

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

- ▶ ***Pride and Prejudice*** is a novel by Jane Austen.
- ▶ Even after 200 years it has remained one of the most popular novels in English. It tops the list of ‘most loved books’.
- ▶ It is a novel of manners.
- ▶ It was first published in 1813.
- ▶ The original title was ‘First Impression’.
- ▶ It narrates the society of British Regency.
- ▶ Morality, manners, money, marriage, upbringing and education of the landed gentry form the pivot of the plot.
- ▶ It has been adopted and translated in almost all the languages of the world.

Pride and Prejudice

- ▶ Jane Austen was born on 16th Dec.1775 at Hampshire, London. Her father, **Rev. George Austen** was the local Rector. She was the seventh of altogether eight brothers and sisters. Jane did not have any formal education. She was educated at home and as a young maid learned how to play piano, dance in local ball dances, reading literatures and write creatively. She disliked city life and preferred long walking in the mountainous villages. It is said that she visited London only twice during her life-time. In 1795 she became emotionally attached to a young man named **Tom Lefroy**; but the relationship ended because of the rejection of the Lefroy family. While living in Bath, Austen received her only marriage proposal from a young man named **Harris Bigg-Wither**. At first she accepted the proposal but rejected the offer next morning for some unknown reasons. She remained a spinster and died at 41 on 18th July, 1817.

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- ▶ Jane started her writing career in 1787. She began writing plays, poems and stories for her and for her family amusement. Fair copy of Twenty-nine of these writings was later published under the title *Juvenilia*. Among these works are a satirical novel in letters titled *Love and Freindship [sic]* in which she mocked popular novels of sensibility and *The History of England*, a manuscript of 34 pages accompanied by 13 water-colour miniatures by her sister Cassandra. Austen's *History* parodied popular historical writing, particularly Oliver Goldsmith's *History of England* (1764).

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- ▶ Her first (unsuccessful) submission to a publisher, was in 1797 titled "First Impressions" (later "Pride and Prejudice"). In 1803 "Susan" (later "Northanger Abbey") was actually sold to a publisher for a mere £10 but was not published until 14 years later, posthumously. Her first accepted work was in 1811 titled "Sense and Sensibility", which was published anonymously as were all books published during her lifetime. She revised "First Impressions" and published it entitled "Pride and Prejudice" in 1813. "Mansfield Park" was published in 1814, followed by "Emma" in 1816, the same year she completed "Persuasion" and began "Sanditon", which was ultimately left unfinished. Both "Persuasion" and "Northanger Abbey" were published in 1818, after her death.

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Pride and Prejudice at a glance

- ▶ **Full title** · Pride and Prejudice
- ▶ **Author** · Jane Austen
- ▶ **Type of work** · Novel
- ▶ **Genre** · Comedy of manners
- ▶ **Language** · English
- ▶ **Time and Place written** · England, between 1796 and 1813
- ▶ **Date of first publication** · 1813
- ▶ **Publisher** · Thomas Edgerton of London
- ▶ **Narrator** · Third-person omniscient
- ▶ **Climax** · Mr. Darcy's proposal to Elizabeth (Volume 3, Chapter 16)
- ▶ **Protagonist** · Elizabeth Bennet
- ▶ **Point of view** · The novel is primarily told from Elizabeth Bonnet's point of view.
- ▶ **Falling action** · The two chapters of the novel after Darcy's proposal
- ▶ **Tense** · Past tense
- ▶ **Foreshadowing** · The only notable example of foreshadowing occurs when Elizabeth visits Pemberley, Darcy's estate, in Volume 3, Chapter 1. Her appreciation of the estate foreshadows her eventual realization of her love for its owner.
- ▶ **Tone** · Comic—or, in Jane Austen's own words, “light and bright, and sparkling”
- ▶ **Themes** · Love; Reputation; Class
- ▶ **Motifs** · Courtship; Journeys
- ▶ **Symbols** · The novel is light on symbolism, except on the visit to Pemberley, which is described as being “neither formal, nor falsely adorned,” and is clearly meant to symbolize the character of Mr. Darcy.

Pride and Prejudice

A Micro summary of 'Pride and Prejudice'.

- ▶ The Bennets are eagerly anticipating the arrival of Mr. Bingley, an eligible bachelor. Mrs. Bennet, excited about a prospective son-in-law, sends her daughters to a ball at Netherfield, where the second daughter, Lizzy Bennet, meets the disagreeable Mr. Darcy. Lizzy's elder sister Jane and Mr. Bingley fall in love at first sight. Lizzy becomes furious finding Mr. Darcy trying to separate them. She turns down proposals from Mr. Collins, a distant cousin and Mr. Darcy. After meeting a certain Mr. Wickham, she finds Mr. Darcy even more despicable. Lizzy's youngest sister Lydia elopes with Mr. Wickham. Mr. Darcy saves the good name of the family by compelling Mr. Wickham to marry Lydia. Lizzy realizes the benevolence and dependability of Mr. Darcy. Her first impression changes and despite pressure from Mr. Darcy's aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, to turn down Mr. Darcy's second proposal, she accepts. Jane and Mr. Bingley are also reunited at the end. Everybody lives happily ever after.

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Characters in 'Pride and Prejudice'

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Elizabeth Bennet -▶ Fitzwilliam Darcy -▶ Jane Bennet▶ Charles Bingley▶ Mr. Bennet▶ Mrs. Bennet-▶ George Wickham-▶ Lydia Bennet- | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Mr. Collins▶ Miss Bingley▶ Lady Catherine de Bourgh▶ Mr. Gardiner▶ Mrs. Gardiner▶ Charlotte Lucas▶ Georgiana Darcy▶ Mary and Catherine Bennet - |
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The Story of 'Pride and Prejudice'.

- ▶ **Mr. Bennet is a small gentry at Longbourn.**
- ▶ **Mr. & Mrs. Bennet is living with their five marriageable daughters.**
- ▶ **Mr. Bingley leases Netherfield Park.**
- ▶ **He arrives at Longbourn to take possession of Netherfield Park with his family and friend Mr. Darcy.**
- ▶ **Mr. Darcy slights Elizabeth at a local ball.**
- ▶ **In the Party at Sir William Lucas', Elizabeth refuses to dance with Mr. Darcy as a revenge.**
- ▶ **Jane goes to Netherfield and catches cold.**
- ▶ **Elizabeth goes to Netherfield to help; mother and sisters visit; Jane and Elizabeth leave a few days later.**
- ▶ **Mr. Collins' letter and arrival.**
- ▶ **They all walk to Meryton and meet Mr. Wickham. Darcy and Bingley meet the group.**

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- ▶ **Evening at Phillips'; Elizabeth dances with Darcy, mentions Wickham; Darcy becomes aware of family expectations for Jane and Bingley;**
- ▶ **Collins bores Darcy; Mrs. Bennet talks unwisely; Mary shows off; Bennet family last to leave.**
- ▶ **Collins proposes to Elizabeth, rejected.**
- ▶ **Netherfield party returns to London.**
- ▶ **Collins proposes to Charlotte Lucas, accepted.**
- ▶ **Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner visit and take Jane to London.**
- ▶ **Wickham courts Miss King, an heiress.**
- ▶ **Elizabeth, Sir William and Maria Lucas go to Hunsford via London to visit Charlotte.**
- ▶ **Darcy and Colonel Fitzwilliam arrive at Rosings.**
- ▶ **Lady Catherine de Bourgh rude and condescending to everyone, especially Elizabeth.**
- ▶ **Darcy proposes to Elizabeth, rejected.**
- ▶ **Darcy's letter of explanation.**

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- ▶ **Darcy and Fitzwilliam leave.**
- ▶ **Elizabeth, Maria and Jane return to Longbourne, meeting Kitty and Lydia on the way.**
- ▶ **Elizabeth does not reveal what she has learned about Wickham.**
- ▶ **Lydia invited by Mrs. Forster to go with regiment to Brighton; Elizabeth advises against it but is ignored.**
- ▶ **Elizabeth and Wickham talk of Darcy; Elizabeth hints that she knows the truth.**
- ▶ **Elizabeth and Gardiners go to Derbyshire on holiday.**
- ▶ **They visit Pemberley; housekeeper's positive report; Darcy appear.**
- ▶ **Visit with Bingleys, introduced to Georgiana Darcy.**
- ▶ **Letters from Jane about Lydia and Wickham's elopement.**

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- ▶ Return to Longbourne; marriage of Lydia and Wickham arranged; Elizabeth learns of Darcy's involvement in this.
- ▶ Bingley and Darcy return to Netherfield; Bingley proposes to Jane.
- ▶ Lady Catherine arrives to threaten Elizabeth not to marry Darcy; letter from Collins warning against the same thing.
- ▶ Darcy returns from London, proposes Elizabeth, accepted.
- ▶ Reactions of family to news.
- ▶ The story ends with marriages of Charles Bingley to Jane and Darcy to Elizabeth. And the readers close the book with an impression that they lived happily thereafter.

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- ▶ Q.What is courtesy Literature?
- ▶ Courtesy literature was a highly popular genre in the 18th c. It embodied conduct manuals that advocated proper manner and behaviour. Courtesy Literature dealt with the qualities which a gentleman/woman must possess. Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' belonged to this category.
- ▶ What is a 'novel of manners'?
- ▶ Ans. The **novel of manners** is a literary genre that deals with and focuses on the customs, values, and mindset of a particular class or group of people who are situated in a specific historical context (Bowers and Brothers 5). The genre emerged during the final decades of the 18th century.
- ▶ The novel of manners often shows a conflict between individual aspirations or desires and the accepted social codes of behaviour. There is a vital relationship between manners, social behaviour and character. Physical appearances are overall less emphasized while manners and social behaviour remain the particular interests in the novel.

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- ▶ The idea of manners assumes not only a social significance, as it is applied today, but a moral one as well, which preceded the social context in which it was used. What connects the two is the idea of "pleasing" Characters in the novels are not always morally and socially obliging to each other, however, but there is differentiation between the upstanding hero or heroine and the socially less acceptable characters. Well known examples of the novel of manners include:
- ▶ Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, *Persuasion*; Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, *Villette*; Henry Mackenzie's *The Man of Feeling*; William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*; Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust*; Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*, *The House of Mirth*. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.
- ▶ Changes in English society in the nineteenth century that eroded the boundaries between these various groups provided the background for the emergence of the novel of manners.
- ▶ The novel of manners often deals with gender issues as well.