

## POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

### CLASSES 2 AND 3

- Trick on Madame Duval (Letters 33 and 34)
  - Role of Lady Howard and Mrs. Mirvin
  - Evelina's actions, reactions, and knowledge of it
- Evelina with the Branghtons—a different London (Letter 42)
- Burney's portrayal of the middle class
- McCartney scene (Letter 43)
- Adventure at Vauxhall(Letter 46)

#### \*Nature of Violence in this section\*

- Character of Mrs. Selwyn
- McCartney's history and his character
- Ld. Orville's letter—what is inappropriate about it?
- This section begins with the Branghton set, and ends with Mrs. Beaumont's set.Do you see any similarities--with a twist?
- Characters come into sharper focus: Villars and Lord Orville—how are they developed/developing?
- What is Evelina learning?

#### **Scenes considered in class 3**

- Comic:
  - Clement visits the Branghtons
  - DuBois' and Smith's attraction for Evelina
  - Comandeering Lord Orville's coach
- If not tragic, highly emotional:

- McCartney's story
- If some of the dramatic scenes are over the top, as it were, what incidents struck you as most realistic?
- From Patricia Spacks, "The Dangerous Age"
- "Eighteenth-century commentators on what we would call adolescence almost without exception emphasize the extreme vulnerability of this time of life. Young women faced two opposed threats: seduction, which would destroy their hope of successful marriage, and social rejection."
- "In the typical arrangement of events, young heroines encounter a fearful world, proclaim their terrors loudly, then conquer them largely by their own efforts."
- "Feminine strategies: the unconsciousness—precipitated by an onrush of emotion—for self defense. (Evelina when she has just rescued an unknown young man from a suicide attempt) dramatizes appealing female weakness and conceals purposefulness."
- " 'Other people' determine reputation, which may support or undermine men and women alike; they sustain the structure of hypocrite underlying manners and morals in the world; they embody temptation and corruption. Other people make it difficult to remain oneself, even after discovering what that self may be."
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- "The adult fantasy: the ideal teen-ager menaced from without but not from within, grateful for help from his elders, able to resolve all problems by shutting out the world, in which exist all the evils denied in the youth himself."
- "Such a vision of the course of adolescence enables novelists to criticize society while supporting its professed values."