

R418 *Middlemarch*
OLLI Fall Session 2015 - Reston
Kay Menchel
Thursdays 2.15pm - 3.40p

This class will tackle one of the greats of Victorian literature, George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, a novel that allows us to immerse ourselves in the life of a provincial English town. The complexity and richness of the novel comes from Eliot's depiction of her characters who do not exist to be admired or disparaged, but rather to be understood. To read about them is to realise that they possess lives as real and morally complex as our own. Perhaps this is why Virginia Woolf called *Middlemarch* "one of the few English novels for grown-up people."

Middlemarch is conveniently divided into 8 books (thank you, George Eliot!), so we will read together, one book at a time. Read ahead if you want, but no spoilers, please. We will also watch some clips from a BBC dramatisation of the book.

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| 24 September | Introduction, and Book 1 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 1-12 |
| 1 October | Book 2 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 13-22 |
| 8 October | Book 3 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 23-33 |
| 15 October | Book 4 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 34-42 |
| 22 October | Book 5 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 43-53 |
| 29 October | Book 6 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 54-62 |
| 5 November | Book 7 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 63-71 |
| 12 November | Book 8 <i>Middlemarch</i> - Chapters 72 - end |

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