

Reading Group

At the August meeting we discussed George Eliot's (Mary Ann Evans') "Middlemarch", called by Virginia Woolf 'one of the few English books written for grown-up people' and by A S Byatt 'the greatest novel of all'. Those who had reached the end of the nine hundred pages agreed that the effort was rewarded by a view of the social history in a small town seen through a novel with a multiple plot and large cast – an early nineteenth century Ambridge!. The web of complex connections between the richly drawn characters, the social stratification and the position of women, the idealism and emotions are revealed with wisdom and wit. The language and the imagery are very detailed and not easy but after a good discussion, we hoped that others might be encouraged to persevere and would eventually appreciate a very satisfying read.