



Reading Between The Lions

The Art Institute's Book Club

www.artic.edu/bookclub

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Hedda Gabler by Henrik Ibsen

Please note that the questions below may contain plot spoilers.

1. In what way does class determine the relative freedom of Hedda and Thea? How does their rebellion manifest differently?
Do Munch's work address class concerns?
2. What do you think Ibsen is saying about women's role in society?
How does Munch portray women? Do Munch's women assume roles different from those in Hedda Gabler?
3. Is anyone in the play a hero? Do you feel sympathy for any of the characters?
Does Munch treat his subjects sympathetically?
4. Do any of the other characters take Hedda seriously? How do the men treat her? What was her relationship with Lövborg? What is her relationship with Brack?
5. How is madness portrayed in the play? Is Lövborg mad?
How does Munch portray madness?
6. Why did Hedda marry Tesman?
7. What is Hedda seeking? Does she achieve any of her goals?
8. Why did Hedda encourage Lövborg to drink?
9. What role does impulse play in the actions of each character?
10. Is suicide a brave act or a cowardly one? Does Ibsen have an opinion? Do you feel differently about the two suicides?
11. Do you think Hedda is pregnant at the end of the play?
12. What does the gun represent to Hedda? to Lövborg? to Brack?