

1. What is the setting of the novel?
2. Who does the narrator find intriguing?
3. What have most of the “smart ones” done? Why?
4. How does the narrator become better acquainted with Ethan? Give two examples.
5. Why did the narrator spend time at Ethan’s farm?
6. What is the tale of Ethan Frome?

CHAPTER I

7. Why is Ethan in the village? How does he feel as he watches the dance?
8. Describe Mattie. Why is she with the Fromes?
9. Who is Denis Eady? What impact does he have on the story?

CHAPTER II

10. Why does Ethan hide from Mattie?
11. What does Mattie say when Ethan asks if she is leaving them?
12. Why has Zeena locked the door and not left the key?

CHAPTER III

13. What was Mattie's background before the Fromes took her in?
14. When Ethan returns to the house with Jotham, what does he find?
15. What does Zeena want Jotham to do?

CHAPTER IV

16. What caused Zeena to arrive at the Frome farm?
17. Why does Ethan feel that he married her?
18. Why does Ethan ask Hale for an advance?

19. What is Ethan afraid of as he returns from the village?

20. What does he find when he tries to enter his house?

21. Why is the cat in this chapter?

22. What does the cat do that distresses Mattie?

23. How does Ethan attempt to solve this problem?

CHAPTER V

24. What were Mattie and Ethan supposed to do that night/

25. What do you think the significance of the big elm is?

26. Why does Ethan keep bringing up Mattie's eventual marriage?

CHAPTER VI

27. Why is Ethan so happy this morning?

28. Why is Ethan in a hurry to get to the village?

29. What happens to spoil his plan/

CHAPTER VII

30. What has the new doctor told Zeena?

31. What action has she taken?

32. How does Ethan feel about this action?

33. Why does Zeena say that marrying her was the least that Ethan could have done?

34. What impact does money have on this issue?

35. What is to happen to Mattie?

36. How does Ethan feel about this?

37. Why do you think that Zeena has done this?

38. What does Zeena discover when she looks for her stomach powders?

39. What is Zeena's reaction to this discovery?

CHAPTER VIII

40. What is Ethan thinking of doing? Why is he unable to take this action?

41. What does Ethan discover from Jotham? What is his response?

42. After visiting the Hales, what is Ethan's opinion of himself?

CHAPTER IX

43. Why is Mattie crying at the beginning of the chapter?

44. Why does Ethan stand up to Zeena?

45. Where do Ethan and Mattie go first when they leave for the train? Why?

46. What does Ethan tell Mattie? What did Mattie find?

47. What does Ethan feel about Mattie marrying?

48. What do they decide to do before going to the train station?

49. What do they do after this event?

50. What does Mattie want Ethan to do after the clock strikes five?

51. What happens to cause Ethan to reconsider his decision?

52. What does this symbolize?

53. What happens to Mattie and Ethan?

CONCLUSION

54. What does the **narrator find** when he enters the Frome home?

55. What does Mrs. Hale tell the narrator about the accident?

56. What does Mrs. Hale wish had happened and why?