Though Kate Chopin is now best known for *The Awakening*, she was a prolific writer. According to Robert L. Gale, she “wrote 114 fictional items—97 short stories, two novels, four fragments, one unfinished item, and 10 destroyed or lost” (2). Students and scholars will benefit from *Characters and Plots in the Fiction of Kate Chopin* because it will help them to gain familiarity with this large body of work. This reference work consists mostly of plot summaries and descriptions of characters.

Gale carefully presents all of Chopin’s stories and characters in alphabetical order. The two novels are summarized chapter by chapter. In addition to the individual entries there is a chronology, an index, and a four-page bibliography. Though the focus of the book is on the characters and plots,