



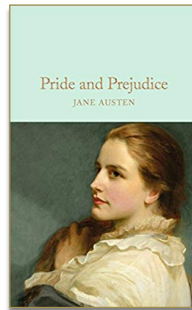
Macmillan Collector's Library

Why Read the Classics in Your Book Club?

Throughout history, book clubs have served as a forum for great minds to come together to share and discuss literature, as well as current events and issues. The Socratic circles, Ben Franklin's Junto Club, Stratford-on-Odeon, The Algonquin Round Table, and Oprah's Book Club are just a few famous ones.

It doesn't matter if your book club is seriously academic, highly social, or anything in between, recommend reading a classic next time! Classic literature is filled with gorgeous writing, complex plots, unforgettable characters along-side social and political issues that are still relevant today, making them great options for both fun and meaningful discussions.

We're here to help your book club tackle the literary canon with our Macmillan Collectors Library Book Club Guides to the Classics.



ISBN: 978-1-90-962165-7

About the Book

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

A tour de force of wit and sparkling dialogue, *Pride and Prejudice* shows how the headstrong Elizabeth Bennet and the aristocratic Mr Darcy must have their pride humbled and their prejudices dissolved before they can acknowledge their love for each other.

Jane Austen's best-loved novel is an unforgettable story about the inaccuracy of first impressions, the power of reason, and above all the strange dynamics of human relationships and emotions.

Gorgeously illustrated by the celebrated Hugh Thomson, this Macmillan Collector's Library edition also includes an afterword by author and critic Henry Hitchings.

About the Author

Jane Austen was born in 1775 in rural Hampshire, the daughter of an affluent village rector who encouraged her in her artistic pursuits. In novels such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park* and *Emma* she developed her subtle analysis of contemporary life through depictions of the middle-classes in small towns. Her sharp wit and incisive portraits of ordinary people have given her novels enduring popularity. She died in 1817.



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Pride and Prejudice Book Club Guide

- Out of the five Bennet sisters, which one do you relate to the most? Which one do you identify with the least? Why?
- The opening line of *Pride and Prejudice*: “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.” is one of the most famous first lines in all of literature. How is this line a form of irony?
- Why do you think Darcy is often reluctant to speak out for himself?
- How does Elizabeth’s view of Mr. Darcy change after meeting him at Pemberley? Why does her opinion of him change? Did your opinion about Darcy ever waver during the book? If so, when?
- Why is letter-writing so prevalent and important in the narrative of *Pride and Prejudice*? If you could write a letter to a character from *Pride and Prejudice*, which one would you write to? What would it say?
- How does the sense of competition and characters wanting to “outdo” others relate to the novel’s themes and conventions?
- *Pride and Prejudice* is filled with universal themes that make it relevant to today’s audience. It’s often referenced in popular culture and has inspired countless literary, film, theatre, and movie adaptations. What adaptations can you think of? Which one is your favorite? Why? Compare your favorite *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation to Jane Austen’s original version.
- Why are certain namesakes and locations blocked out or censored in *Pride and Prejudice*?
- How is Wickham both a likable and a despicable character? How are both representations of him accurate throughout the book?
- In what ways are Elizabeth and Darcy guilty of both pride and prejudice? How does this duality affect the story?
- How might *Pride and Prejudice* change if Bingley felt affection for Elizabeth and Darcy felt affection for Jane?
- How different would *Pride and Prejudice* be if it was told from another character’s perspective? How would it be the same? Which character’s point of view would you most like to read? Why?
- *Pride and Prejudice* is a novel that many people read over and over again. Why do you think readers return to the book once readers know whether or not Elizabeth and Darcy will end up together?
- What is the role of women in *Pride and Prejudice*? Discuss how the following types of women are represented throughout the book: mothers, married women, single women, and independent women. Do you think the depictions of these groups of women still apply to them today? Why or why not?
- What circumstances would allow you to interfere with someone else’s love life? Has anyone ever meddled in one of your relationships? What was the outcome?