

Jane Austen

Book Club Reader's Guide

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen's Biography

1775: Jane Austen born December 16 in Steventon, seventh of eight children, and the younger of two daughters

1783-1786: Attended boarding school

1793: Britain at war with France

1793-1795: Wrote *Lady Susan* manuscript novel, followed by *Elinor and Marianne*

1796-1797: At age 20-21, wrote manuscript novel *First Impressions*, (*Pride & Prejudice*) which her father tries unsuccessfully to sell to a publisher

1801: Father, Reverend George Austen, retired and moved Jane, mother, and sister to Bath

1811: Published first work: *Sense & Sensibility* (originally titled *Elinor and Marianne*)

1812: Britain at war with U.S.

1813: *Pride & Prejudice* published

Film Adaptations

- *Bride & Prejudice*
- *Bridget Jones's Diary**
- *Fire Island*
- *Pride & Prejudice* ('40, '80, '95, '05, and many more)
- *Pride & Prejudice & Zombies**

*based on a book retelling

Book & Other Adaptations

- *Ayesha at Last* by Uzma Jalaluddin
- *Eligible* by Curtis Sittenfeld
- *Pride* by Ibi Zobo
- *Pride, Prejudice, & Other Flavors* by Sonali Dev
- *Pride & Premeditation* by Tirzah Price
- *Unmarriageable* by Soniah Kamal

THEMES



Class



Family



Gender



Integrity



Love



Reputation

Novel Tidbits

- The original title was *First Impressions*, but another book of that name was published in 1800
- Austen likely got the title from Fanny Burney's *Cecilia*. The phrase is repeated a few times and in block capitals: "The whole of this unfortunate business," said Dr. Lyster, "has been the result of PRIDE and PREJUDICE."
- Some have estimated Darcy's wealth at \$1 mil/year by 21st century standards. Bingley's would be about half that.
- Despite prejudice, the Bennets were considered part of the upper class. Their adequate income provided for: a footman, a butler, two housemaids, a housekeeper, and a cook, as well as unspecified outdoor servants.

