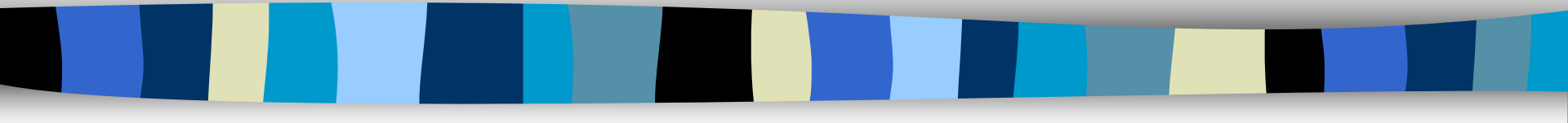


Jane Eyre and Pride and Prejudice



The Victorian Age

Critical Realism in England



- General Introduction
- The Bronte Sisters
- *Jane Eyre*
- *Pride and Prejudice*





General Introduction

The Victorian age (1832-1901) can be roughly divided into three periods:

- (1) 1832-1848: a time of social unrest;
- (2) 1848-1870: a period of economic prosperity and religious controversy;
- (3) 1870-1901: a period of decay of Victorian values.

关于维多利亚女王

1837年，18岁的女王维多利亚登基，新女王在继位之前的日记中写道：既然上帝把我置于这个国家的王位上，我将尽力履行自己的职责。我尚年轻，可能在许多方面缺乏经验，但我肯定，几乎无人像我这样怀着为国为民的良好意愿和真切希望。女王充分实现了自己的诺言：她在其一生中模范地履行了[立宪君主](#)的职责，因此深受国民的爱戴；她还是那个时代道德风尚的典范，她是贤妻，又是良母，是典型的大家闺秀，也是优秀的一家主妇。她自己生活严谨，工作刻苦，对别人又充满责任感。在许多国人眼中，她就是那个时代的缩影，她漫长的63年在位时期则是国家繁荣昌盛的顶峰。维多利亚在位时期，被称作“维多利亚时代”，在英国所有国王中，她享有盛誉，这不是因为她做出了什么轰动的事业，而是因为她什么都不做，而仅仅恪守立宪君主的本分，做她那个时代的表率。

美丽与权欲

Queen Victoria

插图珍藏本



维多利亚女王是英国历史上在位时间最长的君主，也是第一个以“大英帝国及爱尔兰联合王国女王”和“印度女皇”名号著称的英国君主。她五十四年间统治国家，是为一位伟大的女王，同时也是十九世纪最杰出的时代被称为“维多利亚时代”。

“日不落帝国”的缔造者

维多利亚女王传

[英] 斯特雷奇 著

薛诗陶 译







BASSANO
PHOTO. VICTORIA QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN G. & CO.
LONDON.
EMPRESS OF INDIA
1837—JUBILEE—1887.



BASSANO
PHOTO. VICTORIA QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN G. & CO.
LONDON.
EMPRESS OF INDIA
1837—JUBILEE—1887.

Historical Background (1)

(1) the greatest empire ruling over 1/4 of the world's landmass, over 20 nations, England has reached its highest point of development as a world power; (**colonial expansion**)

(1) **Reform Bill 改革法案**(1832) was enacted, the living conditions of the workers did not grow better but became steadily worse. (only for industrial capitalist)

(2) **The class structure changes**: the industrial capitalist VS the working people. After the Reform Bill of 1832 passed the political power from the decaying aristocrats into the hands of the middle-class industrial capitalists,

Historical Background (2)

- beneath the great prosperity and richness, there existed widespread poverty and wretchedness among the working class .

- a period of great social unrest (**Chartist Movement** 宪章运动**1838-48**); demanding basic rights and better living and working conditions.

- According to Lenin, “the first broad, really mass, politically formed, proletarian revolutionary movement”“世界上第一次广泛的、真正群众性的、政治性的无产阶级革命运动”。

Historical Background (3)

Ideologically, the Victorians experienced fundamental changes. The rapid development of science and technology, new inventions and discoveries in geology, astronomy, biology and anthropology drastically shook people's religious convictions.

On the other hand, **Utilitarianism** (功利主义) was widely accepted and practised. Almost everything was put to the test by the criterion of utility, that is, the extent to which it could promote the material happiness.



2 great books of the age

- *The Origins of Species* (1859)
- Darwin's evolutionary theory implied that biblical account of creation could not be literally true.
- *Das Kapital* 《资本论》 (1867)
 - critique of unbridled free enterprise revealed in economic injustice and the class system



People's Values in Victorian Age

People as a whole were trying to live up to a national spirit of **earnestness, respectability, modesty and domesticity**, with the Queen herself as the epitome of such virtues. Common sense and moral propriety, which were ignored by the Romanticists, again became the predominant preoccupation in literary works.
(1848-1870)

But the last three decades of the century witnessed the decline of the British empire and the decay of the Victorian values(1871-1901)



Literary Background—A Golden Age of Novel

- 97% people able to read by 1900;
- cheaper paper;
- faster printing;
- easier circulation;
- more working readers demanding cheap literature: religious tracts, self-help manuals, reprinting of classics, penny newspapers, new prose and poetry which instructed and entertained; and **monthly installment** (集) became the fashion in novel publication:

Novel

- (Critical) realist novel: reveal the social reality and criticize the injustice, poverty and religious hypocrisy.

- Charles Dickens

- **Oliver Twist** 奥利弗·特维斯特（雾都孤儿）
- The Old Curiosity Shop 老古玩店
- Dombey and Son 董贝父子
- **David Copperfield** 大卫·科波菲尔
- Bleak House 荒凉山庄
- Hard Times 艰难时世
- **A Tale of Two Cities** 双城记
- Great Expectations 远大前程



William Makepeace Thackeray 萨克雷



- **Vanity Fair** 名利场

- Pendennis 潘登尼斯

- The Newcomers 纽克姆一家

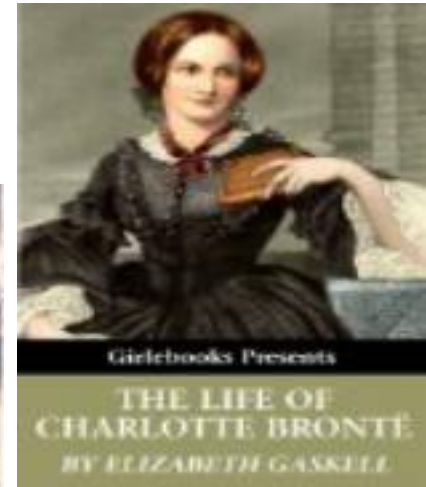
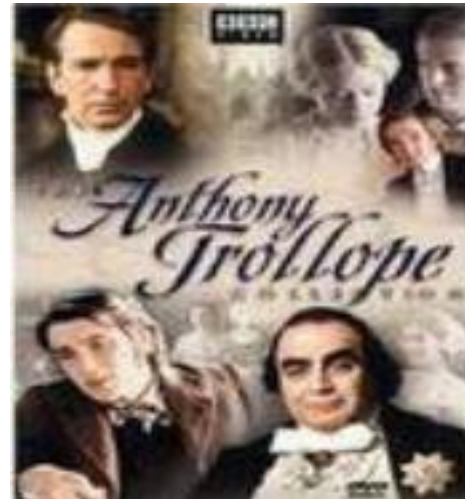
The History of Henry Esmond 亨利·埃斯蒙德

■ Elizabeth C. Gaskell

Mary Barton
Cranford

■ Anthony Trollope

Barchester Towers



- Charlotte Bronte

Professor
Jane Eyre
Shirley
Villette



- Emily Bronte

Wuthering Heights



- Anne Bronte

Agnes Grey



• George Eliot

Adam Bede 《亚当-比德》

The Mill on the Floss 《弗洛斯河上的磨坊》

Silas Marner 《织工马南传》

Middlemarch 《米德尔马契》

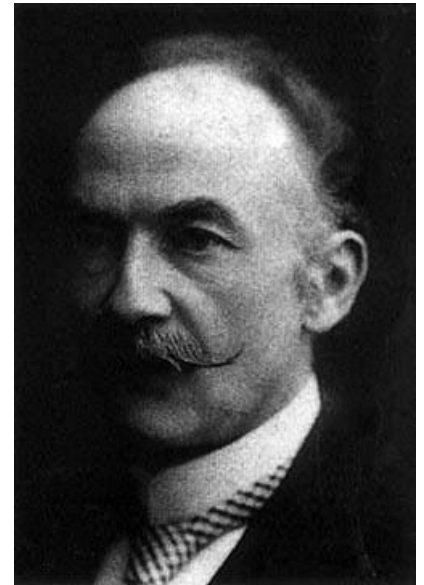
• Thomas Hardy

Return of the Native 《还乡》

Mayor of Casterbridge 《卡斯特桥市长》

Tess of D'Urbervilles 《德伯家的苔丝》

Jude the Obscure 《无名的裘德》



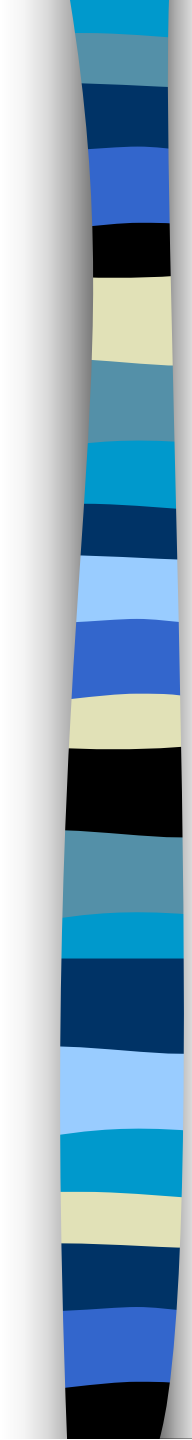


Literary Current

- The critical realism of the 19th century flourished in the 40s and in the beginning of 50s. The realists first and foremost set themselves the task of criticizing capitalist society from a democratic viewpoint and delineated the crying contradictions of bourgeois reality.
- The greatest English realist of the time was Charles Dickens. With a striking force and truthfulness, he creates pictures of bourgeois civilization, describing the misery and sufferings of common people.

Characteristics of Critical Realism

The English critical realists of the 19th century not only gave a satirical portrayal of the bourgeoisie and all the ruling classes, but also showed profound sympathy for the common people. In their best works, the greed and hypocrisy of the upper classes are contrasted with the honesty and good-heartedness of the obscure "simple people" of the lower classes. Hence humor and satire abound in the English realistic novels of the 19th century. Humorous scenes set off the actions of the positive characters, and the humor is often tinged with a lyricism which serves to stress the fine qualities of such characters. At the same time, bitter satire and grotesque is used to expose the seamy side of the bourgeois society.

- 
- Critical realism reveals the corrupting influence of the rule of cash upon human nature. Here lies the essentially democratic and humanistic character of critical realism. But the critical realists did not find a way to eradicate the social evils they knew so well. Their works do not point toward revolution but rather evolution or reformism. They often start with a powerful exposure of the ugliness of the bourgeois world in their works, but their novels usually have a happy ending or an impotent compromise at the end. Here we see the strength and weakness of critical realism.



Summary of Critical Realism

English Critical Realism is characterized by the following features:

- 1) in the mid of the 19th century
- 2) from a democratic point of view
- 3) satirical portrayal of all the ruling classes, and profound sympathy for the common people
- 4) no good solution to the social contradictions, not of revolution but of reformism
- 5) the perfection of novel, humor and satire
- 6) representatives :Dickens and Thackeray

Aestheticist writers 唯美主义作家

■ Matthew Arnold (1822-88), Walter Pater (1834-94), Oscar Wilde (1856-1900), Baudelaire [Fr] (1821-67) and Edgar Allan Poe, who believed in "art for art's sake"

■ Beauty is the purpose of art; the ultimate and highest and absolute goal.

■ The purpose of art is to find in art itself or beauty of art, not in truth.

■ Art is independent of reality or life; its value lies outside social value/morality.

■ Art is above life.

■ Art is objective creation of a subjective world; a product of spiritual loneliness and isolation.

Aesthetic Movement

唯美主义运动

时期：19世纪后期，从1868年延续至1901年。

流派近似：[法国](#)的[象征主义](#)或[颓废主义](#)运动、[后浪漫主义](#)，

与艺术史上的装饰艺术革命重叠。

口号：为[艺术](#)而艺术

特征：追求建议性而非陈述性、追求感观享受、

对象征手法的大量应用，追求事物之间的关联感应

——即探求语汇、色彩和音乐之间内在的联系。

代表人物：[济慈](#)、[雪莱](#)、[戈蒂埃](#)（又译[戈蒂耶](#)）、[王尔德](#)、[比亚兹莱](#)。

波及范围：[欧洲](#)及[远东](#)

波及领域：文学、戏剧、装饰、美术。

灵魂人物：王尔德

灵魂作品：戏剧《[莎乐美](#)》

重大事件：王尔德入狱

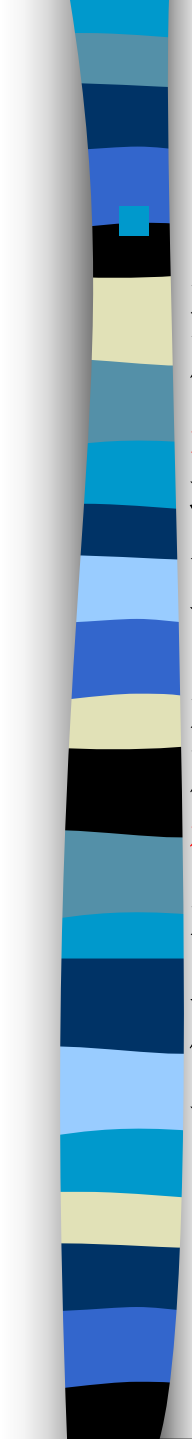


唯美主义的发展

■ 十九世纪三十年代英国的浪漫主义诗人济慈是唯美主义运动的先驱。他说：“美的东西就是永久的欢乐。”

法国作家戈蒂埃是由浪漫主义向唯美主义过渡的作家。他反对艺术的功利主义，主张纯艺术，追求形式美，提出“为艺术而艺术”的主张，戈蒂埃成了唯美主义运动的倡导者。

■ 十九世纪末的英国唯美主义运动的形成，具有两大要素：一是比德（1839-1894）的快乐主义的批评；二是莫理思（1834-1896）的生活艺术化的思想。再加上英国诗坛中拉斐尔前派的主要代表罗塞蒂（1828-1882）以及史文朋（1837-1909）等人的努力，终于形成了唯美主义运动。



唯美主义的真正代表是**奥斯卡·王尔德**（1856-1900），他是唯美主义创作的实践者，又是唯美主义理论的鼓吹者。就艺术与现实的关系上说，王尔德认为，**艺术应该超脱现实，游离人生**。“现实的事件都是艺术之敌。一切艺术的坏处都是从实感产生。自然就是明白，明白就不是艺术。”一切拙劣的艺术都是从复归自然的描写和客观地描述人生而产生的。因此，认为凡是“回到生活和自然”的艺术都是坏的，艺术越远离现实、超脱现实越妙？唯一美的事物，就是与我们无关的事物”。艺术对生活的作用而言，**王尔德认为，不是艺术再现生活，而是生活模仿艺术**。艺术不是人类社会生活的镜子，生活仅仅是艺术的学生，艺术是至高无上的。这就从根本上否定了社会的客观存在决定人们的思想意识这一唯物主义的观点，陷入了本末倒置的认识论。

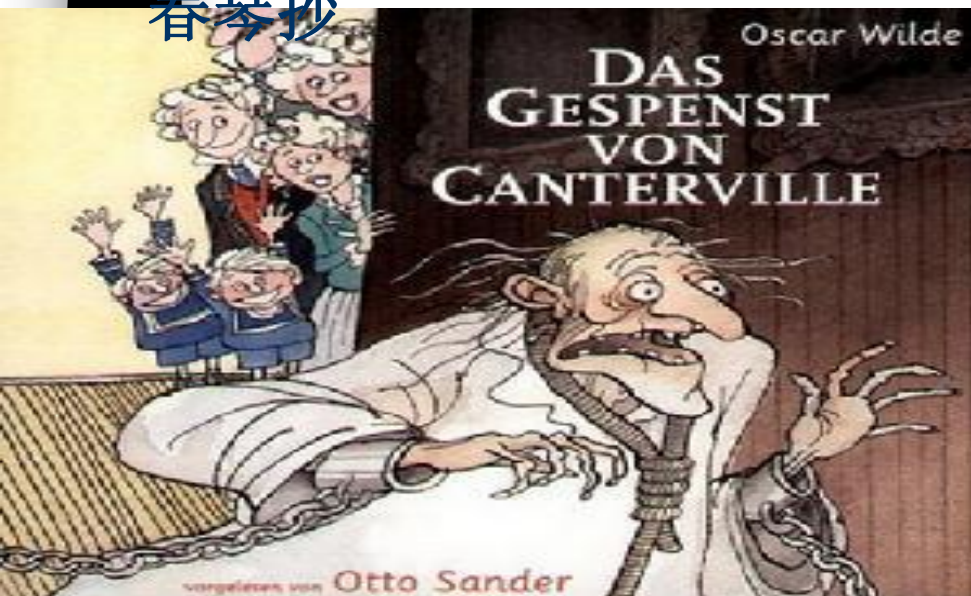


唯美主义者认为“美”才是艺术的本质，并且主张生活应该模仿艺术。

从文艺创作的目的性上说，他鼓吹“为艺术而艺术”。认为“艺术的除了表现它自身之外，不表现任何别的东西。艺术有独立的生命，正如思想有独立的生活一样”。不言而喻，王尔德散布的这些文艺思想是极其荒谬的。他颠倒了文艺与生活的关系，搞乱了人们的认识路线，企图诱导作家钻进资产阶级艺术“象牙之塔”，以挽救资产阶级必然没落的命运。小说《道林格雷的画像》是王尔德的代表作，也是唯美主义的旨在说明人生是艺术的模仿，破坏了艺术，人的生命就不存在了。



日本唯美主义代表作
春琴抄



王尔德作品特维尔的幽



Epigrams by Oscar Wilde

生活中有两个悲剧：一个是得不到想要的，另一个是得到了不想要的。

一生只爱一次的人是肤浅的，他们把那叫做忠贞不渝，我却叫做习惯性懒惰或是缺乏想象力。情感生活的忠贞不渝就如同智力生活的一成不变一样，简直是承认失败。

男人结婚是因为疲倦，女人结婚是因为好奇，结果双方大失所望。

男人经常希望是女人的初恋对象，女人则希望成为男人最后的罗曼史。

女人的一生是沿着情感的曲线旋转，而男人的一生是沿着理智的直线前进的。

腐尸

——波德莱尔《恶之花》

- 爱人，想想我们曾经见过的东西，
 - 在凉夏的美丽的早晨：
 - 在小路拐弯处，一具丑恶的腐尸
 - 在铺石子的床上横陈，
 - ...
 - 太阳照射着这具腐败的尸身，
 - 好像要把它烧得熟烂，
 - 要把自然结合在一起的养分
 - 百倍归还伟大的自然。
-
- 天空对着这壮丽的尸体凝望，
 - 好像一朵开放的花苞，
 - 臭气是那样强烈，你在草地之上
 - 好像被熏得快要昏倒。



苍蝇嗡嗡地聚在腐败的肚子上，
黑压压的一大群蛆虫
从肚子里钻出来，沿着臭皮囊，
像粘稠的脓一样流动。

这些像潮水般汹涌起伏的蛆子

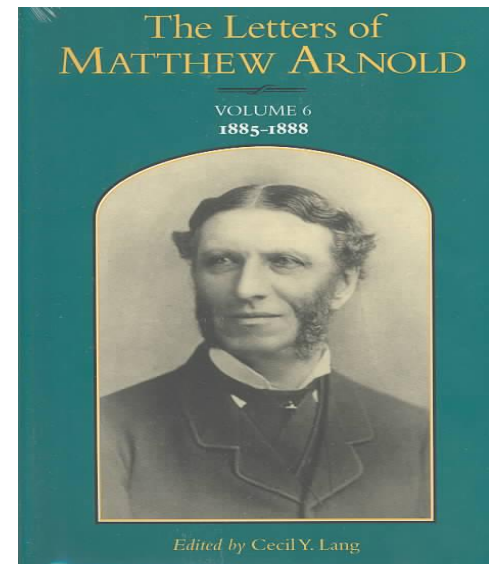
你、我的激情，我的天使！
是的！优美之女王，你也难以避免，
在领过临终圣事之后，
当你前去那野草繁花之下长眠，
在白骨之间归于腐朽。

那时，我的美人，请你告诉它们，
那些吻你吃你的蛆子，
旧爱虽已分解，
可是，我已保存
爱的形姿和爱的神髓！



Poetry

- Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892): poet laureate and the representative or spokesperson of the age
 - *In Memoriam* 悼念
 - “Ulysses” 尤利西斯
 - *Idylls of the King* 国王田园诗
 - *Break, Break, Break* “碎了,碎了,碎了”.
- Matthew Arnold (1822-1888)
 - “Dover Beach” 多佛海滩



■ Robert Browning (1812-1889): the most innovative poet of the age "dramatic monologue"

- "My Last Duchess"
- Dramatic Lyrics 戏剧抒情诗
- Dramatic Romances and Lyrics 戏剧故事及抒情诗
- Men and Women 男男女女
- Dramatic Personae 登场人物
- The Ring and the Book 环与书

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806~1861)

Sonnets from the Portuguese 葡萄牙十四行

The Cry of the Children 孩子们的哭声



Dramatic Monologue

By dramatic monologue, it is meant that a poet chooses a dramatic moment or a crisis, in which his characters are made to talk about their lives, & about their minds & hearts. In "listening" to those one-sided talks, readers can form their own opinions & judgments about the speaker's personality & about what has really happened. Robert Browning brought this poetic form to its maturity & perfection & his "My Last Duchess" is one of the best-known dramatic monologues.

Drama & Prose

Oscar Wilde

- *The Importance of Being Earnest*
- *Salomé*

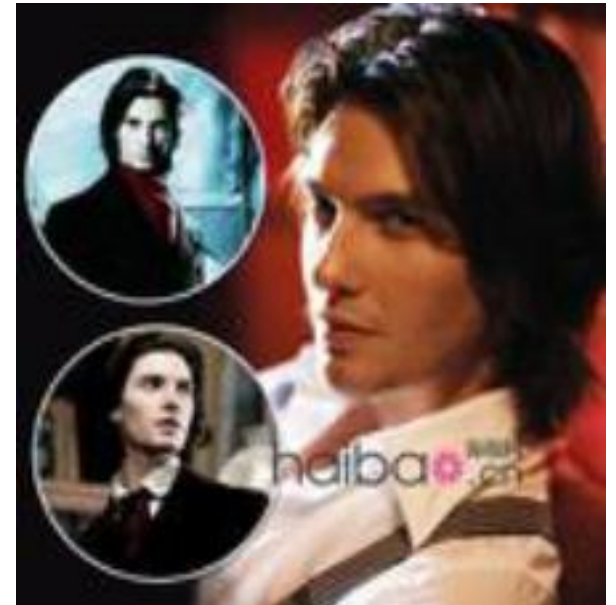


John Ruskin

e.g. *Modern Painters*

Matthew Arnold

e.g. *Culture and Anarchy*





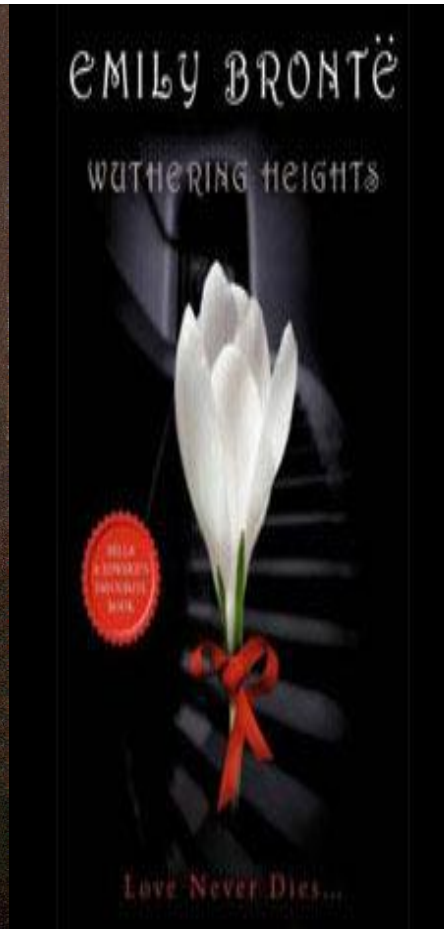
The Bronte Sisters

- Bronte sisters refer to *Charlotte Bronte*, the author of *Jane Eyre*; *Emily Bronte*, the author of *Wuthering Heights*; and their younger sister, *Anne Bronte* who has written *Agnes Grey*. They came from a poor clergyman's family and received little school education, but they became famous through hard work. A short life as they had, they produced some greatest works in English literary history.

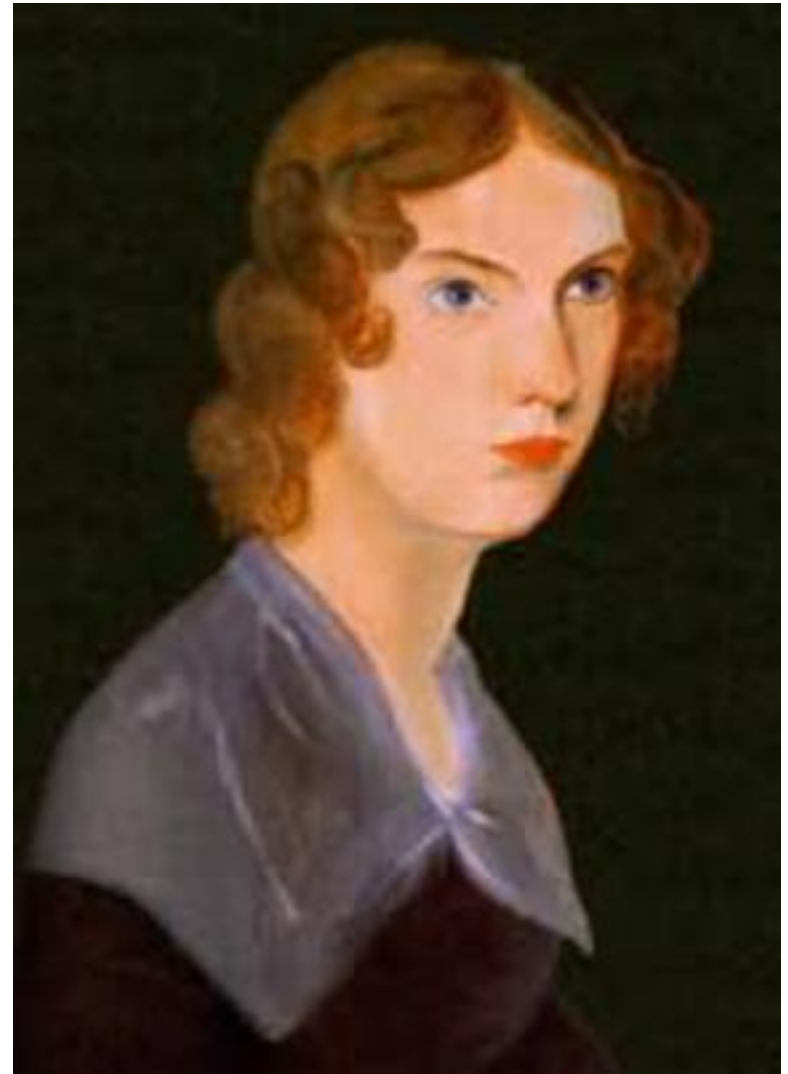
Charlotte Bronte (1816-1855)



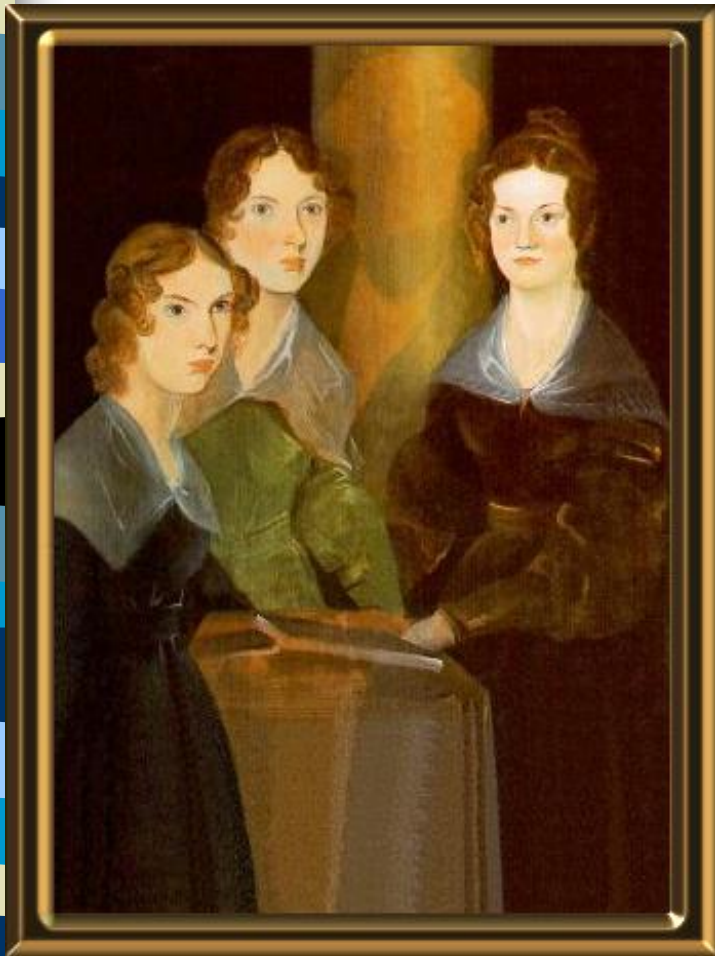
Emily Brontë (1818-1848)



Anne Bronte (1820-1849)



The Bronte Sisters



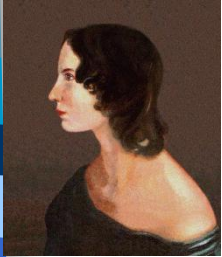
- Charlotte had four sisters and one brother.
- After their mother's death, Brontë and her sisters were sent to the Clergy Daughters' School.
 - The food was bad
 - Discipline was harsh
 - Disease was rampant (盛行)
- Brontë's two older sisters (Maria & Elizabeth) died of tuberculosis.



All in the Family



Charlotte Brontë



Emily Brontë



Anne Brontë



Branwell Brontë

- Charlotte's sisters Anne and Emily Brontë both became successful writers.
- In 1846, Charlotte & her sisters started publishing poems and began writing novels:
 - The Professor was Charlotte's attempt to fictionalize her love for a college professor she had met at Brussels.
 - In 1847 Wuthering Heights was sister Emily's first success. Charlotte followed with Jane Eyre.
 - Charlotte's brother, Branwell, was a gifted painter.

All 3 Bronte Sisters...

- Used a masculine (男性) pen name because women writers were not taken seriously at that time in Victorian England.
- Charlotte used the name Currer Bell.



Charlotte's Religious Views

- Father, Patrick Bronte, was an Anglican clergyman (英国国教徒)
- Due to her upbringing, she often wrote about **religious hypocrisy**—those who preach one doctrine but live by another



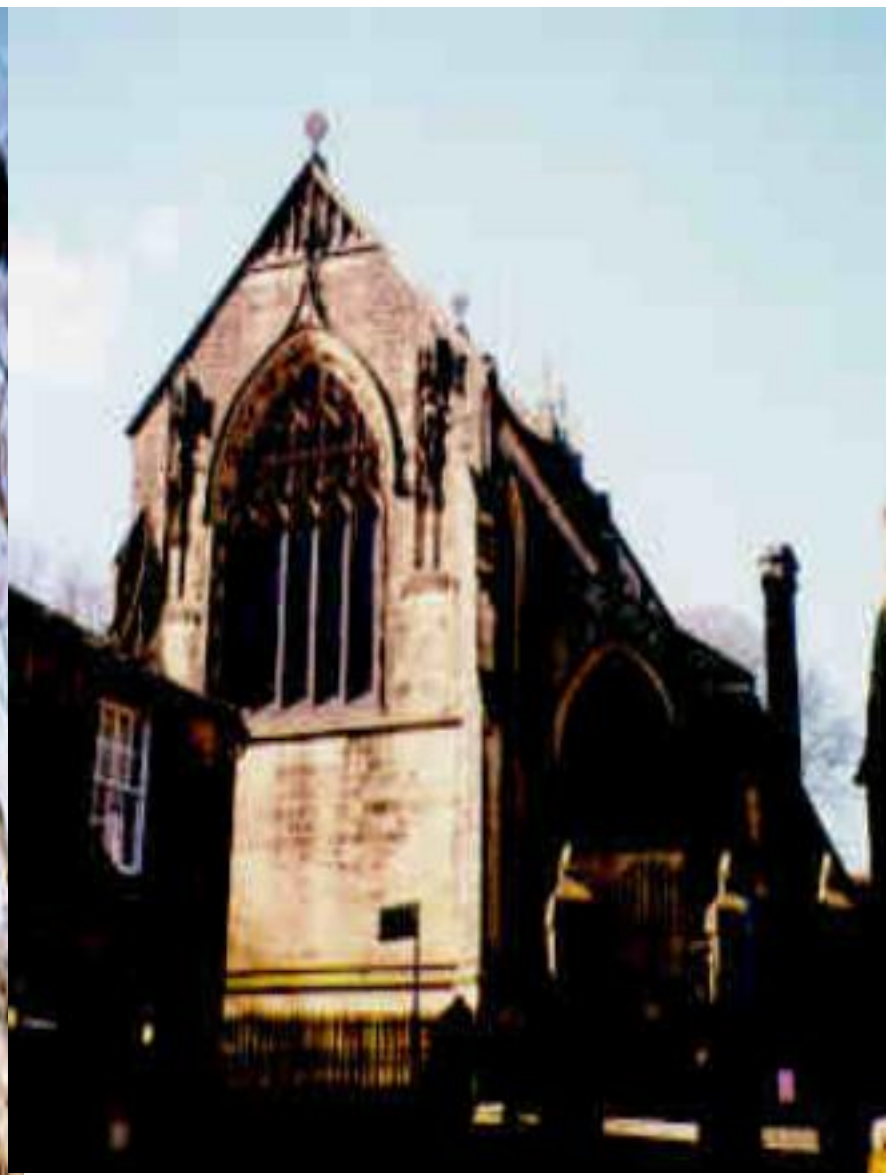
Marriage



- In 1854 Charlotte married her father's curate (助理牧师), Arthur Bell Nichols.
- The next year, she became pregnant, then ill.
- She died a month before her 39th birthday.



the Brontë Museum

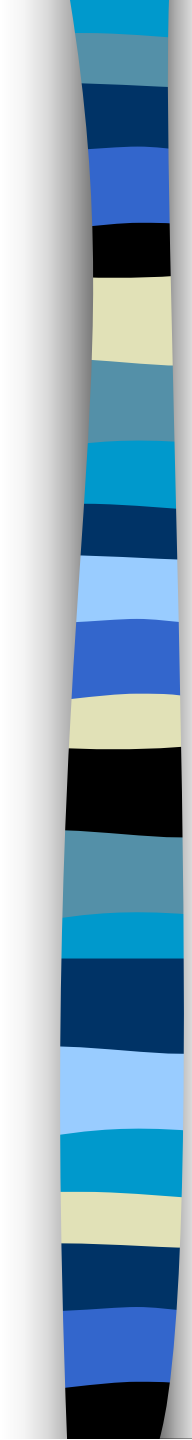


the tomb of Charlotte and Emily



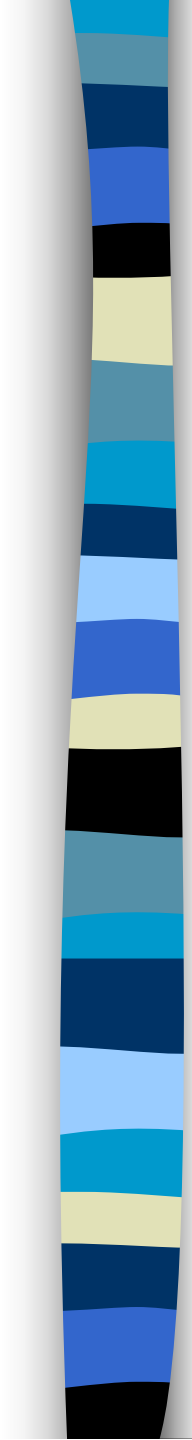
Their Lives & Literary Career

- Charlotte Bronte (1816-1855), Emily Bronte (1818-1848), & their gifted sister Anne Bronte (1820-1849), came from a large family of Irish origin. Their father was a clergyman at Haworth, Yorkshire. When they were young, the Bronte sisters were sent to a school for clergymen's daughters. The oldest two died there due to the poor & unhealthy conditions. This experience inspired the later portrayal of Lowood School in the novel *Jane Eyre* (1847). After the death of the elder sisters, Charlotte & Emily were brought home to be educated by their father.



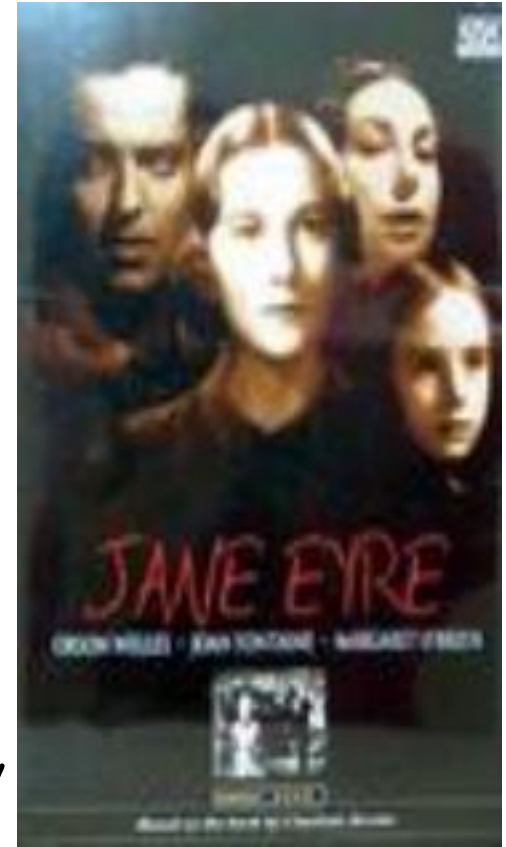
For some time, they worked in a boarding school & were subsequently governesses in rich families. Charlotte & her two younger sisters had a great fondness for literature. In 1845 appeared a volume of poetry entitled *Poems by Carrer, Ellis & Acton Bell* (the pseudonyms of Charlotte, Emily & Anne), but received little attention. Then the three sisters turned to novel writing.

Charlotte's first novel *The Professor* was rejected by the publisher. But her second one, *Jane Eyre*, won immediate success when it appeared in 1847.



In the same year, Emily's single & unique work *Wuthering Heights* & Anne's *Agnes Grey* were also published. Soon they were followed by Anne's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848). After the death of Emily & Anne, Charlotte continued writing. Her next important novel *Shirley*, a work about the industrial troubles between the mill-owners & machine-breakers in Yorkshire in 1811-1812 came out in 1849. Another novel *Villette* appeared in 1853. This is her most autobiographical work, largely based on her experience in Brussels. In 1854, Charlotte married her father's curate. She died a few months later in pregnancy. *The Professor*, her first written work, was published posthumously in 1857.

- *Jane Eyre* is Charlotte Brontë's best literary production.
- In the writing of it, Charlotte Brontë drew a great deal from her own life experience.
- One of the central themes of the book is the criticism of the bourgeois system of education. The Lowood school is the embodiment of the bourgeois principles of education, the aim of which is to bring up obedient slaves for the rich.



THE NOVEL



Jane Eyre was published in London in 1847.

Jane Eyre (1944)



导演: Robert Stevenson

主演: 奥逊·威尔斯 Orson Welles

琼·芳登 Joan Fontaine

玛格丽特·奥布赖恩

Margaret O'Brien ...

国家/地区: 美国

对白语言: 英语

发行公司: Fox Video ...

上映日期: 1944年2月3日 美国 ...

更多中文片名: 简爱

类型: 爱情/剧情

片长: 97 min



Joan Fontaine



Orson Welles

Jane Eyre (1970)



导演：德尔伯特·曼 Delbert Mann

主演：乔治 C·斯科特 George C.

Scott

Susannah York

Ian Bannen ...

国家/地区：英国/美国

对白语言：英语

发行公司：British Lion Films

Ltd. ...

上映日期：1970年12月 英国 ...

类型：剧情

片长：110 min

中文版配音演员：邱岳峰、李梓等



George C. Scott

Jane Eyre (1996)



导演：佛朗哥·泽菲雷里 Franco Zeffirelli

编剧：夏洛蒂-勃朗特 CHARLOTTE BRONTE-
NOVEL

HUGE WHITEMORE---SCREENPLAY AND...

佛朗哥-泽菲雷里 FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI---
SCREENPLAY

主演：

ANNA PAQUIN----Young JANE EYRE

CHARLOTTE GAINSBURG----Jane Eyre

WILLIAM HURT----Rochester

国家/地区：法国/意大利/英国

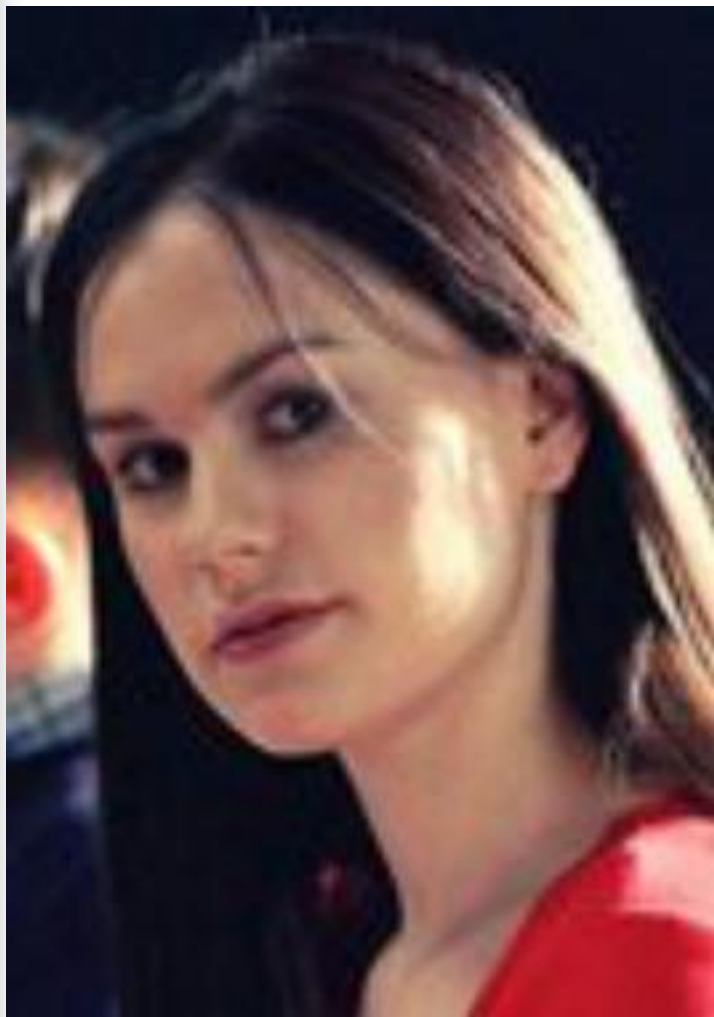
对白语言：英语/法语

发行公司：Aquarius TV ...

上映日期：1996年2月9日 西班牙 ...

类型：爱情/剧情

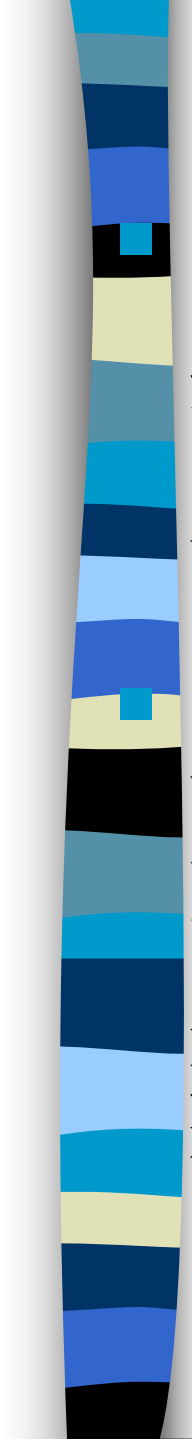
片长：116 min



Anna Paquin



Charlotte Gainsbourg



所有热爱电影的人，都忘不了这部优美的《简爱》，更忘不了为罗彻斯特配音的邱岳峰，他那一声绝望的“简——”，无数年后似乎依然萦绕在我们胸际。他把那位脾气古怪的英国绅士既富有教养又盛气凌人、表面粗暴地对待简爱、内心又把她视为知己的复杂感情配得丝丝入扣。

有多少人曾经一遍又一遍地听《简爱》的结尾邱岳峰和李梓的对白：“有人吗？谁在那儿？”。很简单，真的很简单。“是你，简。”一个短促的气口，一个小小的停顿，一次语调的微微的提升，无不近乎完美。“真的是你！”平淡和克制中有多少的真情！这差不多快接近人类声音的魅力的极限了。手中还只有录音剪辑的人真的有福了。

Discussion Topics

Why *Jane Eyre* is favored by so many readers? What strikes you most?

What's your idea of "governess" in Victorian age?

What is the function of Bertha Mason?

Do you feel satisfied with the end of this story? Is it wise for Jane Eyre to make such a choice?



Role of the Governess

- With the new stress on female education, governesses were in demand.

Pay was poor, but it was one of the only jobs available to educated, yet impoverished young women.

- Employers & other servants often shunned the governess because they felt they were "putting on airs."

- Their employers would often ignore them, too, because they had a superior education, which intimidated many people - especially men.



Key Facts

Time: The setting is early 19th Century England.

Point of view: All events are told in the past from Jane's point of view. (the first person point of view and the third person omniscient point of view)
第一人称与第三人称全知视角

Feature: *Jane Eyre* is classified as both a Gothic and a Romantic novel.



Jane Eyre

- Orphaned as a child
- Becomes governess at Thornfield
- A feisty (易怒的) young child, who grows into a strong woman.
- Embodies the English working-class woman.



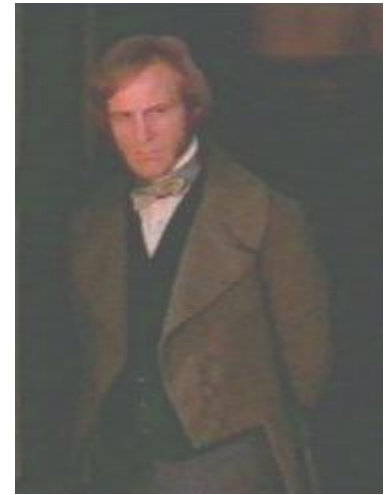
Jane Eyre

- a. The heroine is small, plain & poor
- b. The heroine is the first female character to claim the right to feel strongly about her emotions and act on her convictions
- c. This romantic ground had previously been reserved for males
- d. Such a psychologically complex heroine had never been created before

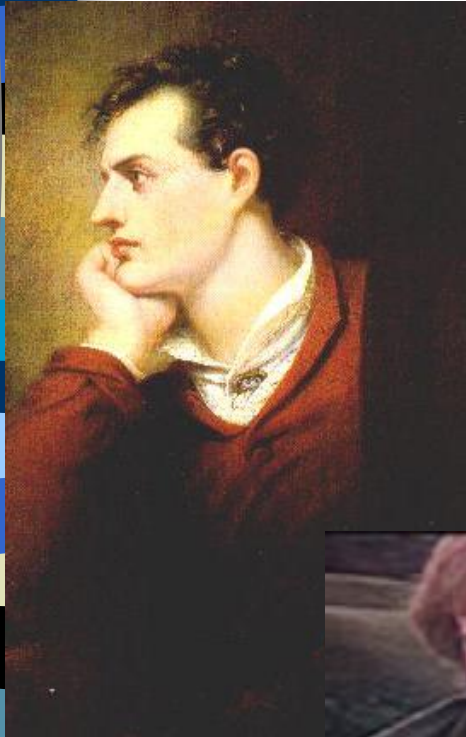


Edward Rochester

- Jane's boss at Thornfield
- Gruff and rude
- Made wealthy by family money
- Benefactor (捐助者) to Adèle Varens
- Very secretive and sometimes deceitful



Byronic Hero



- This term is created by the famous poet George Gordon, Lord Byron.
- Characteristics are...
 - Proud
 - Gloomy
 - Mysterious
 - Passionate
- *Mr. Rochester is an example of this type

Reed Family

- Jane's family on her father's side
- Mrs. Reed is Jane's cruel aunt who sends Jane to Lowood; she locks Jane in the "Red Room" for punishment
- John, Eliza, and Georgiana are Jane's spoiled cousins; they are rude and selfish; they either torment Jane or ignore her



Rivers Family

- Jane's caretakers when she leaves Thornfield - are her cousins on her mother's side.
- St. John - Minister at Morton, tries to get Jane to be his missionary wife
- Diana and Mary - kind and independent women, serve as role models for Jane (we only see one of the sisters [Mary] in the movie)



St. John
Rivers

Bertha Mason



- Bertha is locked in the attic at Thornfield
- Starts the bedroom fire, and eventually burns the house down
- Kills herself in the house fire
- Exotic, sensual personification of the Orient

Mrs. Fairfax



- Housekeeper at Thornfield
- Serves as a **mother figure/role** model for Jane
- Tells Jane about secrets of Thornfield and the Rochesters.



Thornfield Manor

Other Characters

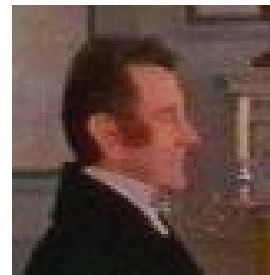
■ Helen Burns - Jane's friend at Lowood, teaches her character, dies in Jane's arms

■ Mr. Brocklehurst - cruel and dishonest master of Lowood School

Miss Temple - Jane's favorite teacher, positive female role model/mother figure



Helen



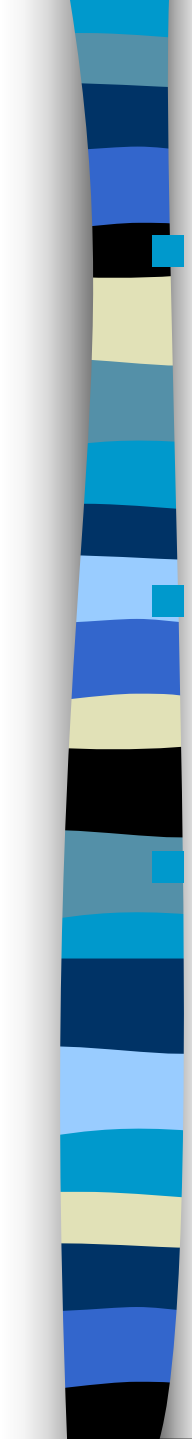
Mr.
Brocklehurst



Miss Temple

Plot Summary

- *Jane Eyre* is a first-person narrative of the title character. The novel goes through five distinct stages:
- A. Jane's childhood at Gateshead, where she is emotionally and physically abused by her aunt and cousins; (chapter 1-4)
- B. her education at Lowood School, where she acquires friends and role models but also suffers privations; (chapter 5-10)
- C. her time as the governess of Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with her Byronic employer, Edward Rochester; (chapter 11-26)



■ D. her time with the Rivers family at Marsh's End (or Moor House) and Morton, where her cold clergyman-cousin St John Rivers proposes to her;(27-35)

■ E. and her reunion with and marriage to her beloved Rochester. Partly autobiographical, the novel abounds with social criticism.(36-45)

■ It is a novel considered ahead of its time. In spite of the dark, brooding elements, it has a strong sense of right and wrong, of morality at its core.

Charlotte's Gothic Influence

Jane Eyre displays
some characteristics
of the **gothic novel**:

- Imprisoned women
- Red room
- Supernatural interventions at crucial moments in the plot
- A romantic reconciliation



Gothic things: Red Room

The room at Gateshead where Uncle Reed died, and where Jane was locked up to be punished.

This punishment haunted Jane for the rest of her life.

Memories of the night in the Red Room occur when Jane is at a crossroads in her life.



Jane Eyre's Romantic Heritage

■ The Romantic Movement

- Came into play in at the end of the 18th Century.
- Championed for the rights of the individual over the demands of society.
- Believed that humans were inherently good
- Valued imagination over reason
- Inspired by nature



Ill treatment by Mrs Reed's family Members

- "You have no business to take our books; you are a dependent, mama says; you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not to live here with gentlemen's children like us, and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes at our mama's expense. Now, I'll teach you to rummage my bookshelves: for they ARE mine; all the house belongs to me, or will do in a few years. Go and stand by the door, out of the way of the mirror and the windows. "

In Lowood School—the charity school

Ravenous, and now very faint, I devoured a spoonful or two of my portion without thinking of its taste; but the first edge of hunger blunted, I perceived I had got in hand a nauseous mess; burnt porridge is almost as bad as rotten potatoes; famine itself soon sickens over it. The spoons were moved slowly: I saw each girl taste her food and try to swallow it; but in most cases the effort was soon relinquished. Breakfast was over, and none had breakfasted. Thanks being returned for what we had not got, and a second hymn chanted, the refectory was evacuated for the schoolroom. I was one of the last to go out, and in passing the tables, I saw one teacher take a basin of the porridge and taste it; she looked at the others; all their countenances expressed displeasure,

Love and Dignity (the most classical melody...)

Jane: Why do you confide in me like this? What are you and she to me? **You think that because I'm poor and plain, I have no feelings? I promise you, if God had gifted me with wealth and beauty, I would make it as hard for you to leave me now as it is for me to leave you.** But He did not. But my spirit can address yours, as if both have passed through the grave and stood before heaven equal. Let me go, sir.

Rochester: I love you. I love you!

Jane: No, don't make me foolish.

Rochester: Foolish? I need you. What's Blanch to me? I know what I am to her, money to manure her father's land with. Marry me, Jane, say you marry me.

Jane: You mean it?

Rochester: You torture me with your doubts. Say yes, say yes. God forgive me. And let no men meddle with me. She is mine, mine.

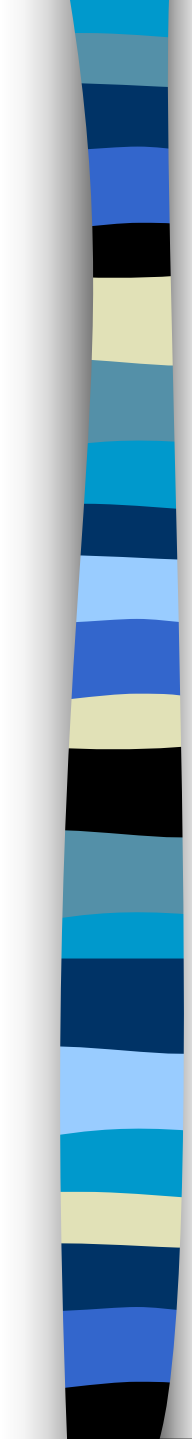
经典台词赏析

1. Do you think I can stay to become nothing to you? Do you think I am an automaton? --a machine without feelings? and can bear to have my morsel of bread snatched from my lips, and my drop of living water dashed from my cup? Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong!--I have as much soul as you, --and full as much heart! And if God had gifted me with some beauty and much wealth, I should have made it as hard for you to leave me, as it is now for me to leave you. I am not talking to you now through the medium of custom, conventionalities, nor even of mortal flesh; --it is my spirit that addresses your spirit; just as if both had passed through the grave, and we stood at God's feet, equal, --as we are!"

“你以为我可以留下来成为你觉得无足轻重的人吗?你以为我是一台机器吗?——一台没有感情的机器?可以忍受别人把我口中可怜的一点面包夺走,把我杯中可怜的一点活命之水泼掉吗?你以为,因为我贫穷、卑微、矮小而且不漂亮,我就没有灵魂没有心吗?——你想错了!我的灵魂和你一样,我的心也完全一样!如果上帝赐予我一点美貌和很多财富,我也能让你对我难分难舍,就像现在我难以离开你一样。我现在不是通过凡人的肉体在和你交谈——是我的精神在对你的精神说话,就好像我们俩都穿越了坟墓,一起站到了上帝的脚下:在上帝的脚下我们是平等的——我们本来就是平等的!”

From chapter 45

- I have now been married ten years. I know what it is to live entirely for and with what I love best on earth. I hold myself supremely blest -- blest beyond what language can express; because I am my husband's life as fully as he is mine. No woman was ever nearer to her mate than I am: ever more absolutely **bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh**. I know no weariness of my Edward's society: he knows none of mine, any more than we each do of the pulsation of the heart that beats in our separate bosoms; consequently, we are ever together.

- 
- To be together is for us to be at once as free as in solitude, as gay as in company. We talk, I believe, all day long: to talk to each other is but a more animated and an audible thinking. All my confidence is bestowed on him, all his confidence is devoted to me; we are precisely suited in character - - perfect concord is the result.



Love



Jane is constantly in search for love.
She searches for **romantic love** in Rochester,
motherly love through Miss Temple and Mrs.
Fairfax, and **friendship** through the Rivers
siblings, Helen Burns, and Rochester.
Jane's search for love might stem from the
scorn she felt as a child

Social Class



Jane often feels inadequate compared to many of the other main characters in the novel. Jane feels that her love for Rochester is wrong because she isn't from the same class. Class segregates Jane from her cousins on both sides, although it is more obvious on the Reed side. Blanche Ingram is the class opposite of Jane.

Religion



- a. Religion plays a huge role in this novel.
- b. Helen Burns taught Jane a view of faith and God that she could understand.
- c. Mr. Brocklehurst's Evangelical view had negative effects on Jane, as did St. John River's Empirical view.
- d. Even the once cruel Eliza Reed joins a French convent.

Mother Figures 母性的原型

In her search for love, Jane also looks for the mother figure that she missed as a child.

Jane finds the characteristics she is looking for in:

- ⑩ Miss Temple
- ⑩ Mrs. Fairfax
- ⑩ Rivers sisters



Subversion to the traditional patterns 对传统模式的颠覆

- Subversion to the image of angel
- Subversion to the image of Eve (female seduces male)
- Subversion to Cinderella
(灰姑娘)





Theme and Significance

- Theme

to attack the hypocritical bourgeois system
Love should be based on equal right and
dignity

- Significance

this is a how-to-do book for women's self-
reliance, self-esteem and self-respect.

Analysis of *Jane Eyre*

- 1. *Jane Eyre* is noted for its sharp criticism of the existing society. For example, the religious hypocrisy of charity institutions of Lowood School and the false convention concerning love and marriage.
- 2. The novel is an intense moral fable. The hero and the heroine have to go through a series of physical and moral tests to grow up and achieve happiness. In Chinese literature, *Journey to the West* is a shining example of moral fable.
- 3. The novel brings forth a completely new woman image who comes from the lower social status and struggles for an independent love.

Conclusion

- 1. The theme :

Charlotte's works are all about the struggle of an individual consciousness towards self-realization , about some lonely and neglected young women with a fierce longing for love , understanding and a full , happy life . All her heroines' highest joy comes from some sacrifice of self or some human weakness overcome.

- 2. The thoughts :

Charlotte would usually stick to the Puritanical code . In her mind , man's life is composed of perpetual battle between sin and virtue .



■ 3. The artistic features :

She is a writer of realism combined with romanticism . On the one hand, she presents a vivid realistic picture of the English society by exposing the cruelty, hypocrisy & other evils of the upper classes & by showing the misery & suffering of the poor. Her works are famous for the depiction of the life of the middle-class working women, particularly governesses. On the other hand, her writings are marked throughout by intensity of vision and passion. By writing from an individual point of view, by creating characters who are possessed of strong feelings, fiery passions & some extraordinary personalities, by using some elements of horror, mystery & prophesy, she is able to recreate life in a very romantic way.

Discussion

- What's your view of love?
- Which is more important in love, to give or to receive?

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思政启发

- 有尊严的爱情观
- 健全人格



勃郎宁和伊丽莎白的爱情



- 伊丽莎白·巴雷特15岁时，从马上摔下摔坏了脊椎，卧床不起。伊丽莎白饱含激情的诗作，叩动了她表兄的朋友、年轻诗人勃郎宁的心扉，他给伊丽莎白写了一封热情洋溢的信，从此两人建立了亲密的友谊。1848年，伊丽莎白29岁，比他小6岁的勃郎宁慎重的向她提出了结婚的请求，却遭到她的拒绝。
- 在伊丽莎白看来，这不过是勃郎宁一时狂热，至多是出于对她的同情和怜悯！然而伊丽莎白错怪了他。勃郎宁愿把自己真实的爱情献给志同道合的人，因此，尽管遭到了拒绝，他仍然用行动继续表白自己的心迹。后来，伊丽莎白终于看清勃郎宁的为人，到他第三次求婚是，她欣然打开了心灵大门。
- 这种经过时间考验的爱情，不仅给伊丽莎白巨大的力量，是她通过锻炼，竟然奇迹般的摆脱了20多年须臾不离的病床，能够徒步下地行走，而且也如源源不绝的喷泉，赋予她的诗作新的生命。

Jane Austen (1775-1817)



Three or four families in a country village is something to work.

—Jane Austen



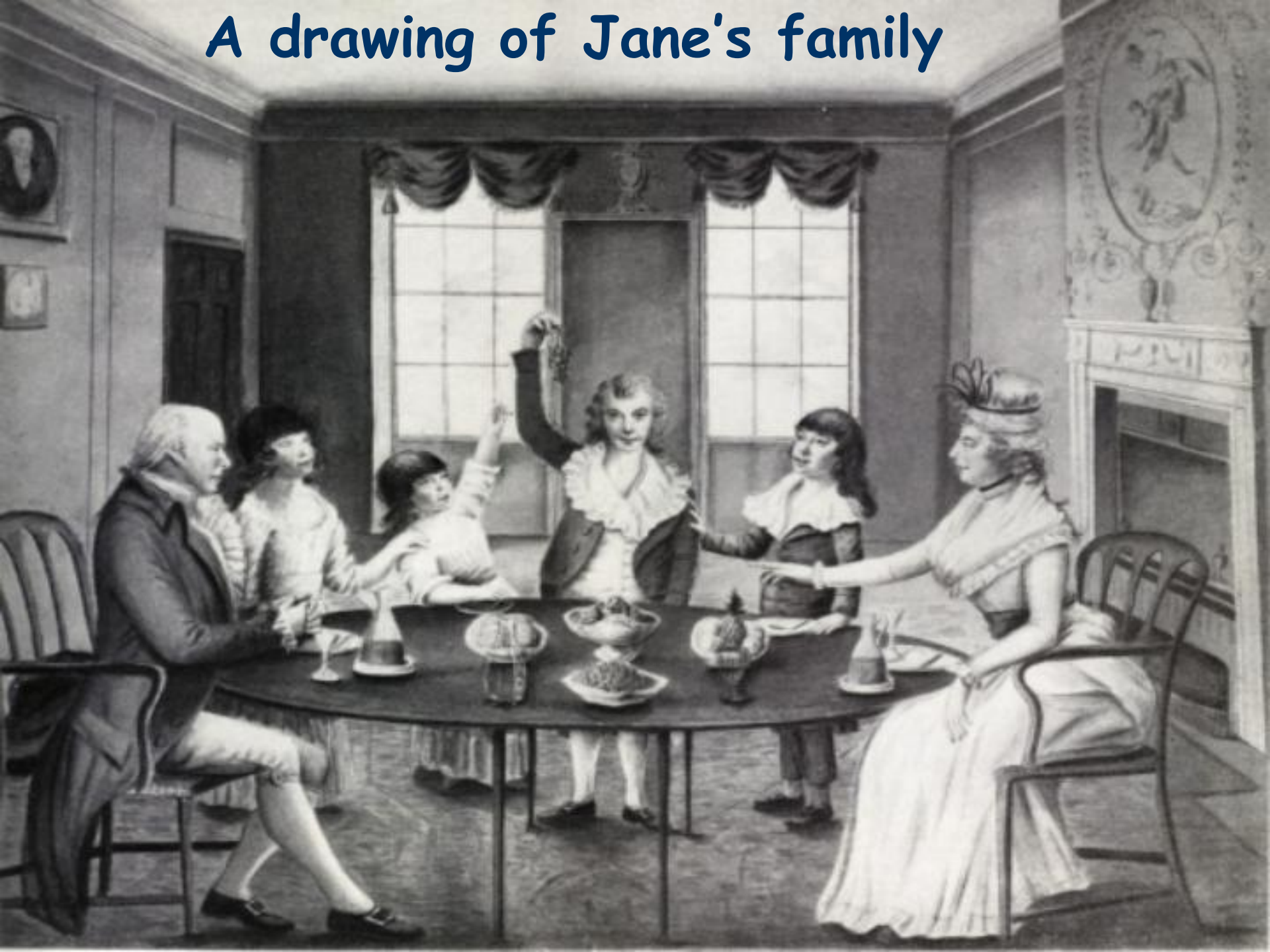
Teaching Focus

- I. Jane Austen's Life Story
- II. Jane Austen's Major Works
- III. Jane Austen's Major Topics
- IV. Jane Austen's Writing Features
- V. Appreciation of *Pride and Prejudice*
- VI. Researches on *Pride and Prejudice*

Jane Austen's House at Chawton (1809)



A drawing of Jane's family

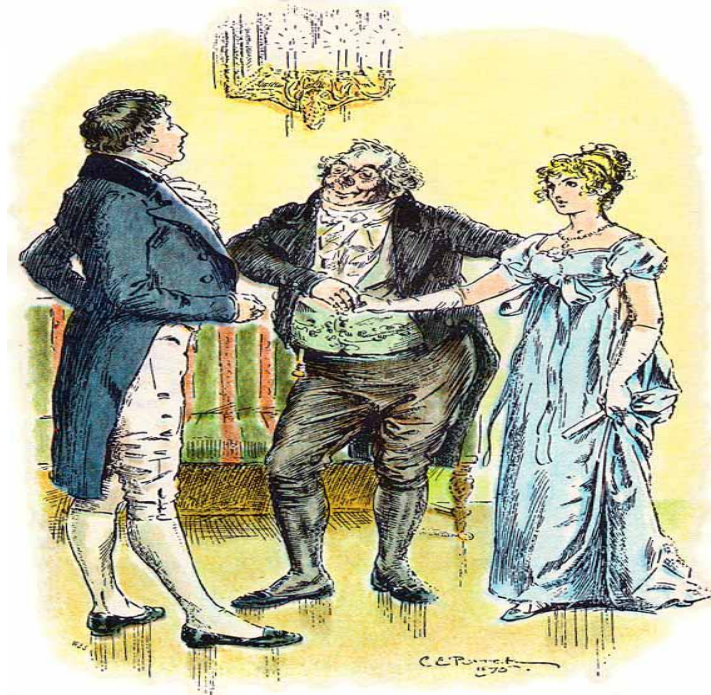
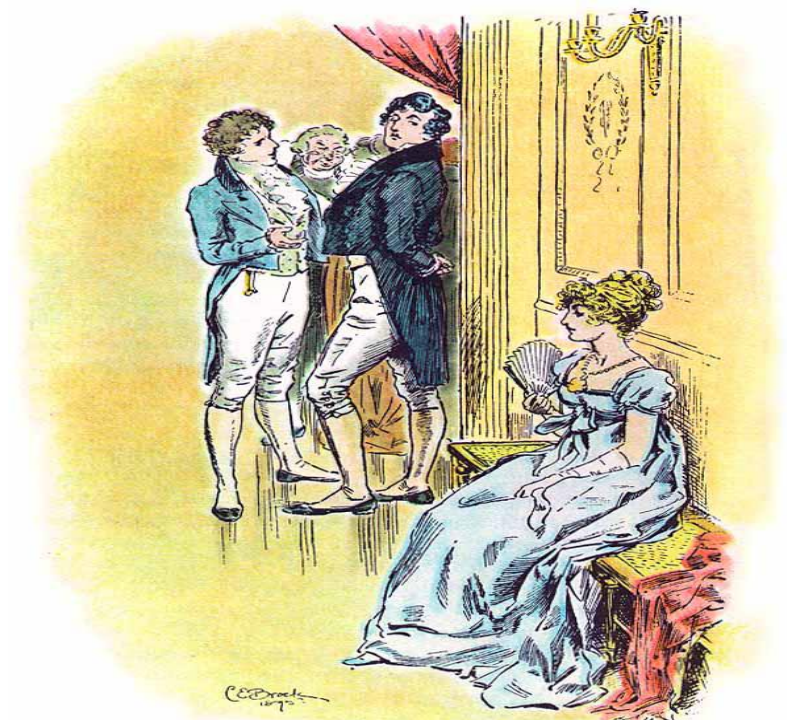




This is a photograph of a coat worn by Jane Austen.

It gives an idea of the type of clothes worn by young ladies of the time.

Social Customs



Mr. Darcy, you must allow me to present this young lady to you as a very desirable partner.



Jane Austen
was buried in
Winchester
Cathedral

Jane Austen Centre in London



possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be

on his first entering a neighborhood, this truth is well fixed in the

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF

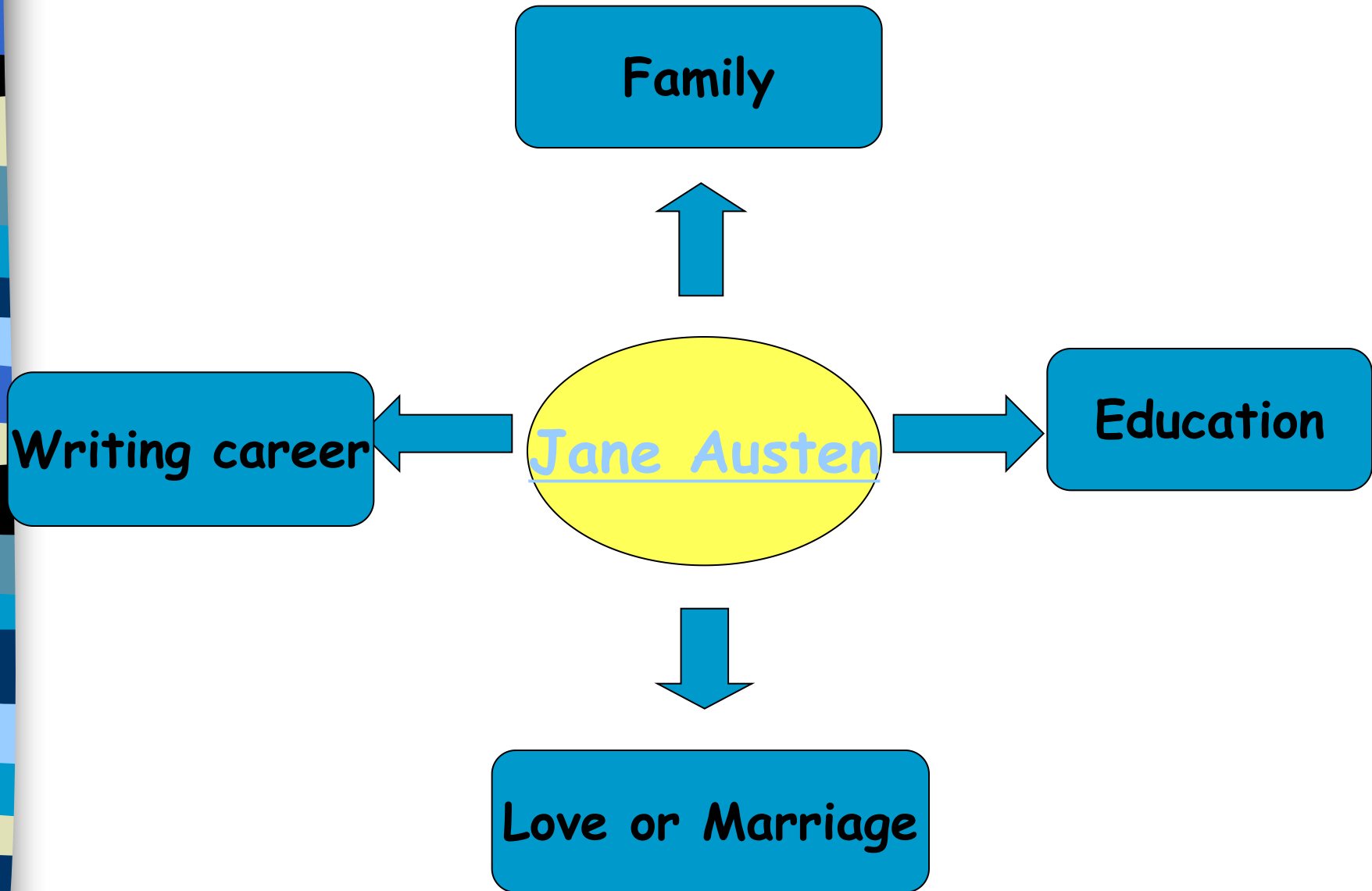
Jane Austen

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mind of the same set of people, that he is considered as the best

party of some one or other of their daughters.

"My dear Mr. Bennet," said his dear lady to him one day, "have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?"

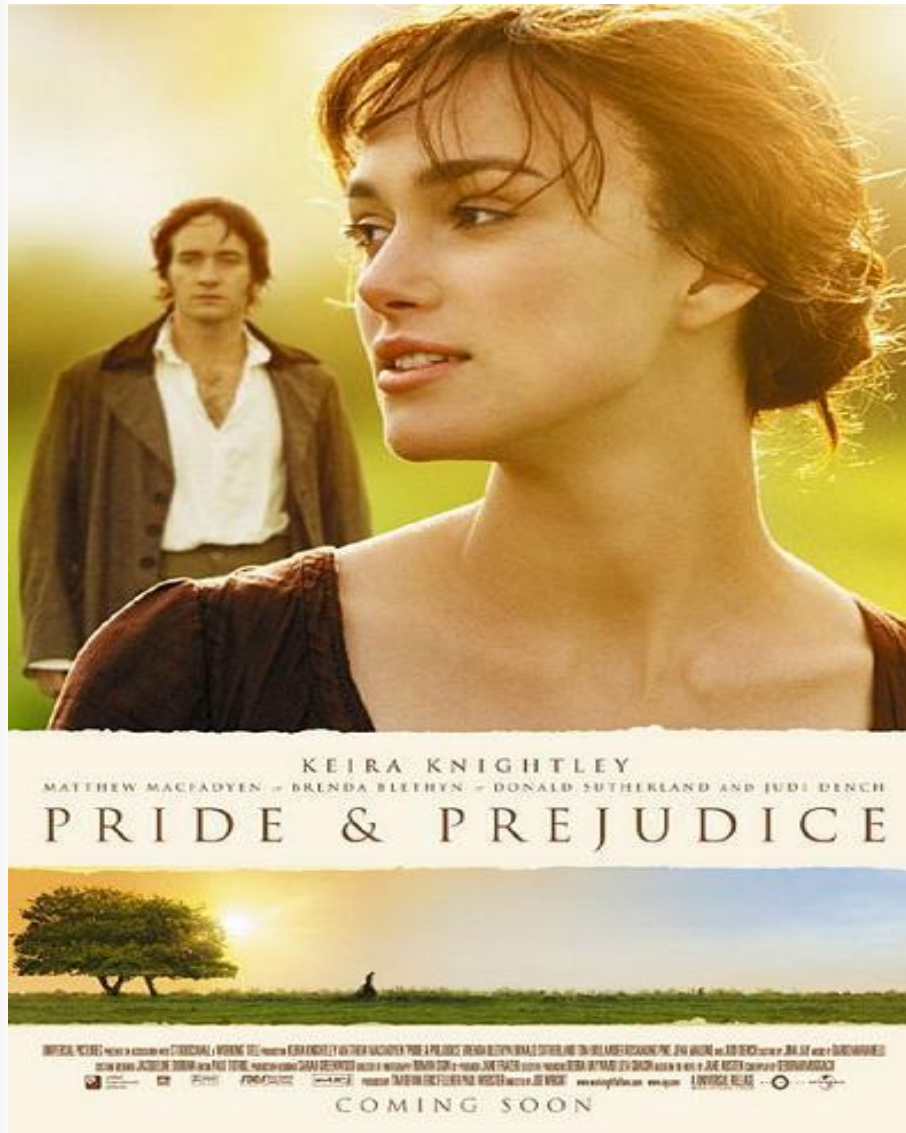




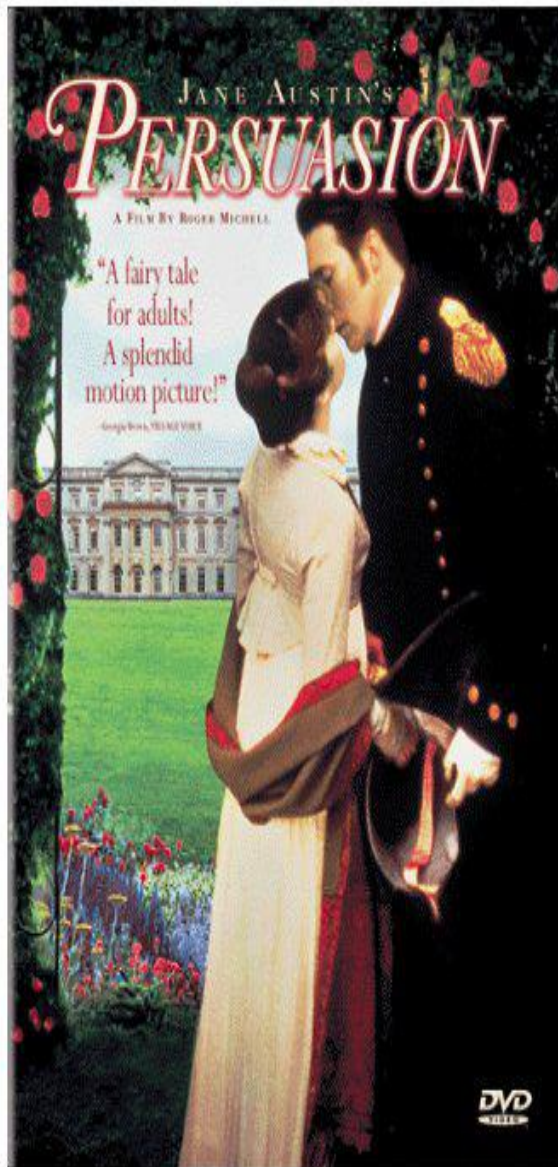
I. Jane Austen's Life Story

- **Family background:** She was born in a country clergyman's family and was brought up in an intelligent but restricted environment.
- **Education:** Through a wide reading of books available in her father's library, Jane acquired a thorough knowledge of 18th century literature.
- **Life:** she lived a quiet, retired and uneventful life. And her closest companion was her elder sister, who likes her, never married.
- **Writing:** she began as a child to write novels for family entertainment. Her works were published anonymously due to the prejudice against women writers then.

II. Jane Austen's Major Works



- *Sense and Sensibility* (1811)
(tells a story about two sisters and their love affairs)
- *Mansfield Park* (1813)
(Solemn and moralistic novel. A classic story of adultery)
- *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)
(deals with the five Bennet sisters and their research for suitable husbands)



- *Emma* (1815)
(Gives the thought over self-deceptive vanity)
- *Northanger Abbey* (1818)
(satirizes those popular Gothic romances of the alte 18th century)
- *Persuasion* (1818)
(contrasts the true love with the prudential calculations)



III. Austen's Major Topics

- 3.1 As a novelist Jane Austen writes within a very narrow sphere.
- The subject matters are restricted to the provincial life of the 18th century England. She depicted minor landed gentry, country clergymen and their families, in which marriage mainly determined women's social status. (some family things, dancing parties, tea parties, picnics and gossips).

- 3.2 Her main concern is about human beings in their personal relations, human beings with their families and neighbors.

It is her conviction that a man's relation to his wife and children is as important as his relations to his belief and career, and reveals him fundamentally.

Austen shows a human being not at moments of crisis, but in the most trivial incidents of everyday life.



- 3.3 Austen is particularly preoccupied with the relationship between men and women in love.
- Stories of love and marriage provide the major themes in all her novels. (marry for material wealth and social position; marry for beauty and passion; marry for true love)





IV. Austen's Writing Features

- Cool authorial attitude (tend to be neo-classical writers)
- Controlled and restrained imagination and passion
- Scenes from everyday life, vividly portrayed characters.
(with a close study of the characters and setting, she can portray them with absolute accuracy and sureness)
- Simple, witty, delightful, realistic language and conversing dialogues.
- All her works are penetrated with tone of satire.



Jane Austen's Quotes

- A lady's imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony in a moment.
- A large income is the best recipe for happiness I ever heard of.
- An engaged woman is always more agreeable than a disengaged. She is satisfied with herself. Her cares are over, and she feels that she may exert all her powers of pleasing without suspicion. All is safe with a lady engaged; no harm can be done."

Discussion

- *Pride and Prejudice* is also named "the first impression", do you think that the first impression is very important for sb to know others?
- Must a single man in possession of a good fortune, be in want of a wife? What is the relationship between money and marriage?
- What are your opinions on love and marriage?
- Do you think that there still exists inequality and prejudice for women's marriage?



V. Appreciation of *Pride and Prejudice*





5.1 Origins of the novel

5.2 background information

5.3 characters and characterization

5.4 Plot overview

5.5 marriages exemplified in the novel

5.6 Appreciating chapter 1

5.7 examination into the title

5.8 writing techniques

5.9 themes of the novel



5.1 Origins of *Pride and Prejudice*

- Published in 1813 but begun in 1796
- Original title, *First Impressions*
- deals with the misjudgments that often occur at the beginning of an acquaintance, and how those misjudgments can change as individuals learn more about each other.
- It remains consistently Austen's most well-read and popular novel.



5.2 Background Information—Social Customs

Dances figure prominently in Jane Austen's novels.

Whether performed in public assembly rooms in Meryton or in private at the Netherfield Ball, dances offered social opportunities for young people to mix and mingle and converse in an acceptable fashion.

In an era when a young lady of good breeding was strictly chaperoned and escorted everywhere she went, she would find it difficult during a routine day to meet privately with a single gentleman, even one who was courting her.





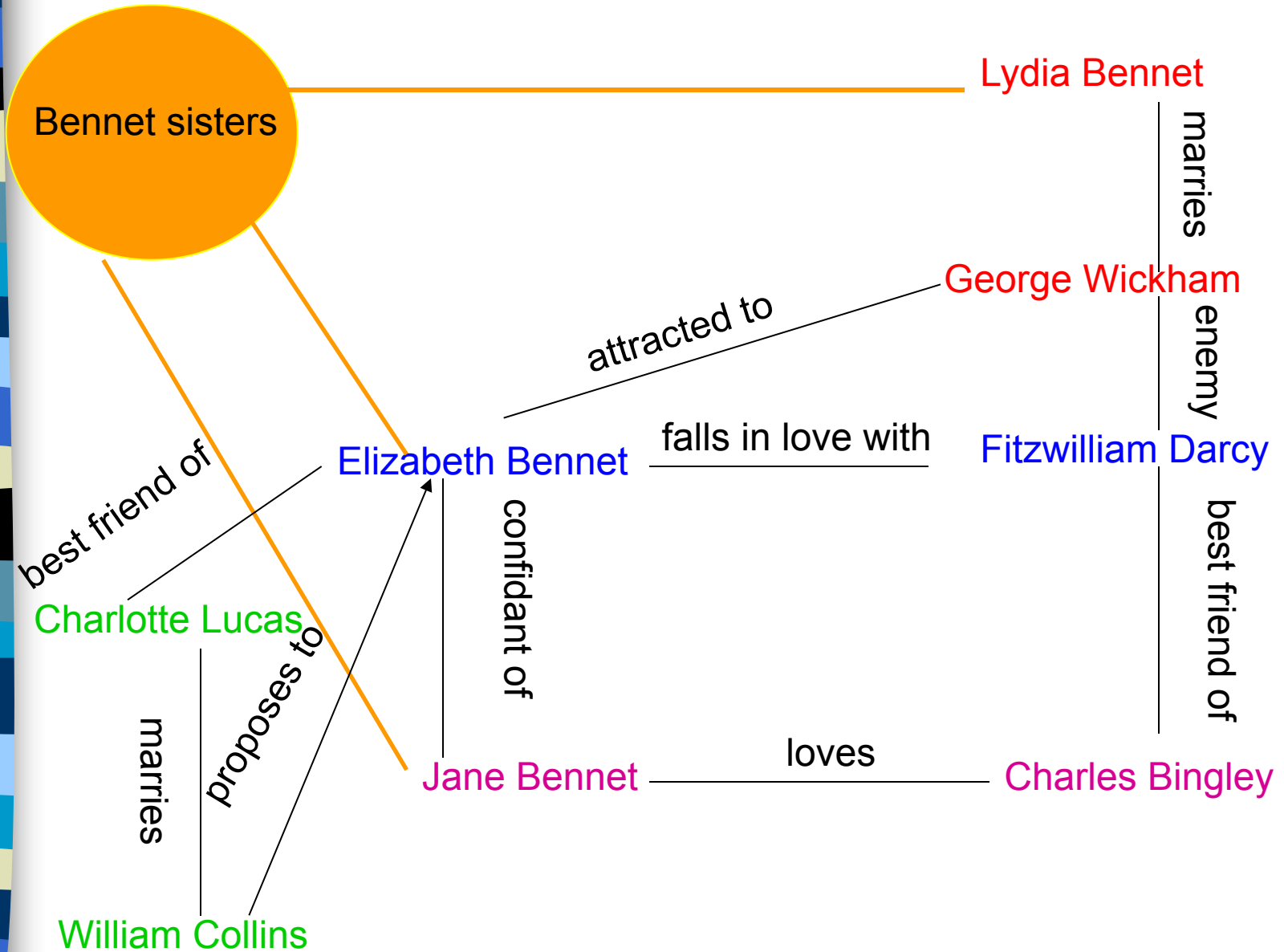
Social Customs (2)

- Regency social manners were all politeness and gentility.
- The social hierarchy was the core of everything, and everyone knew their place, whether they agreed with it or not.
- Women largely did not inherit wealth, nor were they openly allowed to find their own means; so marriage was one of the few options she had to secure a comfortable future.
- A marriage based on love was rarely an option for a Regency woman, income was the first consideration.

5.3 Characters & Characterizations in *Pride and Prejudice*



CHARACTERS



- The Bennets own land, but they are a middle-class family
- Longbourn House in Hertfordshire - 2,000 per year
- Must work to cultivate land
- Few servants and limited financial resources



The Bennets

Mr and Mrs Bennet

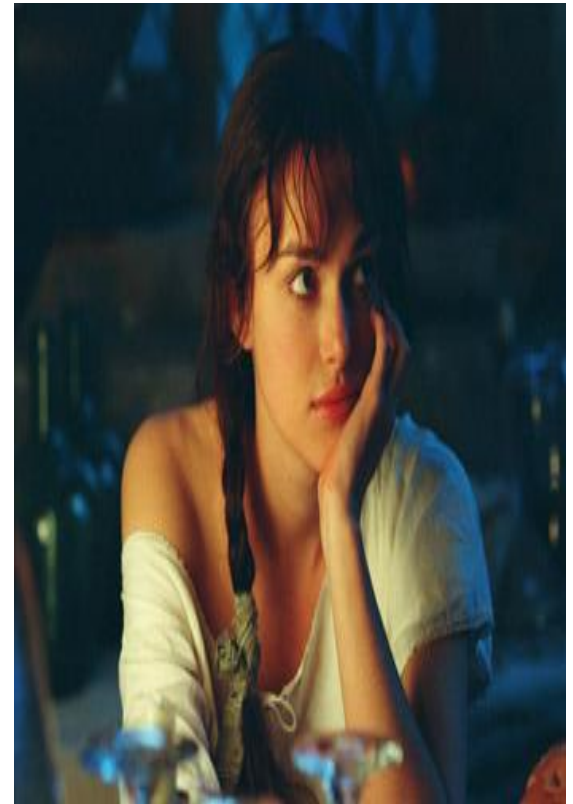
Mr. Bennet : Elizabeth's ironic and often apathetic father. Unhappily married, he has failed to provide a secure financial future for his wife and daughters.

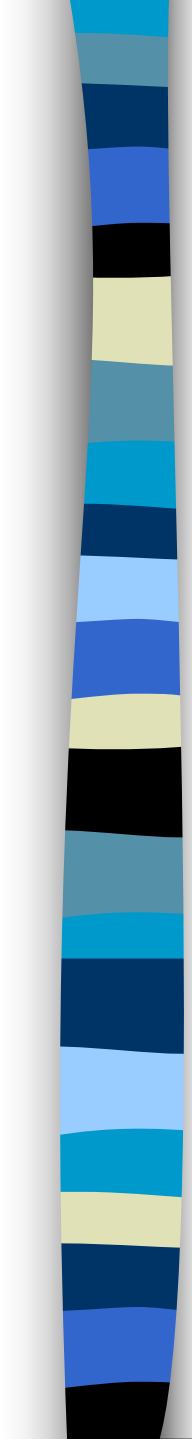
Mrs. Bennett: Elizabeth's foolish and unrestrained mother who is obsessed with finding husbands for her daughters.



Elizabeth Bennet

- An intelligent and spirited young woman who possesses a keen wit and enjoys studying people's characters. Although she initially dislikes Darcy, circumstances cause her to reassess her negative impression of him, and she eventually falls in love with him.



- 
- Lively
 - With quick wit
 - Young
 - Beautiful
 - Proud
 - Intelligent
 - Loyal



Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy

A wealthy, proud man who falls in love with Elizabeth and reveals a generous, thoughtful nature beneath his somewhat stiff demeanor.

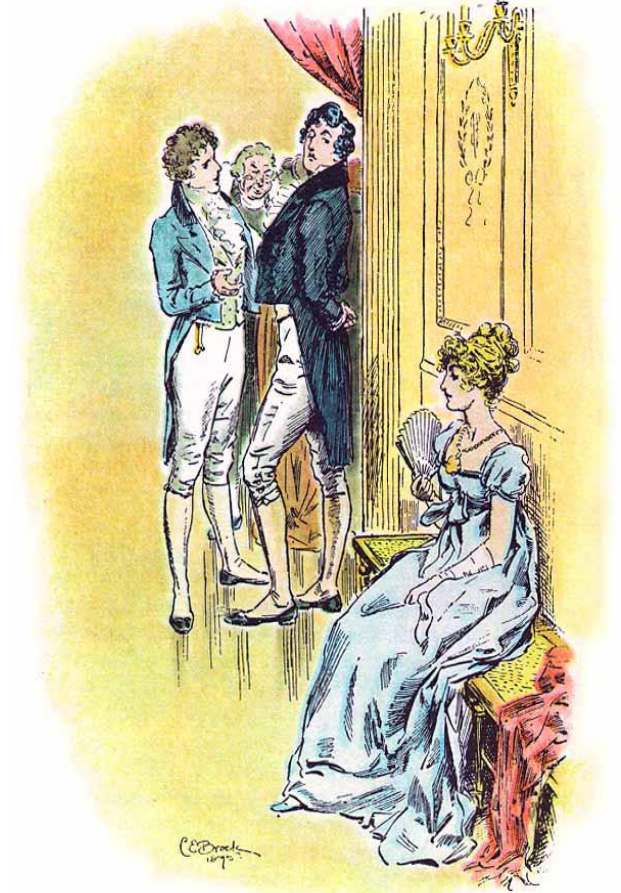




- Darcy is representative of hereditary (/hi'reditəri/世袭的) aristocracy
- Wealthy landowner who does not have to work for a living
- Employs workers to farm his land, surrounding families depend on his patronage ([pætrənɪdʒ]n. 赞助)

Mr. Darcy

- Rich
- Educated
- Haughty(adj.傲慢的)
- arrogant
- conceited 自负的
- overbearing 专横的, 飞扬跋扈的
- Alert
- observant
- considerate



She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me.

Jane Bennet

- A gentle and kind-hearted young woman who is Elizabeth's confidant and the oldest of the Bennet daughters. She falls in love with Bingley but is cautious about revealing the depth of her feelings for him.



The Bingleys

- Bingleys represent the new landed gentry
- Bingley's father acquired wealth through trade, gave up his business, and moved his family to the country
- He and his sisters are now considered to be upper class



Charles Bingley

A good-natured and wealthy man who falls in love with Jane. He is easily influenced by others, especially by his close friend Darcy.



Lydia Bennet



The Bennet's immature and irresponsible youngest daughter. Mrs. Bennet's favorite, she shocks the family by running away with Wickham

George Wickham is the **enemy** of Mr. Darcy. He is a **dashing, charming and handsome young soldier** who attracts the attention of Elizabeth Bennet.

He initially **deceives Elizabeth** into believing Mr. Darcy was at fault in order to win her over, but once she hears the whole story she is quick to realize his true nature. He later runs off with **Lydia Bennet**, but is tracked down by Mr. Darcy and he marries her when Mr. Darcy pays for the marriage.



George Wickham

Mary Bennet is the only plain Bennet sister, and rather than join in some of the family activities, she reads, although is often impatient for display. She works hard for knowledge and accomplishment, but has neither genius nor taste.



Kitty Bennet is the fourth Bennet sister, aged seventeen. She is portrayed as a less headstrong but equally silly shadow of Lydia.

William Collins, aged twenty-five, is Mr Bennet 's clergyman cousin and, as Mr Bennet has no son, heir to his estate.

Collins boasts of his acquaintance with the patronage from — Lady Catherine de Bourgh.

Elizabeth rejected his proposal.

Charlotte Lucas, consents to marry Collins out of her need for a settled position and to avoid the low status and lack of autonomy of an old maid.





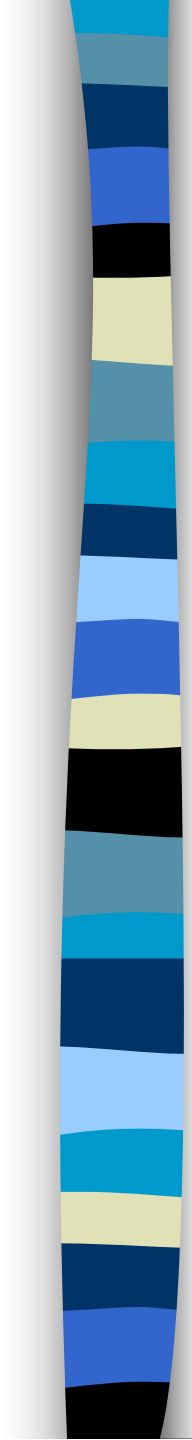
Lady Catherine de Bourgh, who has wealth and social standing, is haughty, domineering and condescending.

Elizabeth, however, is duly respectful but not intimidated.

Darcy, whilst respectful of their shared family connection, is offended by her lack of manners, especially towards Elizabeth, and later — when pressed by her demand that he not marry Elizabeth — is quick to assert his intentions to marry whom he wishes.

5.4 Plot Summary

- *Pride and Prejudice* is a humorous story of love and life among English gentility during the Georgian era.
- Mr Bennet is an English gentleman living in Hertfordshire with his overbearing wife. The Bennets 5 daughters; the beautiful Jane, the clever Elizabeth, the bookish Mary, the immature Kitty and the wild Lydia.
- Unfortunately for the Bennets, if Mr Bennet dies their house will be inherited by a distant cousin whom they have never met, so the family's future happiness and security is dependent on the daughters making good marriages.

- 
- Life is uneventful until the arrival in the neighbourhood of the rich gentleman Mr Bingley, who rents a large house so he can spend the summer in the country. Mr Bingley brings with him his sister and the dashing (and richer) but proud Mr Darcy. Love is soon in the air for one of the Bennet sisters, while another may have jumped to a hasty prejudgment.
 - For the Bennet sisters many trials and tribulations stand between them and their happiness, including class, gossip and scandal.



5.5 Marriages Exemplified in *Pride and Prejudice*

Topics for Presentation: How many major **couples** have you found in this novel ? What's your attitude towards **marriage**?

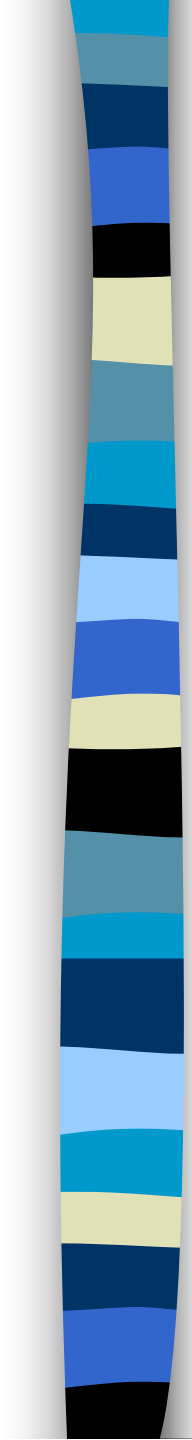
Pride & Prejudice



The marriage between **Darcy** and **Elizabeth** reveals the characteristics that constitute a successful marriage.

One of these characteristics is that the feeling cannot be brought on by appearances, and must gradually develop between the two people as they get to know one another.

Monthly discussion 14-01-2008



In the beginning, Elizabeth and Darcy were distant from each other because of their prejudice. The series of events which they both experienced gave them the opportunity to understand one another and the time to reconcile their feelings for each other.

Thus, their mutual understanding is the foundation of their relationship and will lead them to a peaceful and lasting marriage.

This relationship between Elizabeth and Darcy reveals the importance of getting to know one's partner before marrying.

The marriage between **Jane Bennet and Bingley** is also an example of successful marriage.

However, unlike Darcy and Elizabeth, there is a flaw in their relationship. The flaw is that both characters are too gullible and too good-hearted to ever act strongly against external forces that may attempt to separate them.





Lydia and Wickham's marriage is an example of a bad marriage. Their marriage was based on appearances, good looks, and youthful vivacity. Once these qualities can no longer be seen by each other, the once strong relationship will slowly fade away.



天啊！我真想大笑出來

As in the novel, Lydia and Wickham's marriage gradually disintegrates; Lydia becomes a regular visitor at her two elder sister's home when "her husband was gone to enjoy himself in London or Bath."

Through their relationship, Austen shows that **hasty marriage based on superficial qualities quickly cools and leads to unhappiness.**



The relationship between **Mr. Bennet** and **Mrs. Bennet** was similar to that of Lydia and Wickham. Austen shows that it is necessary to use good judgment to select a spouse, otherwise the two people will lose respect for each other.



The marriage between **Mr. Collins and Charlotte** is based on economics rather than on love or appearance.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen dramatizes gender inequality and shows that women who submit themselves to this type of marriage will have to suffer in tormenting silence as Charlotte does.

Conclusion

1. Criteria of marriage:

These five marriages contribute to the theme that a happy and strong marriage takes time to build and must be based on mutual feeling, understanding, and respect.

Hasty marriages acting on impulse, and based on superficial qualities will not survive and will lead to inevitable unhappiness.

2. Be serious and cautious when facing marriage. Don't be taken in by superficial qualities

3. Instead of being an individual problem, marriage is a social problem. One hasty decision may lead a difficulty to the whole family.

5.6 Appreciating Chapter I

- The features of Austen's language
- Notice the comic elements in this part
- The display of the characters conveyed in the words





Questions

1. What is the function of the opening sentence in chapter One?
2. Who started the conversation? What are their different reactions to the news?
3. Examine the dialogue between Mr Bennet and Mrs Bennet, can you find out some problems in their relationship? (harmonious or inharmonious?)

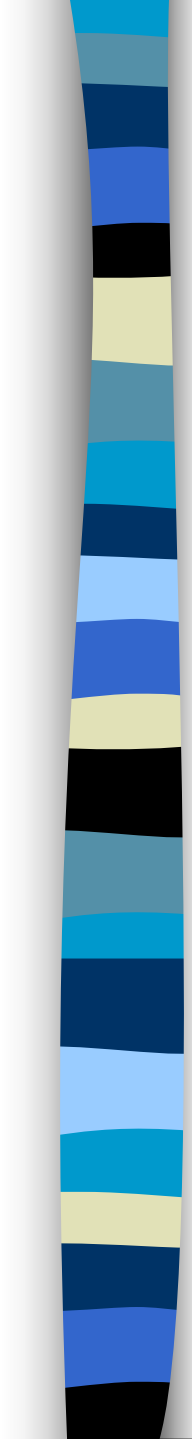
Keira Knightley
PRIDE & PREJUDICE
IN THEATRES NOVEMBER 11

FilmMovieDetails.com

Pride and Prejudice
Chapter 1

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

FOCUS
FEATURES

- 
- It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

此句是全书的开场，这里奥斯丁以简练的笔法，点出了全书的主题：男大当婚，女大当嫁。



The first sentence

- is one of the most famous first lines in literature;
- establishes the major theme and tone;
- establishes the centrality of advantageous marriage, a fundamental social value of Regency England;
- offers a miniature sketch of the entire plot.



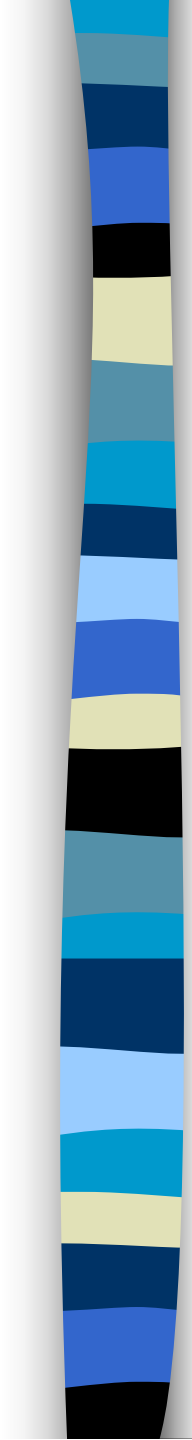
In this statement, Austen has cleverly done three things:

- She has declared that the **main subject** of the novel will be courtship and marriage
- She has established the **humorous tone** of the novel by taking a simple subject to elaborate
- She has prepared the reader **for a chase** in the novel of either a husband in search of a wife, or a women in pursuit of a husband.



Language appreciation

- "My dear Mr. Bennet," said his lady to him one day, "have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?"
- Mr. Bennet replied that he had not.
- "But it is," returned she; "for Mrs. Long has just been here, and she told me all about it."
- Mr. Bennet made no answer.
- "Do not you want to know who has taken it?" cried his wife impatiently.
- "You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it."
- This was invitation enough.

- 
- "Why, my dear, you must know, Mrs. Long says that Netherfield is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north of England; that he came down on Monday in a chaise and four to see the place, and was so much delighted with it that he agreed with Mr. Morris immediately; that he is to take possession before Michaelmas, and some of his servants are to be in the house by the end of next week."
 - "What is his name?"
 - "Bingley."
 - "Is he married or single?"
 - "Oh! single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!"
 - "How so? how can it affect them?"
 - "My dear Mr. Bennet," replied his wife, "how can you be so tiresome! You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them."

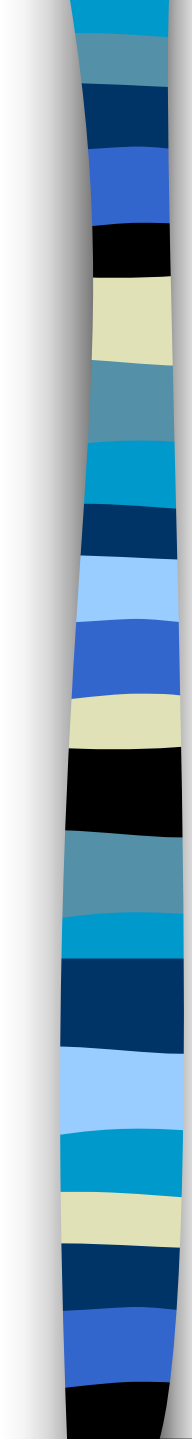
Language Appreciation

- Is that his design in settling here?"
- "Design! nonsense, how can you talk so! But it is very likely that he *may* fall in love with one of them, and therefore you must visit him as soon as he comes."
- "I see no occasion for that. You and the girls may go, or you may send them by themselves, which perhaps will be still better; for, as you are as handsome as any of them, Mr. Bingley might like you the best of the party."
- "My dear, you flatter me. I certainly *have* had my share of beauty, but I do not pretend to be anything extraordinary now. When a woman has five grown up daughters, she ought to give over thinking of her own beauty."



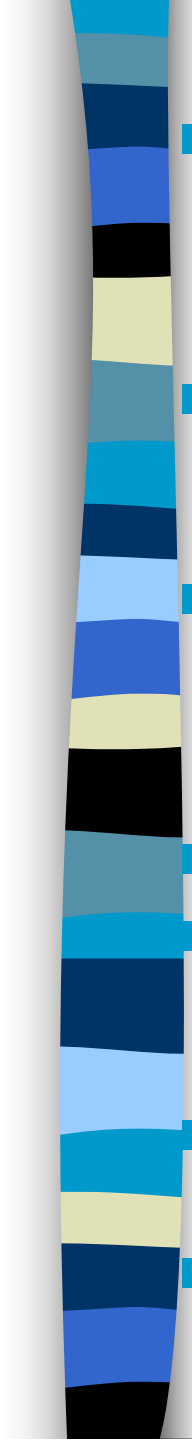
Comment:

In the dialogue we can see that Mrs. Bennet is eager to marry one of her daughters to the mentioned young man, but her husband does not care much. He is skeptical of conventional marriage and has no good words for his beautiful wife. Mrs. Bennet is a beautiful but empty-headed, snobbish, garrulous and vulgar woman. Her only goal in life is to marry her five daughters to rich, handsome young men.



“I see no occasion for that. You and the girls may go, or you may send them by themselves, which perhaps will be still better, for as you are as handsome as any of them, Mr. Bingley might like you the best of the party”:

Comment: The underlined part of the sentence is used in the ironic way. The pity is that Mrs. Bennet, who failed to see the irony way, takes it as a kind of flattery from her husband.



- "They have none of them much to recommend them," replied he; "they are all silly and ignorant like other girls; but Lizzy has something more of quickness than her sisters."

- "Mr. Bennet, how can you abuse your own children in such way? You take delight in vexing me. You have no compassion on my poor nerves."

- "You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have heard you mention them with consideration these twenty years at least."

- "Ah! you do not know what I suffer."

- "But I hope you will get over it, and live to see many young men of four thousand a year come into the neighbourhood."

- "It will be no use to us if twenty such should come, since you will not visit them."

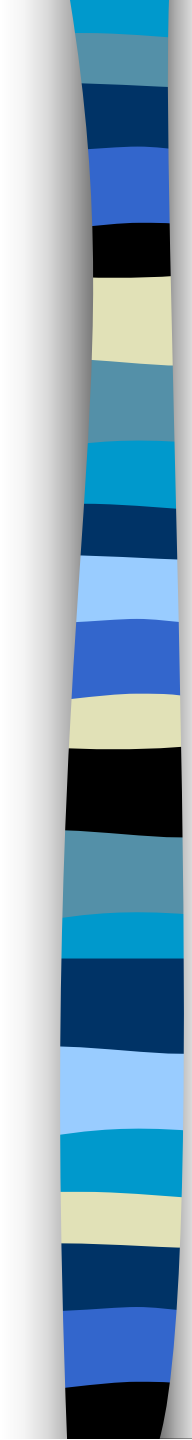
- "Depend upon it, my dear, that when there are twenty I will visit them all."



Remarks on the couple

"Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humor, reserve, and caprice (反复无常的), that the experience of three-and-twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character."

"Her mind was less difficult to develop. She was a woman of mean understanding, little information, and uncertain temper. When she was discontented, she fancied herself nervous. The business of her life was to get her daughters married; its solace was visiting and news."



Comment: Here it implies that though Mr. and Mrs. Bennet had been married for 23 years she still failed to understand his character. By exposition and direct commentary, Austen presents and establishes the images of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet.



5.7 Examination into the title "Pride and Prejudice"



Pride and Prejudice

- Pride is the stubborn sin that exists in everyone's deep heart, while prejudice often emerges when one is staring at his/her own benefit or indulging in his/her pride.
- Pride and prejudice are intimately related in the novel. We cannot equate Darcy with Pride, or Elizabeth with Prejudice; Darcy's pride of place is founded on social prejudice, while Elizabeth's initial prejudice against him is rooted in pride of her own quick perceptions.

Prejudices in the Novel

- A. Women's inferiority to men

Women cannot inherit the property of a family. So after Mr Bennet died, his family property would be inherited by a faraway cousin.

- B. Class equality for marriage

Lady Catherine totally disagree the marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy

- C. Prejudices produced by the first impression

these are fully reflected in Darcy and Elizabeth.



Prejudices Produced by the First Impression

- **Darcy:** He comes to the neighborhood with his friend Bingley. A wealthy bachelor from the upper class, a little introverted and less outgoing. With his proud and seemingly cold disposition, makes a bad impression on the local people. He slights Elizabeth and hurts her dignity by refusing to dance with her.
- **Elizabeth:** the most charming and independent daughter of Bennet Family.
- **Prejudice against Darcy:**
 - A. from different social class
 - B. gossip from Wickham (Darcy deprived his fortune, Darcy separated Bingley and Jane, cold-blooded and selfish)

Prejudice Dissolved



- A. Elizabeth sets a tour with her aunt to Derbyshire and happens to pay a visit to Pemberley, the grand house of the Darcy family;
- B. Darcy's generous help with Lydia and Wickham makes the Bennet family avoid the disgrace.
- C. Lady Catherine's interference enforces Elizabeth's loyal love for Darcy (both don't give in when face the rude request by the arrogant aunt)



5.8 Writing Techniques

1. irony
2. Satire
3. free indirect discourse
4. comedy of manners

Satire

Humor or wit in order to criticize or ridicule a particular person or group

Disguise criticism of an intended target by clothing it in humorous language, funny characterizations, and sarcasm.

Austen satirizes Mrs. Bennet and her need to marry her daughters; also Mr. Collins' high opinion of himself which often makes him the laughingstock of society.



Free Indirect Discourse



- Narrative style known as “free indirect discourse”
- Third-person perspective to convey ideas and thoughts from point of view of a particular character usually the heroine.
- Hard to determine objectivity of ideas
- Precursor of “stream of consciousness”

Comedy of Manners

- Uses elements of Satire to ridicule or expose behaviors, manners, flaws, and morals of members of the middle or upper classes.
- Incorporate love affairs, witty and comical exchanges between characters, and the humorous revelation of societal scandals and intrigues
- Witty banter between characters



5.9 Themes of the Novel



Women, Patriarchy and Property Rights



- Women had few legal rights
- Depend on men for protection and survival
- Women could not own property (they were considered property)
- Depended on fathers to "give them away" to a lucrative marriage
- At death, property went to another male heir
- Finding a husband was a necessity not a social preoccupation

Women, Patriarchy and Property Rights



“Entailment” (限嗣继承) determined how property would be passed through several generations within a family; usually closest male relative.

Lady Catherine De Bourgh, patroness of Rosings Park, is a rare example of an independent woman who inherits the estate of her father.

Theme of Social Class and Lack of Mobility

- Conflict that arises when members of middle class, such as Bennets, mingle socially with members of the upper classes, represented by Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley.
- Austen was critical of the social barrier between middle and upper class (while remaining silent about members of lower class)
- Elizabeth Bennet breaks class barrier



Theme of Marriage and Family



- Future of Bennet's daughters depends on successful union with suitable husbands
- Women often forced into marital unions purely out of financial necessity
- New ideal of marriage and partnership based on mutual respect and love
- Family's reputation was tied to reputation of each individual member



Jane Austen's marriage view can cause great impact on modern readers. She told readers that **happy marriage is composed of love, financial stability, physical attraction, respect, mutual understanding and responsibility.**

■ She was **the forerunner of the women in her time.** She was against the convention by remaining single and earned a living by writing novels. She was the representative of feminists. Her thinking was advanced.



《傲慢与偏见》赏析

奥斯丁以婚姻为主题并采用讽刺、幽默的笔法细致地描绘了18世纪末19世纪初英国乡镇中产阶级的生活景象。《傲慢与偏见》就是其中之一。作品中的句法结构和遣词造句颇有特色，主要的通过对话来表现人物的性格。小说中的人物各自有着不同的说话风格，具有鲜明的个性，如贝内特太太言辞虚浮夸张、大惊小怪、尖声叫嚷，显得格外俗气，她的女儿伊丽莎白则敢于挑战贵族青年达西，表现出对门第的蔑视，并在谈吐中确立起一位聪慧、机智、勇敢和可爱的女性形象。小说第1篇开篇那句话：“凡是有钱的单身汉总想娶位太太，这已举世公认的真理”值得回味，点出了作品的意图。本应成为“猎手”的有钱的单身汉却沦为女人们追逐的“猎物”。当贝内特太太获悉邻里新近搬来一位名叫宾利的年轻富家子弟后，再也按捺不住内心的激动，于是与丈夫商讨如何急速拜访这位新来的邻居，希望把某个女儿嫁给他。整个情景在这对夫妇的对话中展开，前后一问一答，把老夫妻各自的性格特征表现得淋漓尽致。小说的第5、8章是全书的转折点。伊丽莎白得知是达西促成了妹妹的婚事，深为感激。于是她改变了达西的态度。奥斯丁写出了两人消除误会，言归于好后的情感交汇。语句结构清晰自然，富有节奏感。

■ 奥斯丁长年生活在英国的乡村，乡村生活是她小说的主要题材。她的小说主要是关于“乡村里三四户人家”的青年们的婚恋故事；往往通过一对对绅士淑女在通往婚姻之路上的曲折恋爱，勾画出一幅幅英国乡村的婚恋世态图，从一个个重要的侧面反映了19世纪初英国的社会生活。奥斯丁所处的时代，男性是家庭和社会的中心，妇女的地位十分低下，妇女的责任是把每一小时和每一天都贡献给丈夫、双亲，否则就是颠倒了自然秩序，违背了天意。女性难有自立的机会，只能把结婚当作最重要的归宿，选择什么样的婚姻，对当时的女性非常重要。这是婚姻问题成为奥斯丁最关注、最熟悉并成为她终身创作主题的重要原因。

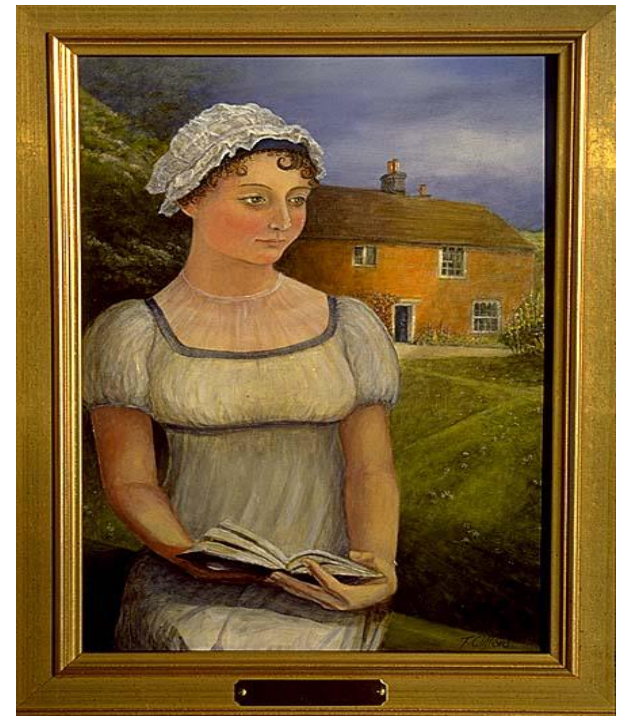
■ 奥斯丁的每部小说都机智风趣，被评论家称之为社会风俗喜剧。她以女性的特有的敏锐和细腻描绘她的小天地。小说虽然不涉及可怕的灾祸和重大的矛盾，只有日常生活中的风波和人物之间的喜剧性冲突，格调轻松诙谐，但这一部部描写世态人情的喜剧作品犹如生活中的一面面镜子，世人们可以从其中照出人性的自负、愚昧和荒诞，从中获得启迪和教诲，让世人感到生活的意义，这就是名著的魅力所在，也是奥斯丁小说经久不衰的原因所在。

■ 奥斯丁将自己的作品比作“二寸牙雕”。的确，她的每部小说都那么纤巧精致，令人趣味无穷，可谓魅力无限。

VI. Researches on Jane Austen

简·奥斯丁研究综述

- 一、对奥斯丁小说主题的研究
- 二、对奥斯丁小说中反讽手法的运用
- 三、看奥斯丁小说中塑造的人物形象
- 四、看奥斯丁小说中的女性意识





References

<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/janeinfo.html>

提供奥斯丁6部小说和其他著作的注释电子版

<http://www.jasna.org/>

提供有关北美奥斯丁研究社的背景、研究动态和学术信息等。