

Great Books Seminar
Assignment 21

1. Read Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd*, chapters 1–10. The word “madding” means *active and bustling*. The title implies being far from the hustle and bustle of life. Hardy lifted his title of the novel title from Thomas Gray's poem “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard.”

Far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife,
Their sober wishes never learned to stray;
Along the cool sequestered vale of life
They kept the noiseless tenor of their way.

2. Get ready for the in-class essay in which you will have 25 minutes to complete one of the prompts on *The Tempest*.

