

## ***Lady Audley's Secret* Trial Essay Assignment**

Now that you have created your Pinterest board, you will analyze both the experience of creating the board as well as how *Lady Audley's Secret* explores issues of class, gender, sexuality, medicine, transportation, and media. The goal here is to begin to understand how these concepts and characters are enmeshed in the media ecology of the early nineteenth-century. In particular, pay attention to how these discourses structure the ways in which the characters in the text understand themselves, others, and the nature of knowledge (epistemology).

Concepts and questions you may choose to discuss:

- The relationship between class, gender, sexuality, medicine, transportation, technology, and media
- How do these concepts shape Lady Audley's crime and Robert Audley's detection of it?
- Are there ways in which Lady Audley's punishment both just and unjust (consider especially how she is constrained as a woman)?
- How might the novel's ambivalent response (via Robert Audley and narrator) to the Lady Audley and her crime be related to how Victorian readers responded to the character of Lady Audley (see the relevant Appendix)?

Questions to consider as you reflect on your creating your board and our class trial:

- How does seeing your pins together alter or inform your understanding of the text? Did certain parts of the novel become more or less important to you? Did you discover anything?
- How did participating in our class trial alter or inform your understanding of the text?
- Was there an idea or piece of evidence that you wanted to talk about in the trial but did not?
- Is there a piece of evidence that you wanted to rebut but were unable to do so?
- How did the participating in the trial and/or creating the board alter your conceptions of early nineteenth-century literature?

### Requirements

- 4-5 pages (at least 4 full pages) in MLA format with a works cited page (see [Purdue University's Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) and [Example Essay Format](#))
- Have an introduction, multiple body paragraphs appropriate to your ideas, and a conclusion.
- Incorporate specific supporting evidence in the form of quotations for your claims

from the text and at least **two** of the secondary sources (i.e. not the novel) that we have read.

- Include the link to your Pinterest board on the first page of your essay below your name, date etc.