

Name - _____

Start time - ___ : ___

End time - ___ : ___

Read the following passage from a 19th-century novel and answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt: From "Middlemarch" by George Eliot

Few women could have looked more winning than she did at that moment, and Mrs. Cadwallader certainly thought so, as she remarked to her husband when they drove away.

"I never saw anything more exquisitely pretty — in that style — in my life. One might really fancy Raphael had painted her. The blend of spirituality and the most delicate lamb-like physiognomy is something curious. But the clever young person contrasts all the better, my dear, for having something of that piquancy about her which makes it amusing to be snubbed: I wouldn't answer for her not marrying you if you were not married already."

"Casaubon is not likely to marry, I think," said the rector, "and without that —"

"Oh, my dear, don't think of him. He is no more to compare with Mr. Casaubon than —"

"No, indeed; but then, if Miss Brooke were to have the luck to get him, there would be a good deal of the family interest united with Casaubon's property and his own excellent gifts. I must do my best for Casaubon. I must speak to Brooke about it."

Questions:

1. Analyze the character of Miss Brooke as described in the passage. How does the author portray her physical appearance and personality traits? What insight does the passage provide into her character?

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2. Consider the social context of the passage. How does the conversation between Mrs. Cadwallader and her husband reflect the societal attitudes towards marriage, appearance, and social standing in the 19th century? What commentary might the author be making through this conversation?
3. Explore the dynamics between the characters of Miss Brooke and Mr. Casaubon. How might the potential marriage between them impact their lives and the lives of those around them? Consider the implications of Mrs. Cadwallader's remarks.
4. Discuss the author's narrative voice in this passage. How does the narrator's tone and perspective influence the reader's understanding of the characters and the events described? What insights into the characters' thoughts and emotions does the narrator provide?
5. Consider whether the passage contains any foreshadowing or hints about future events in the novel. How might the conversation between Mrs. Cadwallader and her husband set the stage for future developments involving Miss Brooke and Mr. Casaubon?
6. Discuss any literary techniques used in the passage, such as imagery, metaphor, or symbolism. How do these techniques enhance the reader's understanding of the characters and themes in the novel?