

Jane Austen

Istituto comprensivo di Pelago
Scuola secondaria di primo grado

Lorenzo Ghiberti

Prof.ssa F. Gambella

Jane Austen



- Jane Austen lived in a world that was often focused around the events and impacts of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars of France.

Jane Austen



- The politics of Europe were frequently in the news during the time in which Jane Austen lived but she chose not to refer to these events very much in her books.

Jane Austen



- Instead, her focus was on writing about aspects of ordinary relationships across different classes of people, from those with modest incomes to those who were quite wealthy.

Jane Austen



- Jane Austen was born in 1775 and grew up in comfortable, rural, middle class surroundings.
- She started writing in about 1787, experimenting with plays, verse and short stories but her first serious work, a novel in the form of letters entitled *Elinor and Marianne*, was written in 1795

Jane Austen



- This was later to be perfected and published as *Sense and Sensibility*. She next wrote *Pride and Prejudice* in 1796-97 and in 1798-1799, *Northanger Abbey*. Neither Jane nor Cassandra, her sister ever married, but Austen's novels clearly reveal an understanding of love in its various forms.

Jane Austen



- Austen met and fell in love with a young man but he died before the relationship could develop. Between 1805-1809 Jane Austen stopped writing but she resumed again when she settled once again in Hampshire.

Jane Austen



- In 1811 *Sense and Sensibility* was published, *Pride and Prejudice* followed in 1813 and then a novel *Mansfield Park*, was published in 1814. She then wrote *Emma* and *Persuasion*, 1816.

Jane Austen



- In the same year she became ill and she died in Winchester in 1817 and is buried in the cathedral.

Jane Austen



- Jane Austen lived at a time when young men and women of the upper classes conformed to various norms of modes, behaviour and etiquette.

Jane Austen



- Although the consequences of the Industrial Revolution were beginning to undermine the once rigid social system, many southern towns and rural areas were still rigidly conformist.

Jane Austen



- In particular the search for the ideal marriage partner was fraught with difficulties and it was this search that became the mainstay of Austen's work.

Jane Austen



- Her novels can be best described as Novels of Manners for their focus on the manners, behaviour, etiquette and socially accepted norms of the small section of society she focussed on- the upper middle classes.

Jane Austen



- As a young girl, she had read and was influenced by the novels of Samuel Richarrdson and Henry Fielding – it was from them that she learned in particular how to develop characters and how best to use narrative humour to reinforce characterisation.

Jane Austen

The role of women in the Regency Period

Jane Austen and the role of women in the Regency Period

- The position of women in the Regency Period was very different from that of today. While women of the lower classes worked either in the fields, at home, or were starting to work in the factories, middle or upper-class women were not supposed to work.



Jane Austen and the role of women in the Regency Period

- As we can see in Jane Austen's novels the ladies presenting the lower gentry and the upper bourgeoisie spend their time in reading poetry, gossiping, paying visits to each other, writing letters, doing a little painting, or playing the piano and singing at the most.



Jane Austen and the role of women in the Regency Period

- There were not encouraged to do any sport but only a little walking and dancing



Jane Austen and the role of women in the Regency Period

- The only way a woman could get her place in society was to marry and to have her own household manage.



Jane Austen and the role of women in the Regency Period

- This explains why, although Mrs Bennet is often absurd and vulgar, it is clear that with five daughters who would be left without a home and with very little money after their father's death, this was indeed a very serious business



Jane Austen and the role of women in the Regency Period

Jane Austen and her sister Cassandra never got married, although it has been said that they were attractive women who both fell in love.



Jane Austen and the role of women in the Regency Period

The Austen women were fortunate in having a home, enough money to keep up a pleasant life style and a liberal family to support them.



Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

- **Elizabeth Bennet** - The novel's protagonist. The second daughter of Mr. Bennet, Elizabeth is the most intelligent and sensible of the five Bennet sisters. She is well read and quick-witted, with a tongue that occasionally proves too sharp for her own good. Her realization of Darcy's essential goodness eventually triumphs over her initial prejudice against him



Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

- **Fitzwilliam Darcy** - A wealthy gentleman, the master of Pemberley, and the nephew of Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Though Darcy is intelligent and honest, his excess of pride causes him to look down on his social inferiors. Over the course of the novel, he tempers his class-consciousness and learns to admire and love Elizabeth for her strong character



Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

- **Jane Bennet** - The eldest and most beautiful Bennet sister. Jane is more reserved and gentler than Elizabeth. The easy pleasantness with which she and Bingley interact contrasts starkly with the mutual distaste that marks the encounters between Elizabeth and Darcy.



Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

- **Charles Bingley** - Darcy's considerably wealthy best friend. Bingley's purchase of Netherfield, an estate near the Bennets, serves as the impetus for the novel. He is a genial, well-intentioned gentleman, whose easygoing nature contrasts with Darcy's initially discourteous demeanor. He is blissfully uncaring about class differences.



Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

- **Mr. Bennet** - The patriarch of the Bennet family, a gentleman of modest income with five unmarried daughters. Mr. Bennet has a sarcastic, cynical sense of humor that he uses to purposefully irritate his wife. Though he loves his daughters (Elizabeth in particular), he often fails as a parent, preferring to withdraw from the never-ending marriage concerns of the women around him rather than offer help.



Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice

- **Mrs. Bennet** - Mr. Bennet's wife, a foolish, noisy woman whose only goal in life is to see her daughters married. Because of her low breeding and often unbecoming behavior, Mrs. Bennet often repels the very suitors whom she tries to attract for her daughters.

