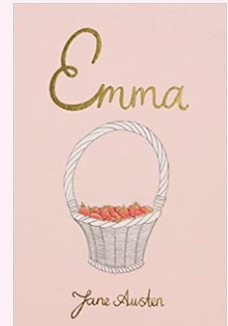




TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

EMMA

By Jane Austen



“Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.”

GENRE

Classic Literature

Fiction Romance Novel

THEMES

Marriage and Romance

Self- Discovery

Pride

Influence

Meddling

CHARACTERS

Emma Woodhouse

Emma is a beautiful, intelligent and wealthy daughter of an English gentleman. Her charm, however, is deceitful. Underneath, many selfish qualities prevail and are exposed through her meddlesome unkind jests, gossip, and self-serving behaviours.

Mr. George Knightley

Mr Knightley is a true friend to Emma because her charm and wit do not deceive him. He is an honest, funny, caring and charitable man who prioritises doing what's right for the good of those around him.

Mr. Henry Woodhouse

Mr Woodhouse is Emma's dotting father. He is a wealthy member of the English landed gentry and a hypochondriac. He has doted on Emma all his life and is blind to her faults.

Jane Fairfax

Jane is an accomplished and elegant young woman who Emma rejects because of envy and a prideful desire to be popular.

Harriet Smith

Harriet is an impressionable young woman who Emma takes under her wing. Because she idolises Emma, she is misled in matters of the heart, and her life becomes increasingly undone as she grieves poor choices made and instigated by Emma.

Mr. Elton

Mr Elton is an ambitious vicar who sets his sights on Emma and her fortune, despite Emma's best attempts at setting him up with Harriet. He quickly marries another woman when she rejects his proposal, revealing his true nature.

STORYLINE

Emma Woodhouse's misplaced confidence in her meddling matchmaking causes romantic strife in her small community. Unaware of her tendency to be prideful, jealous and self-serving, Emma genuinely believes she can help those around her find love.

But ultimately, Emma is oblivious to the harm she's causing and needs a true friend, Mr Knightley, to help her see the consequences of her actions.

This story is about self-discovery, overcoming the tendency to put ourselves before others, the importance of friendships that speak truth into our lives, and transformation.

1 QUESTION ONE

What did you most enjoy while reading 'Emma'?

2 QUESTION TWO

Emma Woodhouse is one of Austen's most disliked heroines. She has many faults and vices: spoiled, manipulative, meddlesome and prideful. Discuss Emma's transformation throughout the story. How does she learn and grow from her mistakes?

3 QUESTION THREE

Emma does not lack wealth, beauty, affection, or wit and has not endured hardship that may have helped cultivate virtue. Discuss how challenging circumstances can sanctify us.

4

QUESTION FOUR

Mr Knightley confronts Emma and her meddlesome behaviour, saying, “Better be without sense than misapply it as you do.” Unlike others around her, Mr Knightley refuses to admire or blindly agree with Emma’s scheming and speaks truth into her life. Discuss his role in her transformation.

5

QUESTION FIVE

Mr Knightley is an excellent judge of character, truthful and charming. What do you like most about him? Does he have any faults?

6

QUESTION SIX

Harriet admires and idolises Emma. Do you think Emma was a good friend to Harriet?

7 QUESTION SEVEN

Jane Fairfax would have made a great companion and friend to Emma. Why do you think Emma refused the friendship?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

In a cruel moment of ridicule, Emma jokes about Miss Bate's tendency to babble. Is it ever okay to make a joke at another's expense? How does what we say about others reveal our true character?

9 QUESTION NINE

Did you recognise any 'Emma' in your own heart? How would you like to grow in the future?
