

# Proud to be Prejudiced

....or “why I believe it’s cool  
to think Jane Austen is awesome!”

**"Why do you like Jane Austen so very much? I am puzzled on that point. ... I had not seen *Pride and Prejudice* till I read that sentence of yours, and then I got the book. And what did I find? ...a commonplace face; a carefully fenced, highly cultivated garden, with neat borders and delicate flowers; but no glance of a bright vivid physiognomy, no open country, no fresh air, no blue hill, no bonny beck. ... These observations will probably irritate you, but I shall run the risk."**

**"Now I can understand admiration of George Sand ... she had a grasp of mind which, if I cannot fully comprehend, I can very deeply respect: she is sagacious and profound; Miss Austen is only shrewd and observant."**

**(Charlotte Bronte)**

**She makes me detest all her people, without reserve.**

**Jane Austen? Why I go so far as to say that any library is a good library that does not contain a volume by Jane Austen. Even if it contains no other book. ( Mark Twain)**

**'the divine Jane [Austen]  
has much to teach me'.**

**Samuel Beckett**

Proud to be

Prejudiced

**Jane Austen:-**

**Relevant in**

**the 21st century?**

**Janeites**

**Clueless**

**Austenmania**

**Bride and Prejudice**

**Keira Knightley**

**The Atonement**

**Colin Firth**

**Zombies**

**Bridget Jones**



*“I lay on my stomach, crossing my ankles in the air, flipping through the different novels in the book, trying to decide which would occupy my mind most thoroughly. My favorites were *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*. I’d read the first most recently, so I started into *Sense and Sensibility*, only to remember after I began chapter three that the hero of the story happened to be named Edward. Angrily, I turned to *Mansfield Park*, but the hero of that piece was named Edmund, and that was just too close. Weren’t there any other names available in the late eighteenth century?”*



**(Bella,  
from  
“Twilight”  
by  
Stephenie  
Meyer).**



# A quiz!

- **What was the original title for *Pride and Prejudice*?**

- a) **Elizabeth Meets Her Man**
- b) **First Impressions**
- c) **Pride and Sensibility**
- d) **The Bennetts of Longbourn**

# A quiz!

- **What was Jane Austen's father's occupation?**

- e) Clergyman**
- f) Colonel in the British Army**
- g) Shop-keeper**
- h) Owner of a large estate**

# A quiz!

- **How old was Jane when she published her first work?**

- i) 22**
- j) 14**
- k) 30**
- l) 36**

# A quiz!

- **In which English county was Jane born?**

- m) Hampshire**
- n) Hertfordshire**
- o) Derbyshire**
- p) Kent**

# A quiz!

- **What is the name of the man Emma marries?**

- q) Mr. Darcy**
- r) Mr. Knightley**
- s) Mr. Wickham**
- t) Mr. Collins**

# A quiz!

- **Who are the heroines in “Sense and Sensibility?”**

- p) Elinor and Marianne**
- q) Jane and Elizabeth**
- r) Fanny and Mary**
- s) Emma and Harriet**

# A quiz!

- **Which novel relates what happens to Fanny, a poor girl taken in by rich relatives?**

- y) Mansfield Park**
- z) Emma**
- c) Northanger Abbey**
- d) Persuasion**

# A quiz!

- **How did Jane die?**

- c) In a riding accident in Bath**
- d) Of pneumonia and its complications**
- e) Of an illness not clearly diagnosed at the time**
- f) From wounds sustained in a tragic shooting accident**

# A quiz!

- **Jane's life began and ended in.....**

**d) 1770 , 1828**

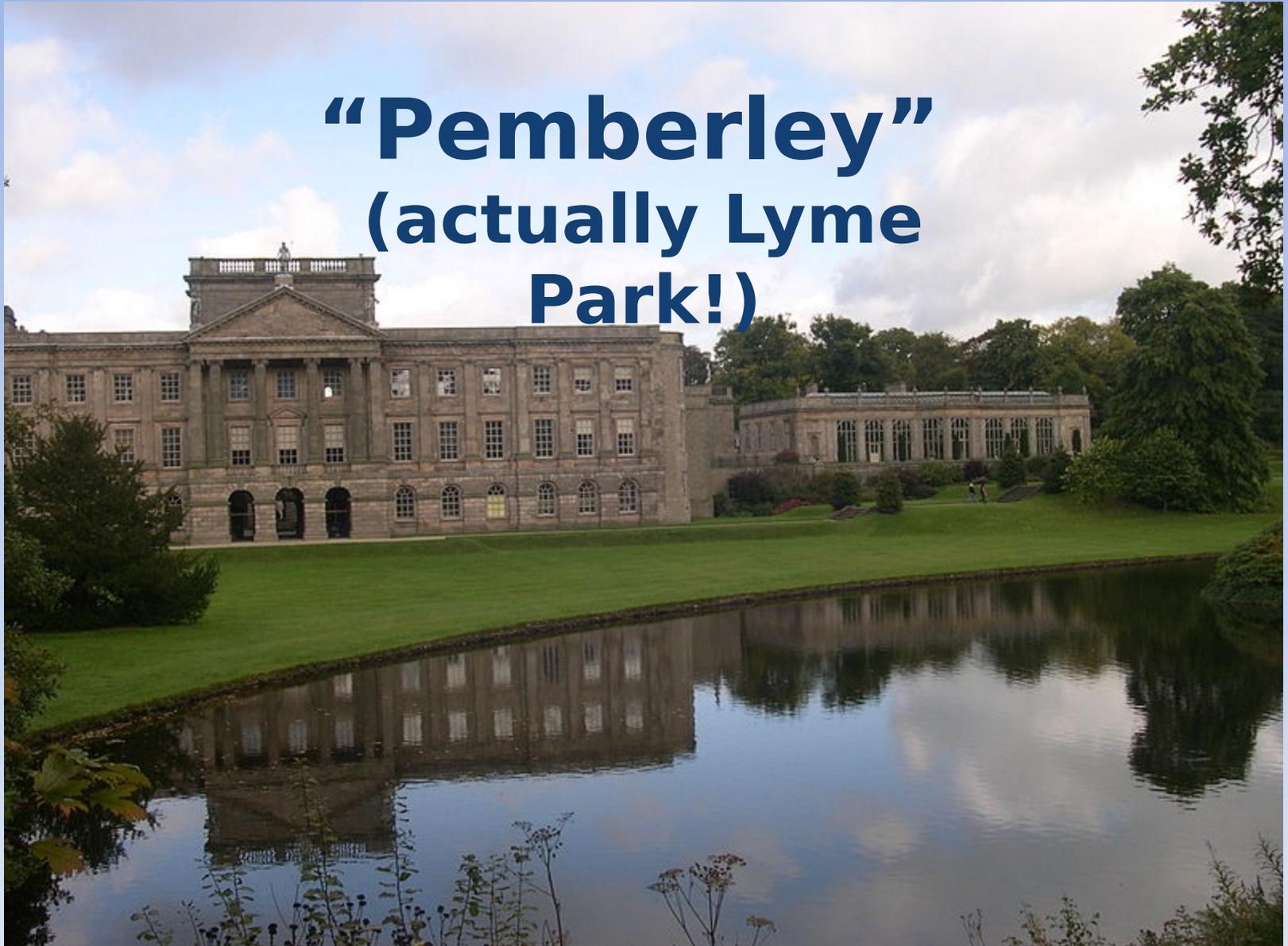
**e) 1775, 1817**

**f) 1775, 1823**

**g) 1770 , 1821**



**“Pemberley”  
(actually Lyme  
Park!)**





# Parlance

- **Timing**
- **Believability**
- **Humour**
- **Identifiable features for each person (no need for the speaker to be “named”)**

**Miss Bates:-**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX\\_Lhdx71IM&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rX_Lhdx71IM&feature=relmfu)

- <http://www.pemberley.com/etext/PandP/chapter1.htm>
- <http://us.penguinroup.com/static/pages/publishersoffice/radiorc>
  - (Difference from modern English)

# People Portrayed

# Personality Painted

- Details observed about looks, gestures, snippets of conversation
- “Complete” characters
- Humour
- Kindness, but accuracy and reality.

• ~~Files about~~ Emma

• Frank Churchill in Emma

• Sir Walter Elliott in Persuasion

[http://nikolledoolin.com/alo/?page\\_id=257](http://nikolledoolin.com/alo/?page_id=257) (1.52)

• Emma

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSwti0GY-w4&feature=relmfu>

<http://www.learnoutloud.com/podcaststream/listen.php?url=http://librivox.org/bookfeed>

• Mrs Bennett

• <http://us.penguinroup.com/static/pages/publishersoffice/radioroom/0609/pcoa/episod>

• Elizabeth

• "lively, playful disposition". Etc, etc, etc !!!!!

# Perception

## Perfected

- **Family observed**

"There are secrets in all families, you know..." *Emma*

- **Coming of Age and maturing understood**

- "I never was so deceived in any one's character in my life before.  
(Catherine, in *Northanger Abbey*)

"Among all the great variety that you have known and studied." (Henry, in *Northanger Abbey*)

- **Passion approached.** "I cannot make speeches, Emma . . . If I loved you less, I might be able to talk about it more."  
(Knightley, in *Emma*)



- "The letter" (*Persuasion*)

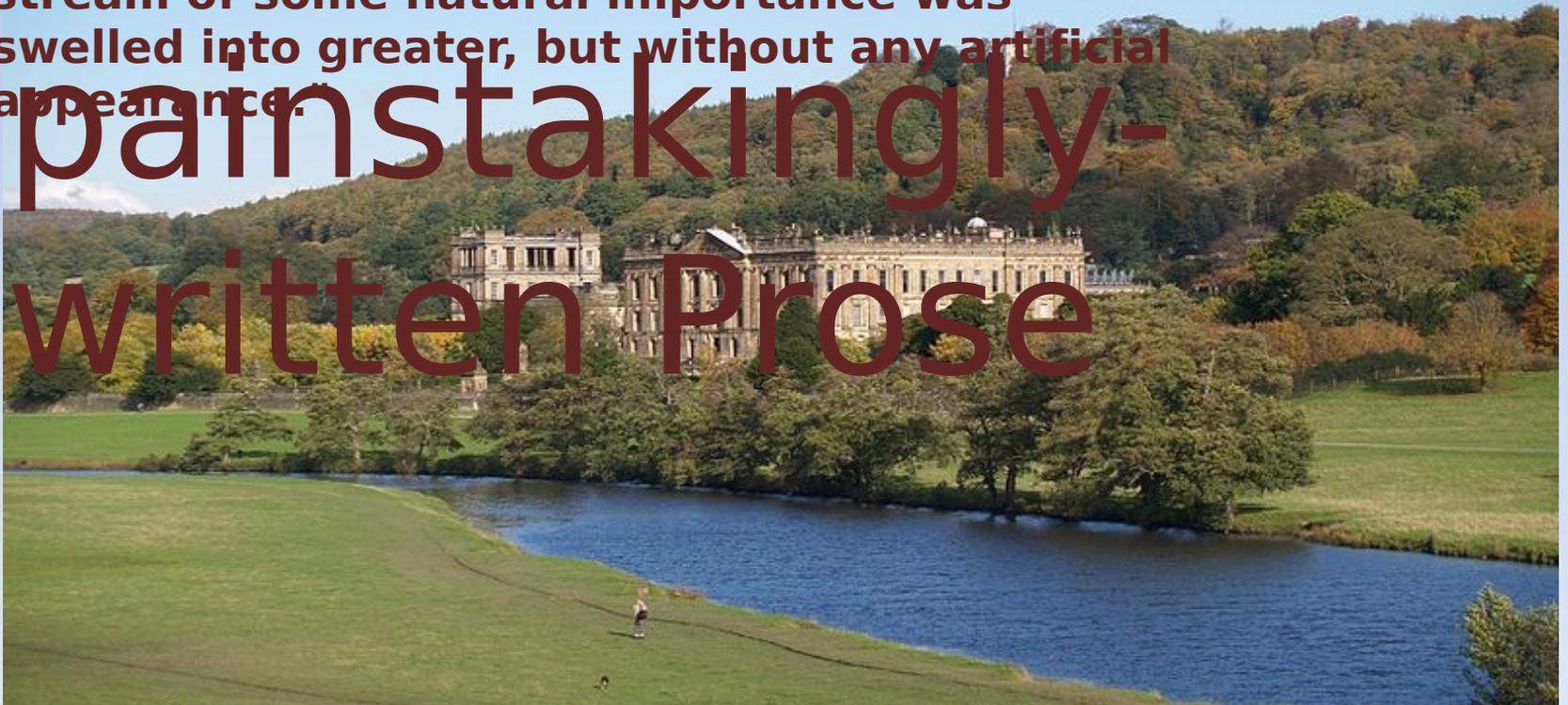
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPVIInLk6DzM>

- **Reality taken on board**

# Poetic, Precise

"It was a large, handsome, stone building, standing well on rising ground, and backed by a ridge of high woody hills; -- and in front, a stream of some natural importance was swelled into greater, but without any artificial appearance."

painstakingly-  
written Prose



**'The little bit (two inches wide) of ivory on which I work with so fine a brush as to produce little effect after much labor.'**

**"I could not sit down to write a serious romance under any other motive than to save my life."**

**"...an artist cannot do anything slovenly."  
-- Jane Austen, letter of November 17, 1798**

**[On being told that Fanny Knight was reading her letters to Cassandra:]**

**"I am gratified by her having pleasure in what I write -- but I wish the knowledge of my being exposed to her discerning Criticism may not hurt my stile, by inducing too great a sollicitude. I begin already to weigh my words and sentences more than I did, and am looking about for a sentiment, an illustration, or a metaphor in every corner of the room. Could my Ideas flow as fast as the rain in the store-closet it would be charming."**

**-- letter of January 24, 1809**

# Prejudice so Plain, so Prevalent-

- **Parcy**
- **Emma**
- **Elizabeth**
- **Lady Catherine de Bourgh**
- **Marianne**
- **Sir Walter Elliot**
- **Lady Russell**
- **Catherine Morland**
- **Everyone in Mansfield Park!**





# Pervasive wit

**"If there is any thing disagreeable going on, men are always sure to get out of it." ( Mary Musgrove in Persuasion)**

**"A lady's imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony in a moment." (- Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*)**

**"With such a reward for her tears, the child was too wise to cease crying."  
*Sense and Sensibility***

**"...a girl of fifteen! The very age of all others to need most attention and care, and put the cheerfullest spirits to the test."  
Mrs Norris, about Fanny**



**"Nobody minds having what is too good for them."  
----- The Narrator, in Mansfield Park**

**"Brandon is a man...whom every body speaks well of, and nobody cares about; whom all are delighted to see, and nobody remembers to talk to." Willoughby, in *Sense and Sensibility*.**

**"...she had the comfort of appearing very polite, while feeling very cross..."  
*Emma***

**"One man's ways may be as good as another's, but we all like our own best." (Admiral Croft, in Persuasion)**

**"Oh! do not attack me with your watch. A watch is always too fast or too slow. I cannot be dictated to by a watch." (Mary Crawford, in *Mansfield Park*)**



# What she doesn't

- **The French Revolution,**
- **The Napoleonic Wars** .....
- **Changes in the political scene-  
George III**
- **North American colonies lost**
- **Non-conformist religion-  
abolitionism**
- **Advance in science and medicine-  
Cook, Jenner, Watt.....etc!!!!**

[http://www2.terrassa.cat/educacio/raco\\_interactiu\\_cinema/Activitats2006/index.html](http://www2.terrassa.cat/educacio/raco_interactiu_cinema/Activitats2006/index.html)