1. What would you do if you were in Alcée or Calixta's position?
2. Do Alcée or Calixta love each other? Does Calixta love her husband?
3. Do you think Bobinôt ever suspects anything? What about Clarisse?
4. What, if anything, do you think will be the long-term repercussions of Alcée and Calixta's encounter? Why doesn't Chopin show any repercussions in the story?
5. Do you think it's a coincidence that Alcée arrives at Calixta's just in time to be trapped there by the storm? What's that all about?
6. Is what Calixta and Alcée do wrong?
7. Discuss the way in which the storm imagery works in this story? Be sure to consider all sections, not just section II.
8. Discuss the relationship between Calixta and Alcee. Does Chopin prepare us for the adultery that occurs, or is it a surprise? Is the incident itself shocking, or is it only Chopin's explicit description that creates discomfort in the readers? Or is it something else?
9. Calixta is married: why does she do this? Alcee is married: why does he do this?
10. Why is Clarisse happy at the end of the story? How can everyone be happy at the end of the story? What does the author's attitude toward the adultery seem to be? Is there an overall "moral tone" to the story?
11. What is the central idea or theme? Is this story about sexual attractiveness? Is this story about being satisfied in a relationship (male-female)? Is this story about finding out who you are? Is this story about a feeling of "un-conquered-ness" or a conquest that's unresolved -- "they are so close to getting it" -- it has to be resolved -- they have to complete the scene -- he has to conquer her?