

Pride and Prejudice  
Introductory Notes – Copy

I. Author: Jane Austen – b. Dec. 16, 1775. Father – country vicar. Mother – clergyman's daughter.

- A. Upper middle class family – kept carriage and horses.
- B. 5 brothers and 1 sister. Close family.
- C. Died at age 41 of uncertain illness.
- D. Educated at home – excellent education. French, Italian, history, music, theatre, and art.
- E. Never married – Independent.

II. Wrote 5 full novels. Admired by Prince George IV, Sir Walter Scott, and Alford Lord Tennyson

- A. Wrote of class-conscious gentry – essential to OWN property.
- B. Visiting was formal and essential. Dance and calling cards.
- C. Fox hunting, needlework, long walks, horses and dogs.
- D. Servants necessary for the large houses and estates.
- E. Suitable careers – military, clergy, landowner, Parliament, some professions.
- F. Clothing – Simplified, but elegant.
  - 1. Women – Grecian influence (i.e. Emma)

III. Names and Titles

- A. Eldest girl was “Miss” + last name. I.e. – Miss Bennet
- B. Younger girls were “Miss” + first and last name, i.e. Miss Elizabeth Bennet
- C. Eldest son was “Mr.” plus last name – i.e. Mr. Knightly
- D. Younger boys were “Mr.” plus first and last name. I.e. Mr. John Knightly
- E. Married people were formal in public, called each other Mr. and Mrs.
- F. Houses were named, rather than having a number address.

IV. Mores and customs

- A. The upper classes lived off their land income and their monetary interest.
- B. To dip into a family's capital was to be on the way down!
- C. People “in trade”, though often wealthy, were never quite accepted....
- D. One did NOT talk to people to whom one was not properly introduced!
- E. The young girls “came out” at around 15 – the eldest first on down...
- F. Property was routinely handed down through the MALE members of a family

