



# **Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar**

School of Humanities & Languages

## **Department of English**

Topic – ‘GEORGE ELIOT'S 'MIDDLEMARCH'’

Class- M.A (English)

By

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**HOD, English.**

## (1) ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

- Original Name: MARY ANNE EVANS

Pen Name: George Eliot

One of the representative novelists of the Victorian Age, the other being Charles Dickens, Bronte Sisters, Thackeray, Thomas Hardy.

- The central themes of her novels are Penetrating analysis of characters and profound depiction of rural England.
- Her novels are authentic and powerful mirrors of contemporary society as they truthfully portray the prevalent themes like transitional elements, industrialization and urbanization leading to moral and spiritual conflicts.
- Acc to William J Long, " In nearly all the writers of the Victorian Age we note, on the one hand, a strong intellectual tendency to analyze the problems of life, and on the other a tendency to teach.....In George Eliot both these tendencies reach a climax. She is more obviously, more consciously a preacher and a moralize than any of her great contemporaries".

## 2. IMPORTANT NOVELS:


- ADAM BEDE– 1859
- THE LIFTED VEIL----- 1859
- THE MILL ON THE FLOSS– 1860
- SILAS MARNER---- 1861
- ROMOLA----- 1862
- MIDDLEMARCH– 1871
- Daniel Deronda– 1876
- Felix Holt--- 1866



## SOME SELECT QUOTES FROM MIDDLEMARCH:

- Souls have complexions too: what will suit one will not suit another (9).
- It's so painful in you, Celia, that you will look at human beings as if they were
- merely animals with a toilette, and never see the great soul in a man's face (16).
- Many things are true which only the commonest minds observe (44).
- Pride helps us; and pride is not a bad thing when it only urges to hide our own hurts---- not to hurt others (57)
- (I)t is a narrow mind which cannot look at a subject from various points of view (61).

### 3. BRIEF OF CHARACTERS IN MIDDLEMARCH:

- DOROTHEA BROOKE:- the heroine of the novel.
  - MR CASAUBON:- A middle-aged, curmudgeonly, self-absorbed Scholar.
  - ROSAMOND VINCY:-- A female character and Dorothea's rival.
  - CELIA BROOKE:-- Dorothea's younger sister.
  - SIR JAMES CHETTAM:-- a neighbour of Mr Brooke. He is a beefy-faced young man.
  - MRS CADWALLADER:-- The town gossip. She is a busybody who tried to set up Dorothea.
  - MR CADWALLADER :-- The Rector of Tipton, and a good friend of Mr Brooke and Sir James Chettam.
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- CALEB GARTH :-- Mary's father. Honest, discreet and hardworking.
- MR BULSTRODE :-- A rich banker in Middlemarch. He is devoutly religious but showy.
- MR FAREBROTHER :-- A Vicar in Middlemarch. He is a fungus.
- MR BROOKE :-- Uncle of Dorothea and Celia.
- MR VINCY :-- Rosamond and Fred's father and brother of Mrs Bulstrode.
- MRS VINCY :-- Rosamond and Fred's mother. She is plump and cheerful.
- MR FEATHERSTONE:-- Owner of a huge estate 'STONE COURT'.
- SIR GODWIN LYDGATE:-- Lydgate's wealthy uncle.
- NAUMAM:-- Will Ladislav's artist friend in Rome.



## 4. OPENING OF THE NOVEL:-----

- George Eliot is a one of the leading novelists of the Victorian Age.
- The opening of her masterpiece ' MIDDLEMARCH ' is suggestive of the setting, characterization and themes.
- Setting:-- The NOVEL ' Middlemarch ' is
- set in the fictional town of Middlemarch, with Loamshire.
- The novel is conceived in the provincial setting.
- That 's why, the author 's nostalgic association with the
- place continues to assert its significance. \*The novel centers on the lives of the residents of Middlemarch.
- The Opening of the novel informs us about nature and character of various characters of the novel.



- We are told that Dorothea Brooke and her sister, Celia are orphans under the guardianship of their uncle Mr Brooke.
- The novelist amply makes it clear that the heroine of the novel, Dorothea Brooke is a girl of simple living and high thinking. Although she is beautiful and innocent, she takes least interest in pomp and show.
- The novelist describes it vividly: " She possesses a kind of beauty that seems to be thrown into relief by poor dress ".





- The novelist tells us that Dorothea Brooke is a pious young woman. She's full of Puritanical energy and philanthropy.
- Her uncle fears lest she should refuse to marry due to overwhelming inclination towards religion and charity.
- She always persuades her uncle to spend maximum money to improve the lot of the tenants of the estate through renovations of buildings.
- It's because of her excessive Puritanical reserve and righteousness that she remains oblivious to the love PROPOSAL given to her by Sir James Chettam, a young man of her age.
- ironically, she's attracted towards Reverend Edward Casaubon and calls him " Great soul " .
- It would seem that due to mental gaps and age differences, their marriage meets failure.



# HISTORICAL ELEMENTS IN MIDDLEMARCH

- Reforms Act of 1832 brought in all round changes in English society.
- Renovations of buildings for the tenants, women empowerment, reactions of people against the changes.
- Dorothea's urge to her uncle for the renovations of buildings for tenants shows it.
- Her uncle and Mr Casaubon show conservative outlook.



## THEMES OF THE NOVEL:

- VANITY AND PREJUDICE are represented by Lydgate and Will Ladislaw.
- IDEALISM is represented by Mr Casaubon.
- MR BROOKE represents worldly, and conservative outlook.
- DOROTHEA represents a true human being in search of true love, humanism, social welfare and betterment.
- She also epitomizes the positive changes in society and human beings introduced by the Reforms Act, 1832-37.

THANK YOU!

