

# Timeline

\*Writers identified as being particularly influential for Jane Austen

John Milton (1608–74) poet.  
*Paradise Lost* (1667)

Daniel Defoe (1660–1731) adventure writer,  
incorporating true-life experiences. *Robinson  
Crusoe* (1719) and *Moll Flanders* (1722)

Jonathan Swift (1667–1745)  
satirist

Joseph Addison  
(1672–1719) and Sir  
Richard Steele (1672–  
1729); both essayists

\*Samuel Richardson (1689–  
1761) novelist. (*The History  
of*) *Sir Charles Grandison*  
(1754)

Alexander Pope  
(1688–1744)

\*Henry Fielding (1707–54)  
comic prose writer

\*Samuel Johnson (1709–  
84). *A Dictionary of the  
English Language* (1755)

\*Laurence Sterne (1713–  
1768) narrative writer

Horace Walpole (1717–97).  
*The Castle of Otranto* (1764)  
'the first gothic novel'

\*William Cowper  
(1731–1800) rural life poet

1600

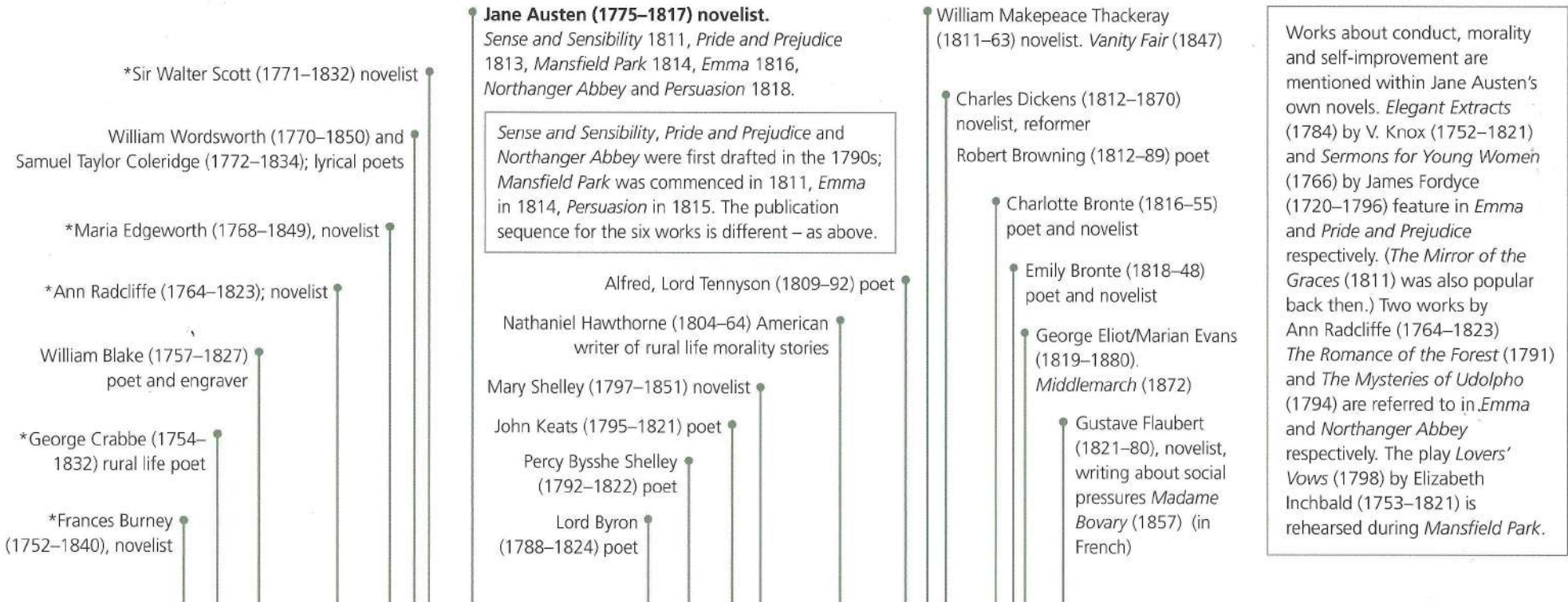
1650

1700

1640s–1789 The Age of Rationalism (Reason)

1660–1670  
The Restoration

1660–1785  
THE NEOCLASSICAL PER



Works about conduct, morality and self-improvement are mentioned within Jane Austen's own novels. *Elegant Extracts* (1784) by V. Knox (1752–1821) and *Sermons for Young Women* (1766) by James Fordyce (1720–1796) feature in *Emma* and *Pride and Prejudice* respectively. (*The Mirror of the Graces* (1811) was also popular back then.) Two works by Ann Radcliffe (1764–1823) *The Romance of the Forest* (1791) and *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) are referred to in *Emma* and *Northanger Abbey* respectively. The play *Lovers' Vows* (1798) by Elizabeth Inchbald (1753–1821) is rehearsed during *Mansfield Park*.

1750

1800

1850

**1700–1800 The Enlightenment**

**1811–1820 The Regency period**  
 The Prince Regent (later King George IV) is an avid reader of Jane Austen's work

**1848–1860 The Pre-Raphaelites**

Emma, Lady Hamilton, (1761–1820) spreads French fashion through Europe and Britain with her Empire-line, neo-classical dance outfits

Napoleon leading France's war against Britain 1803–1815

Queen Victoria reigns 1837–1901

French Revolution 1789

**1785–1830 THE ROMANTIC PERIOD**

**1837–1901 THE VICTORIAN PERIOD**