

# Skokie Public Library's Book Discussion Guide

## Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

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- Jane Austen never married. In view of this, how is “Marriage” depicted in the novel?
- Could you say that Jane Austen is a 19th century Danielle Steel? Are her novels formulaic?
- What kind of 20th century family would the Bennets be?
  - Dysfunctional?
  - Why did the eldest two daughters turn out so well?
- Are any of the characters reminiscent of Jane Austen, herself? If so, in what way?
  - Elizabeth
  - Father
- What was the reason for the seemingly extreme prejudice felt by the upper class for the merchant class?
  - What is the view of “work”?
- Was Elizabeth too good to be true? or simply naive? (would anyone have considered the Bingham sisters to be “true friends”)?
- What was the mother’s worst trait?
- Was Jane Austen a “Feminist?” Are women any better depicted than men? Was Elizabeth a liberated woman?
- It is rather obvious where the Pride lay... what were the “Prejudices”? Is this in the same context as the 20th century meaning of “Prejudice”? In other words, was Elizabeth “prejudiced against Darcy or did she simply make “snap judgements”)?
- The inimitable Mr. Collins!! Why did Lady Catherine choose him for the living?
  - Why did Charlotte marry him?
- Did any of the characters grow in self knowledge? Who?
- Why do you think Austen used letters to such an extent?
- If Darcy weren’t so handsome and rich, would Elizabeth have changed her opinion so quickly?
- Should Darcy keep bailing out Wickham forever?
- What is the role of Mary in this novel?
- Why do you think there has been such a resurgence of interest in the novels of Jane Austen?



**Skokie Public Library**

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