



TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE By Jane Austen



“How despicably I have acted!’ She cried. – ‘I, who have prided myself on my discernment! – I, who have valued myself on my abilities!... vanity, not love, has been my folly.’” – Elizabeth Bennet

GENRE

Classic Regency Fiction

Romance

Novel

THEMES

Vice and Virtue

Awakening

Love

Social Class

Pride

Vice and Virtue: A vice is a bad or undesirable character trait, whereas virtue is a good or desirable character trait.

Awakening: An act or moment of suddenly becoming aware of something.

CHARACTERS

Elizabeth Bennet

Lizzy is an affectionate, loyal, charming and witty young woman. Occasionally prone to snark, she is self-possessed and unafraid when faced with the challenges and often ridiculous expectations of her time and social class. Lizzy's vice is her prideful intelligence and tendency to misjudge people and circumstances.

Mr Fitzwilliam Darcy

Mr Darcy comes across as an arrogant upper-class lord. He tends towards pridefulness and takes himself much too seriously. Despite his good looks, his personality is unfriendly, aloof and unapproachable – yet hidden behind his demeanour are kindness, honour and generosity.

Mrs Bennet

Mrs Bennet is Elizabeth's mother. She is an anxious and silly woman whose ultimate goal is to see her daughters make advantageous marriages to eligible gentlemen.

Jane Bennet

One of the older Bennet sisters, she is a kind-hearted and lovely young lady who often attempts to correct Lizzy's lack of humility.

Mr George Wickham

Mr Wickham is a charming young officer who deeply admires Elizabeth and makes his affections clear. Unbeknownst to Elizabeth, Mr Wickham has squandered his money and attempted to seduce Darcy's sister Georgina to obtain her inheritance. In a turn of events, he seduces Elizabeth's younger sister Lydia, and after being offered money from Mr Darcy to save her from disgrace, he marries her. George may be a gentleman by name, but he never learns to control his vices and shames himself and those he takes advantage of.

STORYLINE

Elizabeth, the daughter of a country gentleman, meets Mr Darcy, a wealthy aristocratic lord of Pemberley. After a disagreeable first encounter, the story follows their tumultuous relationship from enemies to lovers.

This story is about the vices of pride, prejudice, and other sins that may hinder love and happiness. Elizabeth and Darcy must overcome their character flaws to see one another clearly and marry.

1 QUESTION ONE

What was your favourite part of *Pride and Prejudice*? Why?

2 QUESTION TWO

Vice and Virtue are important themes explored in Jane Austen's novels. How do the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* display both admirable and undesirable character traits?

3 QUESTION THREE

Why is humility the antidote to pride? What does the Bible say about pride?

4 QUESTION FOUR

Elizabeth Bennet experiences a drastic awakening as she becomes aware of her vices. What stood out to you most about her transformation? Have you experienced something similar in your life?

5 QUESTION FIVE

Elizabeth's love for Mr Darcy develops gradually as she learns he is honourable, kind and generous. How did you feel about Mr Darcy? Was there a point in the story where you changed your mind about him?

6 QUESTION SIX

Which Bennet sister did you most relate to? Why?

7 QUESTION SEVEN

Mr Wickham is not who he seems to be. Although he consents to marry Lydia, does he ever truly change? Why is it important to use discernment in our friendships?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

Much has changed for women since *Pride and Prejudice* was written in the early 1800s. Which changes are you most grateful for?

9 QUESTION NINE

Have you watched any movie adaptations of *Pride and Prejudice*? Did you like them? Why, or why not?
