



PRIDE AND PREJUDICE BY JANE AUSTEN

Questions for Group Discussion

1. We tend to think of 'pride' referring to Darcy and 'prejudice' referring to Elizabeth. But how do the two characters also display the other's failing?
2. The opening line of *Pride and Prejudice* is one of the most famous in English Literature. A key theme of the book is that marriage is an economic necessity for women. How much do you think that has changed. How much is marriage an economic necessity today?
3. Which social media platforms do you think each of the Bennett girls would prefer to use and why? Would any of them reject social media altogether?
4. Marriage to Mr Collins would not only have provided economic security for Elizabeth, but also for her mother and sisters. What does her refusal of Collins say about her attitudes to marriage and her family?
5. Today, about 4% of people aged between 16 and 24 identify themselves as gay. Do you think any of the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* would come out if they lived in today's society?
6. Why did Charlotte marry Mr Collins? Do you think she should have done? Would you?
7. Do you think there is any significance in the fact that Austen named Jane Bennett, the sweetest character in the book, after herself?
8. Does the plot of *Pride and Prejudice* provide the basis for all Hollywood rom-coms?
9. *Pride and Prejudice* is a story about love and relationships, but no overt passion is shown. Do you think it is there, but bubbling beneath the surface, or do you think it is absent altogether? Would the book be improved if it were more explicit?
10. Two hundred years after it was written, *Pride and Prejudice* continues to find fans in each new generation, and many people read and re-read the novel. What do you think is the secret of its continued success?