I chose Sudden Desire by Haley Williams because I feel like it perfectly describes Edna’s growing temptation to be intimate with Alcee.

Inside my love by Minnie Riperton was chosen because of the first verse describing these two strangers meeting and wanting to be with each other.



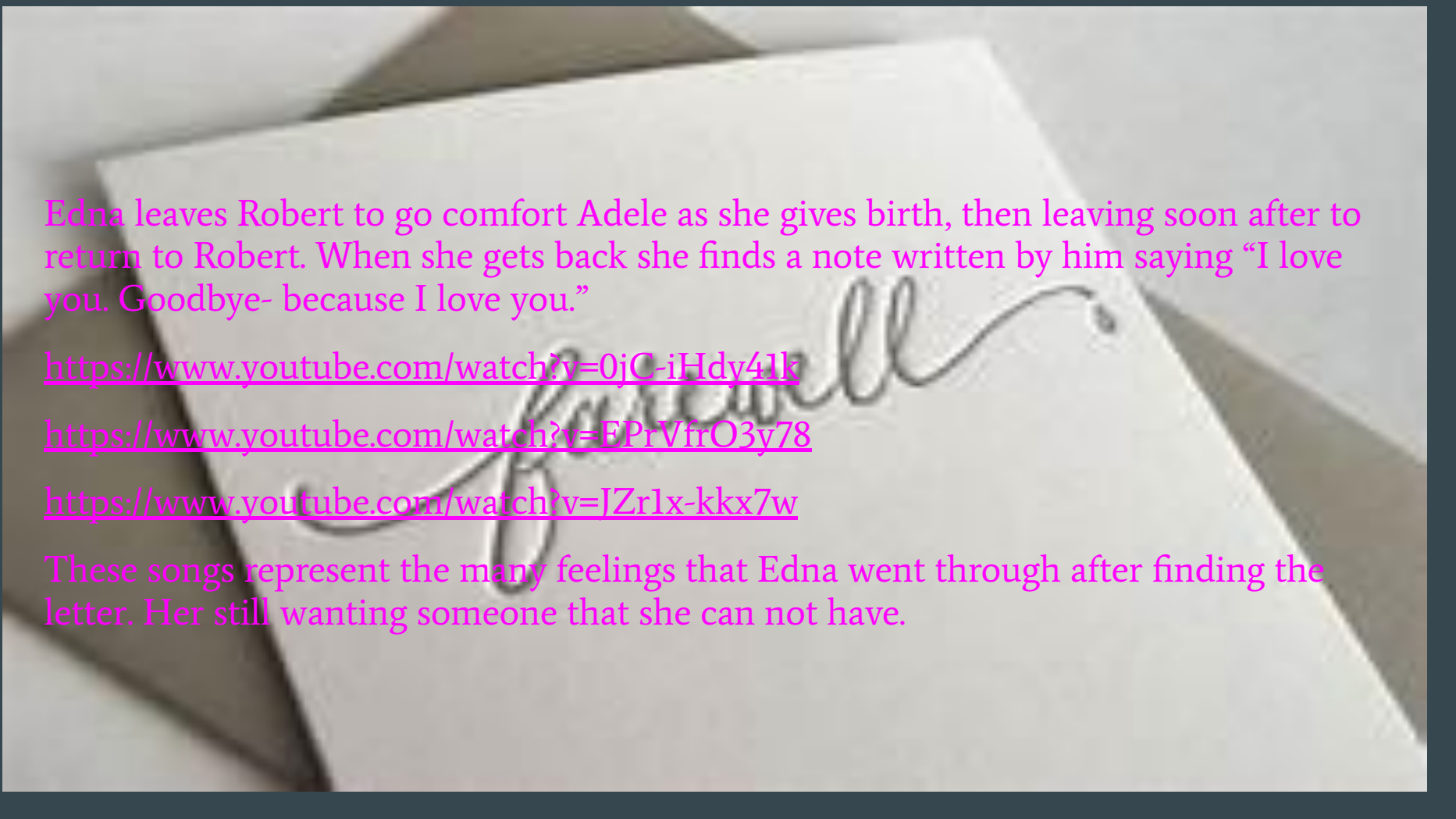
Chapter 36

Edna runs into Robert at a cafe and they talk, later going Edna's house where she kisses him. Robert then confesses his love for Edna and explains he went to Mexico in order to escape his feelings for her.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4s1sKigA17c>

This song shows Robert's feelings of knowing that he cares about Edna but can't give her the love he knows she wants but can't have because of the pressures of society.





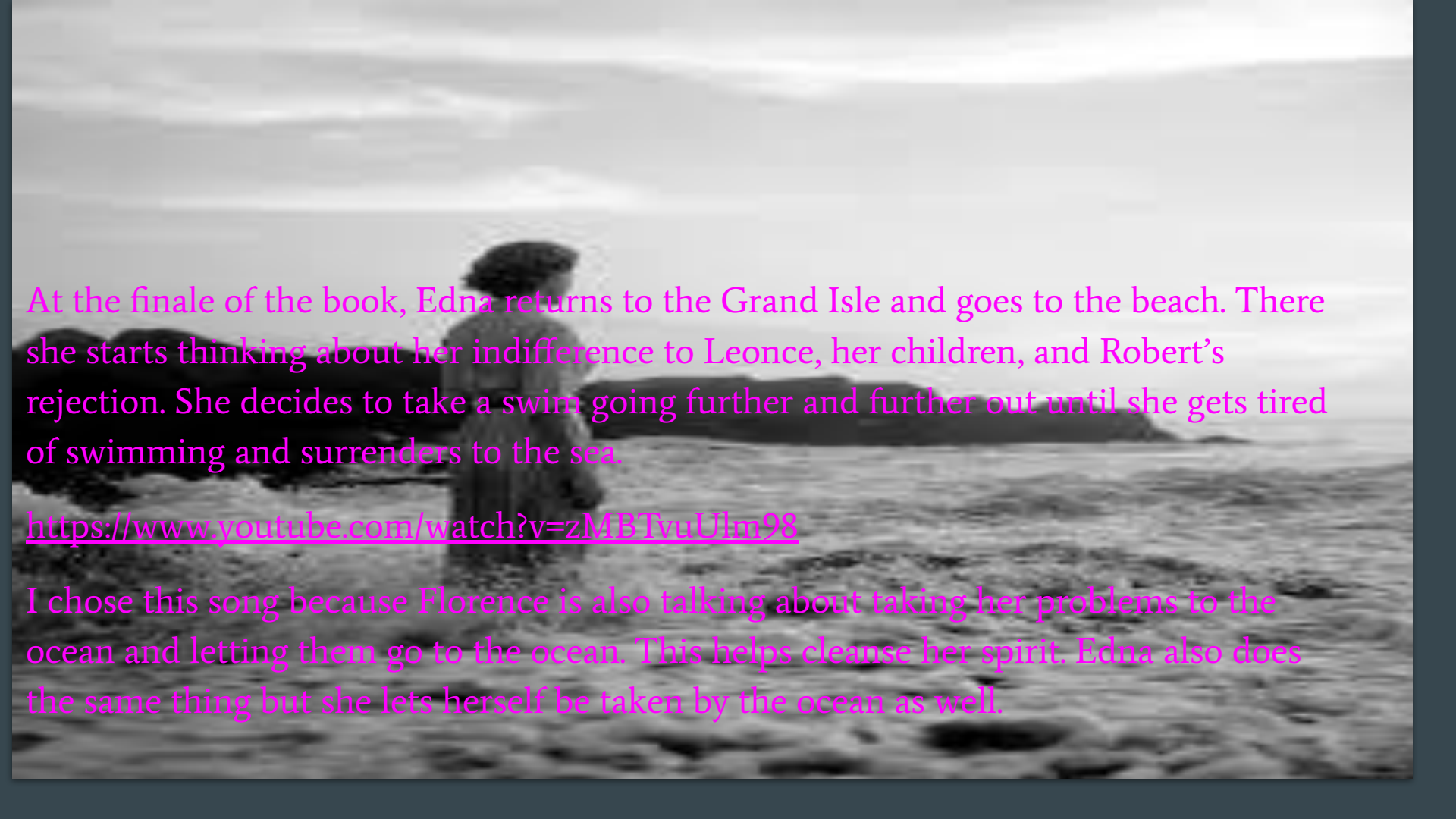
Edna leaves Robert to go comfort Adele as she gives birth, then leaving soon after to return to Robert. When she gets back she finds a note written by him saying “I love you. Goodbye- because I love you.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jC-iHdy4lk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPiVfrO3y78>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZr1x-kkx7w>

These songs represent the many feelings that Edna went through after finding the letter. Her still wanting someone that she can not have.

A black and white photograph of a person standing on a beach, looking out at the ocean under a cloudy sky. The person is seen from behind, standing in the shallow water. The ocean is calm with gentle waves. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

At the finale of the book, Edna returns to the Grand Isle and goes to the beach. There she starts thinking about her indifference to Leonce, her children, and Robert's rejection. She decides to take a swim going further and further out until she gets tired of swimming and surrenders to the sea.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zMBTvuUhm98>

I chose this song because Florence is also talking about taking her problems to the ocean and letting them go to the ocean. This helps cleanse her spirit. Edna also does the same thing but she lets herself be taken by the ocean as well.