

**Pride and Prejudice**  
**by Jane Austen**  
**Book Review by Gary Harding Year 11**

This book was written a long time ago so it is a bit old-fashioned. Our teacher Miss Fielding said it is a very good book and everyone should read it. The girls in my class liked it but the boys didn't.

It begins with some very famous lines. 'It is a truth universally acknowledged that a man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife'. The story used a lot of long words and there are a lot of muddle-ups in it which might have been avoided if the characters in it had used shorter words but Miss Fielding says they talked like that in those days.

Anyway it is about a man called Mr. Bennet who doesn't seem to do much, a bit like my Dad, and his wife who gets a bit hysterical at times like my Mum so I can relate a bit with this family and they are quite poor so they have to marry off their daughters to rich men. The 5 daughters are called Jane, Elizabeth, who is also called Lizzie, Mary, Kitty and Lydia. I liked Lydia best because she seemed more modern and took things into her own hands and ran off with a soldier because her parents were snobs and said he wasn't good enough for her. Lydia was a bit of a 'go-er' and I liked her because she made up her own mind about what she wanted and had sex with someone even though her parents said no. Mary is not very good at playing the piano and we don't hear anything much about Kitty so perhaps she was still a baby. But maybe not because I think she was quite excited when the soldiers showed up.

Elizabeth is supposed to be very clever but she isn't that clever because she meets a very rich man called Mr. Darcy but she is prejudiced against him and nearly loses him because she says she doesn't like him very much because he is proud (the other bit in the title). He is also from the North but it doesn't say in the book if she was prejudiced against him because of that too.

Mr. Collins who is the local vicar asks Lizzie to marry him but she wouldn't touch him with a bargepole so he marries her friend Charlotte Lucas instead. She is poorer than Lizzie and older and is a spinster. Miss Fielding says spinsters had to stay at home and do sewing or write letters all day or in Jane Austen's case books. I thought Miss Fielding was a spinster but Jason in the other class saw her one Friday night in the town centre with her arms round a bloke and a can of lager in her hand so maybe she isn't.

Anyway she (Lizzie, not Miss Fielding) changes her mind about Mr. Darcy when she goes up North with her auntie and uncle and sees his big house. She also changes her mind about him because he gets Lydia married to Mr. Wickham (the soldier she ran off with) before they have any kids so her parents are not ashamed of her because in those days you had to get married before you had any children. I think Jane is boring because she never complains or stands up to anyone like Lizzie does but in the end she marries Mr. Bingley who is quite rich but not as rich as Mr. Darcy.

Miss. Fielding showed us a film about the book and all the girls in the class, apart from Chantal who is a lesbian, got soppy about Mr. Darcy who was played by someone called Colin Firth but the boys thought he was a bit of a d\*\*\*\*\*d and we couldn't see why any girl would want to go out with him anyway (apart from because of his money). He doesn't even seem to have a car.

Nobody seems to have a nice time in this story. They seem to go to balls sometimes which Miss Fielding explained was like a disco but less noisy and with no flashing lights because they did not have electricity in the old days but only candles so people must have gone to bed early in the winter as there was nothing else to do. By the way it was probably because of candles that the Great Fire of London happened in my opinion and all that would not have happened if they had not been using candles.

Miss Fielding said this book was a 'comedy of manners' but I didn't find it funny and some people had no manners eg. Lady Catherine de Bourgh who hates Lizzie because she wants her daughter Anne to marry Mr. D. I think Mr. D. and Anne are cousins and I am not sure you can marry your cousin but in those days you could. I have 3 cousins and two of them are girls and I would not want to marry either of them.

Also, Mr. Wickham had in the past tried to get off with Mr. Darcy's sister Georgiana who is only 15 but very rich so this makes Wickham a bit of a paedo and proves that Mr. D. is not all bad.

In the end all the girls get married so Mrs. Bennet does not have to worry any more. Lizzie stops being prejudiced and Mr. Darcy stops being proud and is not as anti-social as he was in the beginning but we don't know if the marriages last because the story stops there.

4/10      *See me and tell Jason to come with you.*