

# ***Madame Bovary*** by Gustave Flaubert (Published by Dover Publications)

Approved for use in Advanced Placement Communication Arts IV

## **Summary**

Bored and unhappy in a lifeless marriage, Emma Bovary yearns to escape from the dull circumstances of provincial life. Married to a simple-minded but indulgent country doctor, she takes one paramour, then another, hastens her husband's financial ruin with her extravagance and eventually commits suicide. Flaubert's powerful and deeply moving examination of the moral degeneration of a middle-class Frenchwoman is universally regarded as one of the landmarks of nineteenth-century fiction.

## **Connection to the Curriculum**

In keeping with the philosophy of classic literature that incorporates gender issues as well as universal themes, Flaubert's novel addresses the double standard that often exists between men and women. Advanced Placement and college-bound students read this sophisticated piece to enhance their understanding of male/female relationships and to widen their scope with regard to classic and European literature.

## **Standards**

### **Course Objectives (Benchmarks)**

**Reading:** 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

**Literature:** 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

### **Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)**

#### **Reading:**

1.2.1- The student uses strategies to adjust reading rate to assist comprehension with increasingly difficult materials.

1.4.7- The student identifies characteristics of narrative texts.

1.4.10- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.11- The student answers questions similar to standardized test questions to promote critical thinking.

1.4.12- The student analyzes and evaluates how authors use text structures.

1.4.17- The student analyzes and evaluates how an author's style and use of literary devices work together to achieve his or her purpose for writing the text.

#### **Literature:**

2.1.3- The student addresses the historical, social and cultural aspects of the setting and their influence on characters and events in the text.

2.1.4- The student analyzes themes, tone, and the author's point of view across a variety of literary works and genres using textual evidence and considering audience and purpose.

2.1.5- The student identifies literary devices in text.

2.2.6- The student recognizes the ways that literature from different cultures present similar themes differently across genres.

**A Note on the Text:** (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

*As a result of the main character's frustrations, she engages in extra-marital affairs. Readers do find, however, that she pays a price for her behavior. Suicide is addressed in this novel.*

## **AP Connections**

Flaubert's classic nineteenth-century novel often appears as a selection for the open-ended essay question on the Advanced Placement Exam given annually in the spring. The novel allows for a universal understanding of relationships that exists cross-culturally. Understanding of such concepts is essential for the college bound or those sitting for the annual AP exam.

## **Additional Unit Design Connections**

Coming soon