

Jane Austen:

The Woman behind Pride and Prejudice



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November 17th, 2010

"Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves; vanity, to what we would have others think of us."

- "Pride and Prejudice"

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AUSTEN, JANE, 41, of 8 College Street Winchester, Hampshire, England died yesterday, July 18th, 1817. She was with her beloved sister Cassandra Austen at her time of death. Austen was born on December 16th, 1775 to George and Cassandra Austen in the Steventon Rectory in Steventon, Hampshire, England. Austen is the seventh of eight children and the second of two girls. She attended Mrs. Crawley's Boarding School in Oxford along with her older sister Cassandra and later a school in Reading. Her formal education was complete in the

end of 1786 at the age of 11. During this time it was believed that Austen began her writing which is housed in three books, Volume the First, Volume the Second and Volume the Third. These books hold her writing from 1786 to 1793. During her early years of writing she began drafts on her more famous works including First Impressions (Pride and Prejudice) and Elinor and Marianne (Sense and Sensibility). Her first book to be published was Sense and Sensibility in 1811 on October 30th, followed by Pride and Prejudice on January 28th, 1813, Mansfield Park on May 9th 1814, Emma in December of 1815, and Northanger Abbey and Persuasion in December of 1817 after her death. Jane Austen never married but still lived a comfortable life in which many described her as having a sweet temper, patience, hope and a quick wit. Austen was survived by her mother Cassandra, sister Cassandra, and six brothers, James, George, Edward, Henry, Francis, Charles, as well as her good friend Martha. She was predeceased by her Father George Austen on Monday January 21st, 1805. She is to be buried on the 20th in the Winchester Cathedral where the service will be attended by close friends and family. "Let other pens dwell on guilt and misery" - Jane Austen

JOURNAL ENTRY

Friday January 15th, 1796

Dear Journal,

I find that I do not know how to express myself; I can barely wrap my head around the truth that he is gone and I shall never see him again. O how I loathe the way our society dictates our lives and the way in which money can change the feelings of the most amiable man. Love should not flow from the pocket but yet from the heart, but here and now money can change the world where love can only get in the way. Thomas Lefroy was a man of wonderful spirit and of which I had pictured my life with, alas there is no way that this love (if that is what I shall call it) will continue ever again. I am sure that soon he shall be married and the memories of me will be erased from his mind as if I had never existed. The tears fall fresh as each new day comes and I have yet to want to stop them. I know that as the days go on this will be easier but I have yet to feel any relief from the sadness that I feel. Today I wrote to my dear sister Cassandra about this most dreadful event though I am not sure she will see it that way. Never the less I am sure her words will be the soothing remedy to my broken heart. I pray and hope that she will never have to go through the pain that I am feeling now with her beloved Tom Fowle. I know her heart is hurting some as he has left to go on a voyage to St. Domingo in the West Indies.

I find myself going back to the meetings we had and the times we spent together and just as quickly as I am there I am wrenched back to reality with the realization that he is gone and never to return. I have included a picture of him and the flower he gave me, is he not handsome, even more so in person. This loss has produced only one good from it and can be scarcely called that. This heartbreak has inspired me. My writing is fresh and deep, filled with the emotion of love that

cannot be, that would not be today but will end in the way that it should be. I have called it “First Impressions.”

As I finish my thoughts and lay them here in your protected pages I know that I will return, hopefully one day I may look back at what I wrote today and my heartbreak will be a distant memory, a bad taste in my mouth that only occurs on occasion, as for now I must live with what has happened every day.

Until I write again,

Jane



LETTER

December 1st, 1797

My Dearest Jane,

It has been far too long since we have been in each other's company and I dearly miss it. Father is doing well and I hope that mother and our relatives the Leigh-Perrots are doing the same. I am sure that you are enjoying the pleasures and sights of Bath and the relaxing environment that I dare say you have found yourself. But now getting to the matter of which I write, I would very much like to read your marvelous book *First Impressions* again. As I read it the last time I found that I was able to see some of the characters in our life here at Steventon. I wish to peruse the text again to see if I can truly place each character. I believe that I have a thought as to who might have inspired Ms. Lydia Bennett. Though I dare not say for I would never wish to offend. Ms. Martha Lloyd has again asked of me to borrow your book but as I do not have it in my possession I told her that she must take her inquiry to you. I am sure she was a little down heartened at the answer that I provided as I too have wanted to read the work again due to the wonderful story that unfolds and she was so

looking forward to being able to peruse it again. For your writing is most captivating and the picture you paint is extraordinary. Your talent is unmatched in the country. I cannot wait to read more. As I know you will, inform me when you start a new piece. My dear sister I find that whenever I read of Mr. Darcy I picture my dear Tom. O how I miss him, ever since hearing of his death this past spring you know I have not been well. My only hope is that there is possibly another out there for me though I dare say that is possible.

Do tell mother and the family that I have said hello and give them my love. I dearly miss your company and wait for you all to return. When I next see you we shall catch up on all that cannot be expressed through the art of letter writing! All my love.
You're beloved Sister,
Cassandra

BIBLIOGRAPHY

About jane austen-her life and her novels. (2008, March 09). Retrieved from <http://www.jasa.net.au/jabiog.htm>

This source gave information on Jane Austen in the form of a brief biography and a timeline outlining important events in her life. This was a good source to use when needing more general information about her life and when writing her obituary

Austen, J. *Jane austen: the complete novels*. Penguin Putman Inc.

This source is a book containing all of her published works. This was useful in being able to go back and see how she might have composed a letter and her style of writing for the journal entry.

Jane austen life and works timeline history. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.janeausten.org/jane-austen-timeline.asp>

This source was a timeline of Jane Austen's life. While similar to the other timeline this gave more detailed information and specific dates to when something occurred.

Jane austen quotes. (2010). Retrieved from <http://www.janeausten.org/jane-austen-quotes.asp>

This source was a list of quotes that were by Jane Austen as well as her books. This was helpful in being able to add a more personal touch the project by adding something she said or wrote.

Baker, W. (2008). *Critical companion to jane austen: a literary reference to her life and work*. New York: Facts on File Inc.

This source was a chapter in a book that outlined Jane's life. In this chapter there was information about her, her family, family friends and the community around them. From this source I was able to cite specific dates as well see quotes from letters she had written.

Teachman, D. (2000). *Student companion to Jane Austen*. Westport: Greenwood Publishing Group Inc.

This source was also a chapter in a book about Jane's life. From this source I was able to have an in-depth account of her life as well as the lives of those around her. From this source I was able to make sure that my project was dated and detailed correctly.

Pictures:

Retrieved from

http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://britlitwiki.wikispaces.com/file/view/Jane_Austen.jpg/34015607/Jane_Austen.jpg&imgrefurl=http://britlitwiki.wikispaces.com/Jane%2BAusten&usq=glmFzqjfW7GTzDML0UqdBd5CyM=&h=599&w=484&sz=63&hl=en&start=0&zoom=1&tbnid=CIim6T74dlPnyM:&tbnh=153&tbnw=124&prev=/images%3Fq%3DJane%2BAusten%26hl%3Den%26biw%3D1276%26bih%3D839%26gbv%3D2%26tbs%3Disch:1&itbs=1&iact=rc&dur=125&ei=MTPjTMg-g52WB GD8PQN&oei=MTPjTMg-g52WB GD8PQN&esq=1&page=1&ndsp=26&ved=1t:429,r:2,s:0&tx=38&ty=46

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Who is your favorite author?

Grade 4
11-17-10

Now that we have finished our author's study as a class you will do one on your own and present it to the class.

Directions:

1. Pick an author whose work or life you find interesting
2. Research the Author to find out about their life and works they have completed
 - a. You may use books as well as approved Internet sources for the research
 - b. You must have at least 3 sources (at least 1 book)
3. You will then choose 3 different types of genres to present the information that you have collected
4. With each piece you will draft, revise and publish your work. These pieces are YOURS, make them yourself.
5. After you have published your three pieces you will put them together to present to the class
 - a. You may use:
 - i. Power point
 - ii. Poster
 - iii. Word Document
 - iv. Video
 - v. If needed, act it out
 - vi. etc
6. Finally you will present your work to the Class!!



| | 3 | 2 | 1 | <u>Comments</u> |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------|
| The student will pick an author of interest to them that is approved by the teacher | N/A | The author that the student chose was approved by the teacher | The author that the student chose was not approved by the author | |
| The student will use at least 3 resources for their research, at least one of them being a book | The student used 3 or more sources for their research, at least of them being a book | The student used only 2 sources for their research, one of them was a book | The student used less than 2 sources and did not use a book | |
| The student made three different original works (genres) | The student has 3 original works (genres) | The student has 2 original works (genres) | The student had less than 2 original works (genres) | |
| The student presented their information to the class with enthusiasm | The student presented the information to the class in a interesting manner and with enthusiasm | The student presented the information to the class but lacked enthusiasm | The student did not present their information to the class | |

List of Authors

- Jane Yolen
- Beverly Cleary (“Ramona, Age 8”)
- Cynthia Rylant
- Judy Blume (“Freckle Juice”)
- Jeff Kinney (“Diary of a Wimpy Kid”)
- Dav Pilkey (“Captain Underpants”)
- Natalie Babbitt (“Tuck Everlasting”)
- Lois Lowry (“The Giver”)
- Roald Dahl (“James and The Giant Peach”)
- Andrew Clemmens (“Frinndle”)
- Louis Sacher (“Holes”)
- Jake Gantos (“Joey Pigza”)
- E.B. White (“Charlotte’s Web”)
- J.K. Rowling (“Harry Potter”)
- Mary Pope Osbourne (“Magic Tree House”)
- Holly Black (“Spiderwick Chronicles”)
- Lemony Snicket (“Series of Unfortunate Events”)
- Kate DiCamillo (“Because of Winn Dixie”)
- Franklin W. Dixon (“The Hardy Boys”)
- Eva Ibbotson (“The Secret of Platform 13”)
- Carolyn Keene (“Nancy Drew”)
- Kathryn Lasky (“The Guardians of Ga’Hoole”)
- Gail Carson Levine (“Ella Enchanted”)
- Shel Silverstein (“Where the Sidewalk Ends”)
- Jack Prelutsky (“The New Kid on the Block”)

You can use any of the authors above or choose your own but you must have it approved.

List of Genres

- Journal Entries
- Personal Letter
- Schedule/Things to Do List
- Classified or Personal Ads
- Poetry
- Song Lyrics
- Contest Entry Application
- Speech or Debate
- Historical Times Context Essay
- Textbook Article
- Dialogue of a Conversation among Two or More People
- Short Story
- Adventure Magazine Story
- Ghost Story
- Myth, Tall Tale, or Fairy Tale
- Talk Show Interview or Panel
- Recipe and Description of Traditional Holiday Events
- Liner Notes
- Picture book
- Chart or Diagram with Explanation and Analysis
- Brochure or Newsletter
- Time Line or Chain of Events
- Map with Explanation and Analysis
- Magazine or TV Advertisement or Infomercial
- Restaurant Description and Menu
- Travel Brochure Description
- How-To or Directions Booklet
- Receipts, Applications, Deeds, Budgets or Other Documents
- Wedding, Graduation or Special Event Invitation
- Birth Certificate
- Local News Report
- Pop-Up book
- Review and Poster for a Movie, Book, or TV Program
- Board Game or Trivial Pursuit with Answers and Rules
- Comic Strip or Graphic Novel excerpt
- Power Point Presentation
- Informational Video
- Future News Story
- Letter to the Editor
- Newspaper or Magazine Feature/Human Interest Story
- Obituary, Eulogy or Tribute
- News Program Story or Announcement