

11th Grade Summer Reading 2023

Novel: *Ethan Frome* by Edith Wharton

Assignment Details:

You are responsible for obtaining a copy of this novel on your own. It is widely available. Read the novel and be prepared to take objective tests with multiple choice questions and discussion questions. The tests will be either the first or second week of school. I have attached some reading comprehension questions which will help you check your understanding as you read. The questions will be graded and are due the first day of school.

Ethan Frome Questions:

1. **Examine the characters in *Ethan Frome* (including Ethan Frome, Zeena Frome, Mattie Silver, and the narrator).** Who is strong and who is weak? Who do we know most about? What changes do they go through over the course of the novel? Does the portrayal of each character seem realistic?
2. **Examine the setting (both the city of Starkfield and the season) in *Ethan Frome*.** What role does it play in the story?
3. **Consider the framing technique, as begun in the Prologue.** Why did Wharton use that technique? How does that affect the telling of the story?
4. **Consider the gravestone Ethan Frome finds: Ethan Frome and Endurance His Wife.** How does that relate to the story?
5. **Symbolism in the story:** Give three examples.
6. **Overall reactions:** Did the characters deserve their fates? Did you sympathize with any of them? Did you like the characters and the novel overall?

