

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, a review written by Lotta van Hoof, 9b

Pride and Prejudice, the brilliant novel by Jane Austen, tells the love story of Elisabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, who both have to overcome their pride and prejudice in order to end up together and fall in love.

The book mainly focuses on the Bennet family. The family lives in Harfordshire (northern London) and since their father died, the five daughters live on their own. The daughters were born into the high society but their family doesn't really fit in because of the little amount of money they make after their father's death.

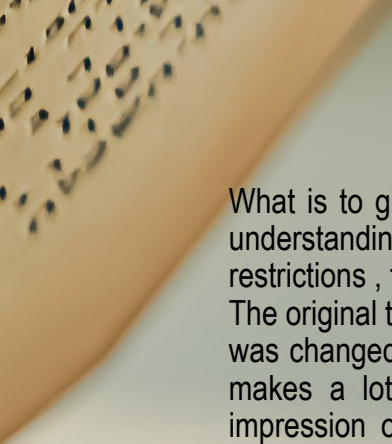
Elizabeth one of the daughters, is an intelligent girl that doesn't really fit into the standards of her social class, because she is questioning the way women are treated by men and basically thinks that all of this trying-to-marry-a-presentable-women-thing is really dumb.

Firstly, Elizabeth thinks of Mr. Darcy as an ignorant and unapproachable man until Mr. Darcy shows her his kindness and affection by helping Elizabeth's sister Lydia. That way, they get to know each other really and fall in love.

I love how Elizabeth has so much control she stands up for herself, she denies people the things they want from her and she is very headstrong.

I found the book generally good fun to read, because it's relatable and the protagonist Elisabeth has a lot of humour in my opinion.

One of my favourite scenes is for example when Mr. Collins tries to propose to Elizabeth and she just tries to kindly tell him that she is not interested in him. (Chapter 10) which really shows how much control Elisabeth has.



What is so great about this book in my opinion is Austen's understanding of social class and the way she talks about restrictions, for both women and men, through her book.

The original title of the book was "First Impressions" before it was changed to "Pride and Prejudice" which, in my opinion, makes a lot of sense since the book is about the first impression of people when they meet and what kind of prejudice there is against each other.

I have to say I found the novel, especially in the beginning, pretty hard and complicated to read just because I am not used to reading classics with their archaic language, but I have an advice to make it easier:

While you read the first two or three chapters listen to the audiobook and read along. This helped me personally a lot.

I really think Pride and Prejudice is a very important book until this day and I can highly recommend to read it even though it was first published 210 years ago. Its message is still very compelling and hasn't lost out.

