

STARRING

Keira Knightley,
Matthew Macfadyen,
Brenda Blethyn,
Donald Sutherland
and Judi Dench

Pride and Prejudice

Directed by Joe Wright (2005)



DVD

Four Oscar nominations went to this production of *Pride and Prejudice* directed by Joe Wright. This manicured version of the novel manages to respect the intricacies of Austen's text while at the same time giving the film a modern appeal, especially with the casting of Keira Knightley as Elizabeth (Lizzie) Bennet. The stunning photography, which concentrates on the English countryside and its stately homes, also captures the mood of the period.

The story on screen so far...

Tensions have been rising, along with Lizzie's prejudice towards Mr Darcy. As you will remember from the extracts you read, Elizabeth holds Darcy responsible for her sister's unhappiness, Mr Bingley having jilted her following Darcy's advice. However, Lizzie seems to find Darcy around every corner, little knowing that his love for her has been growing all this time until he can no longer resist displaying it in this first, rather clumsy and arrogant attempt at proposal.

Now watch the film extract and answer the following questions.

Over to you

- 1** Watch and listen to the first part of the dialogue twice, then fill in the missing words.

'Miss Elizabeth, I have (1) in vain and I can (2) it no longer. These (3) have been a torment. I came to Rosings for the single object of seeing you. I (4) you. I've fought against my better (5), my family's expectations, the (6) of your birth, my rank, circumstance, all these things and I'm willing to put them (7) and ask you to end my (8).'



- 2** Listen to the whole scene again and write down who says the following lines, put D for Darcy or E for Elizabeth.

1. 'I don't understand'
2. 'I'm very sorry to have caused you pain'
3. 'Are you laughing at me?'
4. '...why with so little endeavour of civility I'm thus repulsed?'
5. '...you chose to tell me you like me against your better judgement.'

- 3** What differences can you find between the scene presented in the novel (see p. 334) and the scene in the film? i.e. environment.
- 4** Why do you think the director, Joe Wright, made these choices? In your opinion do they add to or detract from the moment?
- 5** 'I have other reasons. You know I have.' What are the other reasons for Elizabeth's rejection of Mr Darcy?
- 6** Who do you sympathise with most in this scene, Darcy or Elizabeth?
- 7** Are the characters of Darcy and Elizabeth in the film how you imagined them to be? Explain why or why not.