

Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

MADAME BOVARY

by Gustav Flaubert

- What is important about the title?
- What are the conflicts in *Madame Bovary*? What types of conflict (physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional) are in the novel?
- How does Gustave Flaubert reveal character in *Madame Bovary*?
- What are some themes in the novel? How do they relate to the plot and characters?
- What are some symbols in *Madame Bovary*? How do they relate to the plot and characters?
- Is Emma consistent in her actions? Is she a fully developed character? How? Why?
- How well does Flaubert portray the emotions of a woman?
- How well does Emma relate to the other characters in the novel?
- Do you find the characters likable? Are the characters persons you would want to meet?
- Does the story end the way you expected? How? Why?
- What is the central/primary purpose of the story? Is the purpose important or meaningful?
- Do you consider this novel a work of feminist literature?
- How essential is the setting to the story? Could the story have taken place anywhere else?
- What is the role of women in the text? How are mothers represented? What about single/independent women? Could Emma ever have survived as a single woman?
- Would you recommend this novel to a friend?



Skokie Public Library

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