

Name: _____

Date: _____



George Eliot



Some of the most famous books in the English language were written by George Eliot, but “George Eliot” was not the writer’s real name. George Eliot was really a woman named Mary Anne Evans. She lived in England from 1819 to 1880. During her life, she wrote seven books, but she didn’t use her real name for her writing. She used a man’s name instead.

Mary Anne Evans wrote her first book in 1859. At that time, many women were writing books, and some of these women were famous, but men thought that women could not write good books. They said that women only wrote stories about getting married. Evans used a man’s name because she wanted to write about other things. She wrote about the lives and problems of people in small towns in England. Many people said that George Eliot was a great writer.

At first, no one knew that George Eliot was a woman. Then, a man said that he was George Eliot, so Evans had to tell people her secret and soon she became well known. She still used the name George Eliot for her books because the name was already famous. Many people say that Eliot’s *Middlemarch* is one of the greatest books in the English language. This book is about many kinds of people and their lives. People began to think differently about women writers because of Eliot’s books. Thanks to her, women today can write about anything, so they can become great writers.

1. What did Mary Anne Evans do when she wrote books?
 - a. She taught people to read.
 - b. She lived alone.
 - c. She studied languages.
 - d. She used the name of a man.

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2. What did men think about women around 1859?

- a. They couldn't write books well.
- b. They didn't want to get married.
- c. They had too many secrets.
- d. They didn't like living in England.

3. Why did Evans have to tell her secret?

- a. A man said he was George Eliot.
- b. She wanted to meet other women writers.
- c. People weren't buying her new books.
- d. People didn't like her real name.

4. Many people say Middlemarch

- a. is about the life in Mary Anne Evans.
- b. wasn't written by George Eliot.
- c. wasn't popular with women.
- d. is a great English book.

5. What is this story about?

- a. A woman who changed people's ideas.
- b. A man who wrote about getting married.
- c. A popular book about learning English.
- d. A great book written by a group of writers.

6. What was George Eliot's real name?

- a. Eliot Middlemarch
- b. England
- c. Mary Anne Evans
- d. George Eliot Evans