

## **STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR ETHAN FROME**

**-Answer the following questions on your own paper.**

- 1. What is the setting of the novel?**
- 2. Who does the narrator find intriguing?**
- 3. What have most of the “smart ones” done? Why?**
- 4. How does the narrator become better acquainted with Ethan? Give two examples.**
- 5. Why did the narrator spend time at Ethan’s farm?**
- 6. What is the tale of Ethan Frome?**

### **CHAPTER I**

- 1. Why is Ethan in the village? How does he feel as he watches the dance?**
- 2. Describe Mattie. Why is she with the Fromes?**
- 3. Who is Denis Eady? What impact does he have on the story?**

### **CHAPTER II**

- 1. Why does Ethan hide from Mattie?**
- 2. What does Mattie say when Ethan asks if she is leaving them?**
- 3. Why has Zeena locked the door and not left the key?**

### **CHAPTER III**

- 1. What was Mattie’s background before the Fromes took her in?**
- 2. When Ethan returns to the house with Jotham, what does he find?**
- 3. What does Zeena want Jotham to do?**

### **CHAPTER IV**

- 1. What caused Zeena to arrive at the Frome farm?**
- 2. Why does Ethan feel that he married her?**
- 3. Why does Ethan ask Hale for an advance?**
- 4. What is Ethan afraid of as he returns from the village?**
- 5. What does he find when he tries to enter his house?**
- 6. Why is the cat in this chapter?**
- 7. What does the cat do that distresses Mattie?**
- 8. How does Ethan attempt to solve this problem?**

### **CHAPTER V**

- 1. What were Mattie and Ethan supposed to do that night/**
- 2. What do you think the significance of the big elm is?**
- 3. Why does Ethan keep bringing up Mattie’s eventual marriage?**

## **CHAPTER VI**

- 1. Why is Ethan so happy this morning?**
- 2. Why is Ethan in a hurry to get to the village?**
- 3. What happens to spoil his plan/**

## **CHAPTER VII**

- 1. What has the new doctor told Zeena?**
- 2. What action has she taken?**
- 3. How does Ethan feel about this action?**
- 4. Why does Zeena say that marrying her was the least that Ethan could have done?**
- 5. What impact does money have on this issue?**
- 6. What is to happen to Mattie?**
- 7. How does Ethan feel about this?**
- 8. Why do you think that Zeena has done this?**
- 9. What does Zeena discover when she looks for her stomach powders?**
- 10. What is Zeena's reaction to this discovery?**

## **CHAPTER VIII**

- 1. What is Ethan thinking of doing? Why is he unable to take this action?**
- 2. What does Ethan discover from Jotham? What is his response?**
- 3. After visiting the Hales, what is Ethan's opinion of himself?**

## **CHAPTER IX**

- 1. Why is Mattie crying at the beginning of the chapter?**
- 2. Why does Ethan stand up to Zeena?**
- 3. Where do Ethan and Mattie go first when they leave for the train? Why?**
- 4. What does Ethan tell Mattie? What did Mattie find?**
- 5. What does Ethan feel about Mattie marrying?**
- 6. What do they decide to do before going to the train station?**
- 7. What do they do after this event?**
- 8. What does Mattie want Ethan to do after the clock strikes five?**
- 9. What happens to cause Ethan to reconsider his decision?**
- 10. What does this symbolize?**
- 11. What happens to Mattie and Ethan?**

## **CONCLUSION**

- 1. What does the narrator find when he enters the Frome home?**
- 2. What does Mrs. Hale tell the narrator about the accident?**
- 3. What does Mrs. Hale wish had happened and why?**

