

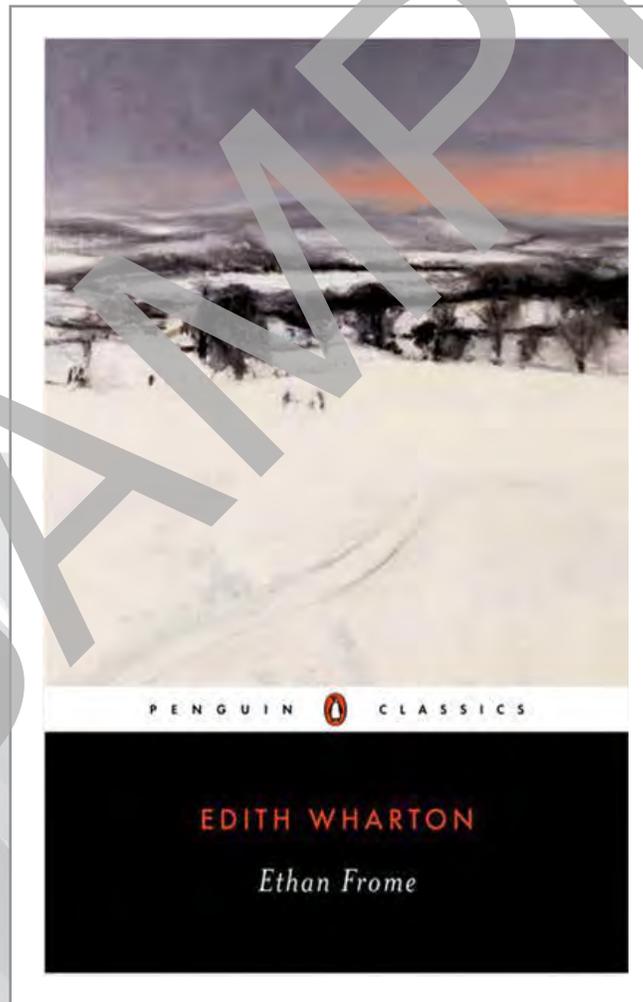


STUDENT PACKET

GRADES 9-12

# Ethan Frome

Edith Wharton



READ, WRITE, THINK, DISCUSS AND CONNECT

# Ethan Frome

Edith Wharton

## STUDENT PACKET

**NOTE:**

The trade book edition of the novel used to prepare this guide is found in the Novel Units catalog and on the Novel Units website. Using other editions may have varied page references.

Please note: We have assigned Interest Levels based on our knowledge of the themes and ideas of the books included in the Novel Units sets, however, please assess the appropriateness of this novel or trade book for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading with them. You know your students best!

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## Chapter 2

1. Who offers Mattie a ride?
2. How does Mattie tease Denis Eady?
3. What does Mattie tell Ethan about Ruth and Ned?
4. Does Mattie plan to leave the farm to get married?
5. How does Ethan “talk big” to Mattie?
6. What does Ethan think when he passes the graves?
7. Why are Mattie and Ethan surprised when they get to the door?
8. Why is Zeena still up when Ethan and Mattie get home?
- \* 9. Why do you think Edith Wharton includes this and other references to the graves of Ethan’s ancestors?
- \*\* 10. **Prediction:** How will Zeena treat Mattie the next morning?

## Chapter 3

1. What does Zeena say to Ethan once they are alone in the bedroom?
2. How has Mattie changed since she came to Starkfield?
3. What happened to Mattie’s father?
4. Why did Mattie come to Starkfield?
5. Where is Zeena going?
6. How old are Ethan and Zeena?
7. Why does Ethan tell Zeena he has to collect cash for the lumber?
8. Why does Ethan regret telling Zeena he has to collect cash for the lumber?
- \* 9. How do you feel about Zeena?
- \*\* 10. **Prediction:** What do you think will happen now that Mattie and Ethan are alone together?

**Directions:** With a partner, discuss Ethan’s decision—before the accident—not to leave Zeena. What reasons did he have for wanting to leave her? What reasons did he have for staying? Were there any possible reasons the narrator didn’t mention?

Take turns jotting reasons why Ethan should leave (in the YES Column) and should not leave (in the NO column). It is okay to write down key words and phrases rather than whole sentences. Try to include as many reasons under “YES” as you do under “NO.” Discuss your charts with another pair of partners and try to reach consensus (agreement) on whether or not Ethan made the best decision. A spokesperson for this group of four should then report the group’s conclusion to the whole class. Dissenting views of other groups should be heard at this time.

Yes
No

**CONCLUSION:**

YES

NO

On a separate sheet of paper, write an essay in which you explain and evaluate Ethan’s decision to stay with Zeena. Provide specific reasons for why you do or do not agree that Ethan did the right thing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Reread the section describing the sledding accident. Using the text and your imagination, record the answers to the questions on the Herringbone form below. (Who was involved? What did these persons do? When did it happen? Where did it happen? How did it happen? Why did it happen?) Add spaces if there are more than two answers to a question. Then write the newspaper article that appeared in the *Bettsbridge Eagle* the day after the accident.

