

# Critical Digital Edition Assignment

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## Step One: Choose a Theme

With your group, choose one of the following themes:

**Ambition:** how is the ambition to be someone else—of a different social class, different sex, etc.—expressed in the novel? What opinion does the novel seem to express about characters' ambitions?

**Class:** how does the novel suggest members of different classes should ideally conduct themselves? Conversely, how are members of different classes not supposed to act?

**Environment:** how does the novel portray domestic spaces? How does the novel portray the natural environment? What values are attached to these different settings?

**Femininity:** how are women portrayed in the novel? What is the novel's ideal of femininity? Conversely, what does the novel suggest femininity should not look like?

**Masculinity:** how are men portrayed in the novel? What is the novel's ideal of masculinity? Conversely, what does the novel suggest masculinity should not look like?

**Secrets:** how are secrets portrayed in the novel? When and how do clues to the novel's secrets appear? What reactions do characters express toward secrets/secretcy in the novel?

## Step Two: Read the assigned sections

Before each class period, read the assigned section for that day. Jot down a few notes of places where the novel seems to engage with your theme. Be prepared to share these notes with your group during class.

## Step Three: Collaborate and Annotate

During each class period that we discuss *Lady Audley's Secret*, you'll have time (likely 10-15 minutes) to work with your group.

First, you will each share your notes on how that day's section engages with your theme.

Second, you will decide as a group what moments in the text seem most important for the novel's engagement with that theme. You should aim to identify ~3 places to annotate for each section. Make notes in the class notes document about each person's contribution and your thinking behind each annotation. Describe too any challenges you faced in deciding what to highlight or how to annotate the sections you thought were important.

Third, you will open up the digital version of the novel. You'll highlight the sections you've decided on as a group. Then, you'll annotate (make a comment) on each of the highlighted sections. In your annotation, you'll describe what this section tells us about the novel's engagement with this theme.

At the end of our reading of the novel, we'll export your comments into a separate document. This should enable you to see how the novel's engagement with that theme changes (or remains consistent) over the course of the novel.

## Step Four: Write Digital Critical Edition Paper

Due: February 11, 2019

Length: 4-5 pages

Worth: 100 points

Although your papers will draw on the group's shared findings, each paper will be written individually.

The length of most of these sections is flexible, but the analysis of findings *must* be 2-2.5 pages (roughly half the paper). Your 4-5 page paper should be organized into the following sections:

**Methodology (15 points):** Look back over the class notes document to refresh your memory about what your group chose to highlight and annotate and why. Describe your group's thought process. You might want to highlight 1-2 tricky examples/places where your group disagreed and describe how your group decided to handle them.

**Description of findings (15 points):** What did you find from your in-depth investigation of the novel's engagement with this theme? Summarize how the novel engages with your theme, including any changes you noticed over the course of the novel.

**Analysis of findings (50 points, 2-2.5 pages):** Offer an argumentative thesis for how the novel treats your group's theme. Draw on specific examples from your findings to show something surprising or significant about the novel's engagement with this theme. In contrast to the description of the findings, which is summary-oriented, this part of the paper should be interpretive. You might think about how the author draws on literary elements, diction, syntax, etc. to analyze the novel's engagement with that theme. You might also use your own findings in combination with those of another group (for instance, how does the novel engage with masculine ambition?). This section of the paper should include direct quotations from the text of the novel.

**Reflection on methodology (15 points):** What did you learn from doing this project in this way? If you had simply read the novel without tracking a theme, how would your experience have been different? In what ways did the collaborative group highlighting and annotating change your understanding of/engagement with the novel as a whole?

**Report on group dynamics (5 points):** This section may be very brief. Report on how each person contributed to the group. Were responsibilities shared equally? If not, please describe any challenges your group faced.