

Book Report: Pride and Prejudice

Student's Name or Students' Names

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Assignment Due Date

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The novel *Pride and Prejudice*, which was first titled *First Impression*, is classified as a romantic comedy novel. The book was authored by Jane Austen and published by Thomas Egerton in the year 1813. Austen wrote three other books, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Emma*. The novel never stopped selling after the first print was out; it is still selling up to date. The story revolves around Elizabeth Bennet and wealthy landowner Fitzwilliam Darcy. To fall in love and have their happily ever after, they must overcome pride and prejudice. The first words in the novel are the famous “It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife” (Austen, 2003, p. 2).

The novel is a nineteenth-century piece set in England. It follows the Bennet family with five girls, each different. Jane, the eldest, has a soft disposition and is a sweetheart; her sister Elizabeth counts on her as a confidante and friend. The protagonist of the tale, Elizabeth, is intelligent and energetic and also quick to judge (Dillon, n.d.). Like her father, she refuses to be carried away by traditions, especially around marriage and social status. The third daughter, Mary, is plain, bookish, and pompous, while the two youngest, Lydia and Kitty, are rebellious and childish. Mr. Bennet is appropriately anxious, while Mrs. Bennet is concerned about the future of her five daughters.

Mr. Darcy is a snobbish and affluent landowner who initially dismisses Elizabeth. He is enamored with his social standing and frustrated by his attraction to Elizabeth, but, like her, he learns to overcome his prejudices to gain a more accurate viewpoint. Bingley is Darcy's close buddy, polite, open-hearted, though a little naïve. Darcy's opinions strongly influence him; on falling in love with Jane, he is convinced to leave her. However, he discovers the truth in time to make amends.

The novel unfolds with news that a Netherfield house has been leased to Mr. Bingley, a young man with means and yet to marry. Mrs. Bennet is convinced that the young lad will fall in love with one of her five daughters, and it so happens at a ball where her firstborn daughter Jane and Bingley fall in love (Dillon, n.d.). Concurrently, the second-born daughter of the Bennets started on the wrong foot with Bingley's friend Darcy. Later, Mr. Bingley is convinced by his friend Darcy and Carolyn Bingley that Jane is not interested in him, and they need to break up.

Elizabeth gets a boyfriend, Wickham, a militiaman, who claims that Darcy ruined his life out of hate and spite. When Darcy expressed interest in Elizabeth, she pushed him away, not knowing the truth. Wickham had spent Darcy's father's inheritance, and to make matters worse, he had attempted to seduce Darcy's younger sister. Elizabeth visits Pemberley, Darcy's estate, with her aunt and uncle and develops a fondness for him. Elizabeth warms up to him, even more, when she realizes that Darcy has been secretly persuading Wickham to marry her sister Lydia Bennet. Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Elizabeth's aunt, sets out to make Darcy wed her daughter, but the plan fails. Elizabeth and Darcy grow their romantic relationship. Jane and Bingley also find their way to each other's hearts.

Pride and Prejudice has received criticism for lack of historical background, its setting being unclear, either during the French revolution or Napoleonic wars. The author satirically brings out the theme of love and marriage in a rather compelling manner. It clearly shows the effects of pride within the theme of love and marriage. The author strongly shows us the adverse effect of being quick to judge. The story is narrowed to a world with unwavering pride and prejudice. The topical issues addressed in the book, such as morals, love, social status, and family relationships make it a captivating read.

References

Austen, J. (2003). *Pride and prejudice* (V. Jones, Ed.). Penguin Classics.

Dillon, S. (n.d.). *Pride and prejudice*. Encyclopedia

Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pride-and-Prejudice>

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