

Film Worksheet 2.5

Pride & Prejudice

Knowledge base

1. Review your knowledge of the novel.
 - a. Read the brief summary of the storyline.
 - b. Say who are full of pride and prejudice and if the novel has a happy ending.

Summary

Pride and Prejudice opens with the news of the expected arrival of an eligible bachelor, Mr Bingley, in the neighbourhood where the Bennet family live. The Bennets and Mr Bingley and his friends meet. Mr Bingley falls in love with Jane, the eldest daughter, while Mr Darcy, Bingley's best friend, seems attracted by Elizabeth, the second daughter. Darcy seems unable to overcome his pride and prejudices concerning social status and acceptable behaviour but then is eventually unable to control his feelings of love and proposes to Elizabeth. Elizabeth, full of pride and prejudiced against Darcy by his behaviour and rumours she has heard, refuses him. As the novel develops Darcy reveals himself to be much more generous and sensitive than he at first appeared and Elizabeth overcomes her prejudices towards him and understands that she, too, is in love. The novel ends happily with the double marriage of Elizabeth and Darcy and of Jane and Bingley.

2. The clip you will watch concerns the moment when Darcy first proposes to Elizabeth.

Will Elizabeth accept Darcy's marriage proposal?

First impressions

3. Read the script which corresponds roughly to the text on pages 184 to 186 of your book.

- a. What kind of tone do you think Elizabeth should use? And Darcy?
- b. Read the script in pairs, using the tones you have chosen.

- DARCY: Miss Elizabeth. I have struggled in vain and can bear it no longer. These past months have been a torment. I came to Rosings with a single object — to see you. I have fought against judgement, my family's expectation, the inferiority of your birth, my rank, circumstance, all these things, and I am willing to put them aside and ask you to end my agony.
- ELIZABETH: I don't understand.
- DARCY: I love you. Most ardently. Please do me the honour of accepting my hand.
- 10 ELIZABETH: Sir, I appreciate the struggle you have been through, and I am very sorry to have caused you pain. Believe me, it was unconsciously done.
- DARCY: Is this your reply?
- ELIZABETH: Yes, sir.
- DARCY: Are you laughing at me?
- ELIZABETH: No.



- DARCY: Are you rejecting me?
- ELIZABETH: I'm sure the feelings which, as you told me, have hindered your regard will help you in overcoming it.
- 20 DARCY: Might I ask why, with so little endeavour at civility, I am thus repulsed?
- ELIZABETH: And I might as well enquire why, with so evident a design of insulting me, you chose to tell me you liked me against your better judgement.
- DARCY: No, believe me...
- ELIZABETH: If I was uncivil, then that is some excuse. But I have other reasons, you know I have.
- DARCY: What reasons?
- ELIZABETH: Do you think anything might tempt me to accept the man who has ruined, perhaps forever, the happiness of a most beloved sister? Do
- 30 you deny it, Mr Darcy, that you separated a young couple who loved each other exposing your friend to the censure of the world for caprice and my sister to its derision for disappointed hopes, and involving them both in misery of the acutest kind?
- DARCY: I do not deny it.
- ELIZABETH: How could you do it?
- DARCY: Because I believed your sister indifferent to him.
- ELIZABETH: Indifferent!
- DARCY: I watched them most carefully and realised his attachment was deeper than hers.
- 40 ELIZABETH: That's because she's shy!
- DARCY: Bingley too is modest and was persuaded she didn't feel strongly.
- ELIZABETH: Because you suggested it.
- DARCY: I did it for his own good.
- ELIZABETH: My sister hardly shows her true feelings to me!



Pride & Prejudice
(see film clip
on the Class Video DVD)

In more detail

Shots

4. Watch the clip for the first time.

Did the film version match your expectations in terms of the tone of delivery of the speeches?

5. Watch the clip again.

- The shots of Elizabeth and Darcy are predominantly of one kind — which?
- Why do you think this type of shot is used?

Composition

6. Great attention is paid to composition in each frame.

Pause the sequence and comment on the composition of some frames.

Script

7. The film script differs from the pages of the novel but was written by a well-known contemporary novelist.

- Find some examples of differences.
- Do you think the script is too different or that it interprets Austen's narrative well?

Conclusions

8. Read the information about the film adapted from *Wikipedia* and answer the questions.

- Which actors and actresses' names do you recognise?
- Which aspects of the original novel were changed, according to the information? Why might the settings have been changed?
- Which film locations are mentioned?
- Was the film a success?



Pride & Prejudice is a 2005 film based on the Jane Austen novel of the same name. It was directed by Joe Wright, based on a screenplay by Deborah Moggach, and released on September 16, 2005. It starred Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Bennet and Matthew Macfadyen as Mr Darcy.

Most works of literature undergo significant cuts when adapted for film; in this production, the story was compressed into 2 hours and 9 minutes of screen time. Some of the most notable changes from the original book were settings. For instance, in the film, Darcy first proposes outdoors in a rainstorm near a beautiful lake; in the book, this scene takes place inside a parsonage. In the film, his second proposal occurs on the misty moors as dawn breaks; in the book, he and Elizabeth are walking down a country lane in broad daylight.

It was filmed entirely on location in England using several stately homes, including Chatsworth House in Derbyshire and Burghley House in Lincolnshire. The movie took the number one spot in the UK its first week, earning a total of over £14 million.

Pride & Prejudice garnered a number of nominations in the 2005/2006 film awards season, most notably four nominations in the Academy Awards including 'Best Actress in a Leading Role' for Keira Knightley. It was also nominated for five BAFTAs.