

## The Age of Innocence by Edith Wharton

- Edith Wharton's original title for *The Age of Innocence* was "Old New York". Which title do you think is more fitting? Why?
- Compare and contrast Newland to other men in New York, as presented in the novel, particularly Julius Beaufort. How does Newland view himself compared to these men?
- Does the narrator of *The Age of Innocence* condemn 1870s New York society as it's presented in the novel, or does she merely describe its hypocrisies? How would you describe the tone—sarcastic, ironic, mocking? Why?
- Did the end surprise you? Why or why not?