



# Pride and Prejudice Day

28 January 2024

Jane Austen's beloved novel *Pride and Prejudice* was first published on 28 January 1813, 211 years ago. Since then it has become the favourite novel of readers all over the world, and has never been out of print. Every year, Jane Austen's House celebrates *Pride and Prejudice* Day on 28 January. Join us for events in Chawton or online, drop into our social channels, or celebrate at home with a book, film, or simply a cup of tea!

## ? What's it about?

*Pride and Prejudice* is a sparkling comedy of manners, set in Regency England. It's filled with brilliantly recognisable characters and witty dialogue, but it also explores important contemporary anxieties around courtship, reputation and social expectations for women. Its heroine is the spirited Lizzy Bennet, who champions the importance of marrying for mutual love and respect, rather than for wealth or status. She is the ultimate 'obstinate, headstrong girl' and Jane Austen said she was 'as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print'. What do you think?

## ✍ Writing:

Jane Austen first drafted *Pride and Prejudice* in 1796, when she was just 20. At this time it was called *First Impressions*, and it is thought that it may have been a novel in letters. However she extensively revised the manuscript in 1811-1812, once she had moved to Chawton, at which time she also gave it a new title: *Pride and Prejudice*.

## 👇 Rejection!

Like many great works, this iconic novel was at first declined by a publisher. In 1797 Jane's father offered the novel to the publisher Thomas Cadell, but he sent the letter back with 'declined by return of post' scrawled across the top. The novel wasn't accepted for publication until 16 years later.

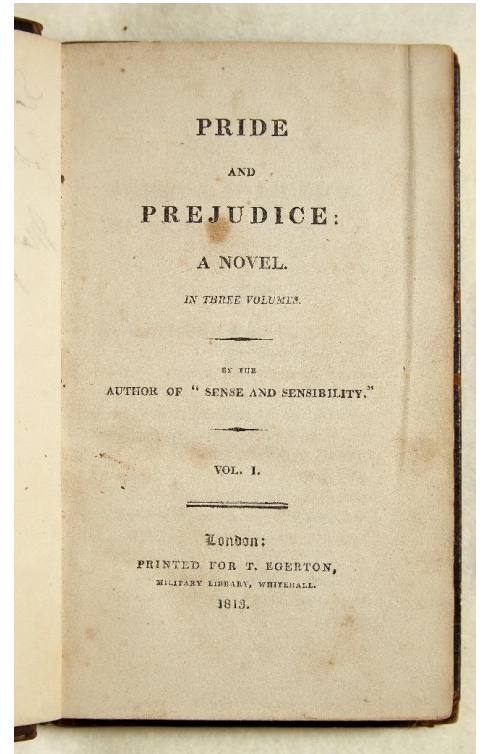
## 📖 Publication:

After the success of Jane's first novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, her publisher Thomas Egerton agreed to publish *Pride and Prejudice* at his own risk, by purchasing the copyright. Jane had hoped for £150 but accepted the negotiated £110 (around £6000 today).

*Pride and Prejudice* was published in January 1813. The first edition sold out quickly, followed by a second edition later that year and a third in 1817. Since Egerton had purchased the copyright, however, he profited from these sales whilst Jane did not.

## 📖 Reading aloud:

On 27 January 1813, Jane received her first copies of *P&P*, fresh from the printer. That evening the Austens' neighbour, Miss Benn, came to dinner, and afterwards Jane and her mother 'set fairly at it' and read half of the first volume to her, without letting on that Jane was the author! Fortunately Miss Benn enjoyed it and admired the main character, Elizabeth Bennet.



☐ Jane Austen's novels were always published anonymously during her lifetime. The title page of *Pride and Prejudice* described the novel as being 'By the Author of "Sense & Sensibility"'.

# 10 ways to celebrate Pride and Prejudice Day at home!

## 📄 Share your favourite line

Tell us your favourite line or scene on social media using the hashtag #PrideandPrejudiceDay. We can't wait to see them all!

## 👗 Dress appropriately

*"I am very glad to hear what you tell us, of long sleeves."*

As it's winter we too are planning to wear long sleeves, like Mrs Bennet!

## ✉ Write a letter

*'How delighted Miss Darcy will be to receive such a letter'*

We all love getting letters in the post! On P&P day, why not write someone a proper letter and take it to the post box?

## 🍲 Eat soup

*'The soup was fifty times better than what we had at the Lucases' last week'*

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a cold January day calls for a warming bowl of soup!

## 🚶 Go for a walk

*'Elizabeth continued her walk alone, crossing field after field at a quick pace, jumping over stiles and springing over puddles with impatient activity'*

A brisk walk in the fresh air always helps to lift the spirits, especially if you can find a field and squelch about in the mud.

## ☕ Have a cup of tea

*'Miss Bennet was making tea, and Elizabeth pouring out the coffee'*

There are many, many cups of tea drunk in *Pride and Prejudice*, so what better way to honour Jane Austen than by making yourself a delicious cuppa?

## 🧘 Practice an accomplishment

*"It is amazing to me," said Bingley, "how young ladies have patience to be so very accomplished as they all are."*

January is a great time to start a new hobby, ideally something you can practice indoors!

## 📖 Read a book

*'Mr. Collins readily assented, and a book was produced; but, on beholding it (for everything announced it to be from a circulating library), he started back, and begging pardon, protested that he never read novels'*

P&P Day isn't just about reading Jane Austen! We love getting stuck into a novel – and if it's a library book, all the better!

## 🎲 Play a game

P&P is full of card games. Lydia enjoys a noisy game of Lottery Tickets and Mr Collins proves himself to be typically deficient at Whist.

## 🎵 Enjoy music and dancing

There are balls aplenty in P&P, and we know that Jane Austen herself loved to dance and play the piano. Whatever your music choice, it's the perfect way to lift the spirits!

## Jane Austen's House

Jane Austen's House is the most treasured Jane Austen site in the world. This inspiring Hampshire cottage was Jane Austen's home and the birthplace of her six beloved novels: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*. Today it is an independent museum celebrating her life, works and legacy. Find out more, plan your visit and enjoy our Pride and Prejudice Day celebrations at [www.jane Austens.house](http://www.jane Austens.house) – we can't wait to welcome you!

