

Why you should read Middlemarch:

1. George Eliot is an engaging and fascinating story-teller – when the novel is finished, the readers truly know the primary characters intimately.
2. According to an introduction by Rosemary Ashton, when Middlemarch was published, Eliot was considered the “greatest living English novelist.”
3. Some critics believe this novel places Eliot on the same level as Tolstoy.

Why you may struggle with Middlemarch:

1. The length – whew! Eliot can be very wordy at times...
2. Some critics found Eliot’s narrative voice “didactic” and intrusive.
3. The sheer number of characters in the novel can become overwhelming – hopefully the bookmark in the kit will help!
4. The unfamiliar allusions may be frustrating, so consider reading an annotated edition.

Still interested?

Download the novel for free at one of the following sites:

<http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/EliMidd.html>

<http://www.princeton.edu/~batke/eliot/middle/>

<http://www.bibliomania.com/0/0/21/1983/frameset.html>

<http://books.google.com/books?id=mXDScFWBdr4C&dq=middlemarch&pg=PP1&ots=1yXi2lZfNM&sig=Z3Qvkp-jwmTOAcJt4EprgKl7ipc&prev=http://www.google.com/search%3Fhl%3Den%26q%3Dmiddlemarch&sa=X&oi=print&ct=title&cad=one-book-with-thumbnail>