

Lovasz

## Read *Evelina*, by Frances Burney

### Background information:

Published anonymously in 1778, *Evelina* took London by storm. No one guessed it was by a shy woman named Fanny Burney, who was only 26 when it was published. Like the works of Jane Austen, *Evelina* relates the difficulties experienced by a country ingenue navigating the social mores of late 18th century England. Burney's heroine is immersed in the scandalous (and sometimes savage) London society of the period.

### Style and structure of the novel:

The plot of this novel unfolds via letters. We as readers are put in the position of voyeurs who gaze over the shoulders of the novel's characters as they experience the joy, shock, or sadness of the news related to them through these "secret" missives.

As you read, look up words unknown to you. Annotate the text and consider the following motifs:

fashionable society

feminine innocence

mores of social/romantic behavior between men and women

The questions [here](#) can guide you through your reading. You do not need to write responses to these, but be prepared to discuss the ideas when we return in the fall. Happy reading!