**Teaching notes: *Lady Audley’s Secret*, Day 9**

**To start: *Lady Audley’s Secret*, still scandalous after all these years?**

*Lady Audley’s Secret* was a sensation when it was published: it was considered scandalous and dangerous by many but was beloved by readers. However, in later years, it went out of print and was nearly forgotten before being revived by feminist critics.

Some books stand the test of time better than others. Assess *Lady Audley’s Secret* from a twenty-first-century perspective. Is it still a scandalous/dangerous/powerful book? Why or why not?

**Plots and characters**

1. Working with your group, choose one character from each list:

**Major characters Minor characters**

Lady Audley Clara Talboys

Robert Audley Alicia Audley

Sir Michael Audley Phoebe Marks

George Talboys Luke Marks

2. Evaluate the degree to which your characters follow/are engaged in these stereotypical plotlines:

* Growth and development
* Quest
* Love triangle

**Assessment of the ending: who wins?**

To what degree is this a happy ending? To what degree is it a satisfying ending?

Who or what (consider individual people as well as power structures) “wins” in the novel’s ending?

**Group work: annotate, synthesize, and report**

**First**, complete highlighting and annotations for the final 2 sections. (10 minutes)

**Second**, consider these questions as you decide what to report on your theme (5-7 minutes)

* What surprised you about the novel’s treatment of this theme? What was less surprising?
* What is the theme’s trajectory in the novel? Is its treatment fairly consistent, or does the novel’s treatment of the theme change over the course of the plot?
* What is distinctive about this theme in the Victorian period? In what ways does it compare/contrast with our ideas about this theme today?

**Third,** share your group’s report with the class (10 minutes)

**Sources on M. E. Braddon and *Lady Audley’s Secret***

[ME Braddon bio](http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/braddon/bio.html)

[ME Braddon chronology](http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/braddon/chron.html)

[Rediscovering ME Braddon](http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/braddon/reputation.html)

**Looking forward**

**Wednesday**

Chinua Achebe, “Dead Men’s Path,” *The Art* pp. 562-65

Doris Lessing, “A Woman on a Roof,” *The Art* pp. 538-45

“Characterization,” *The Art* pp. 854-57

**Reading Response 2 due**

**Friday**

William Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily,” *The Art* pp. 238-45

Leslie Marmon Silko, “The Man to Send Rain Clouds,” *The Art* pp. 739-42

“Point of View,” *The Art* pp. 857-58

**Paper 1: Digital Critical Edition due**