



*Pop Culture - Full Sail University - Ren Stolze*

---

**Heroism**

Pride and Prejudice -  
Elizabeth Bennet

---



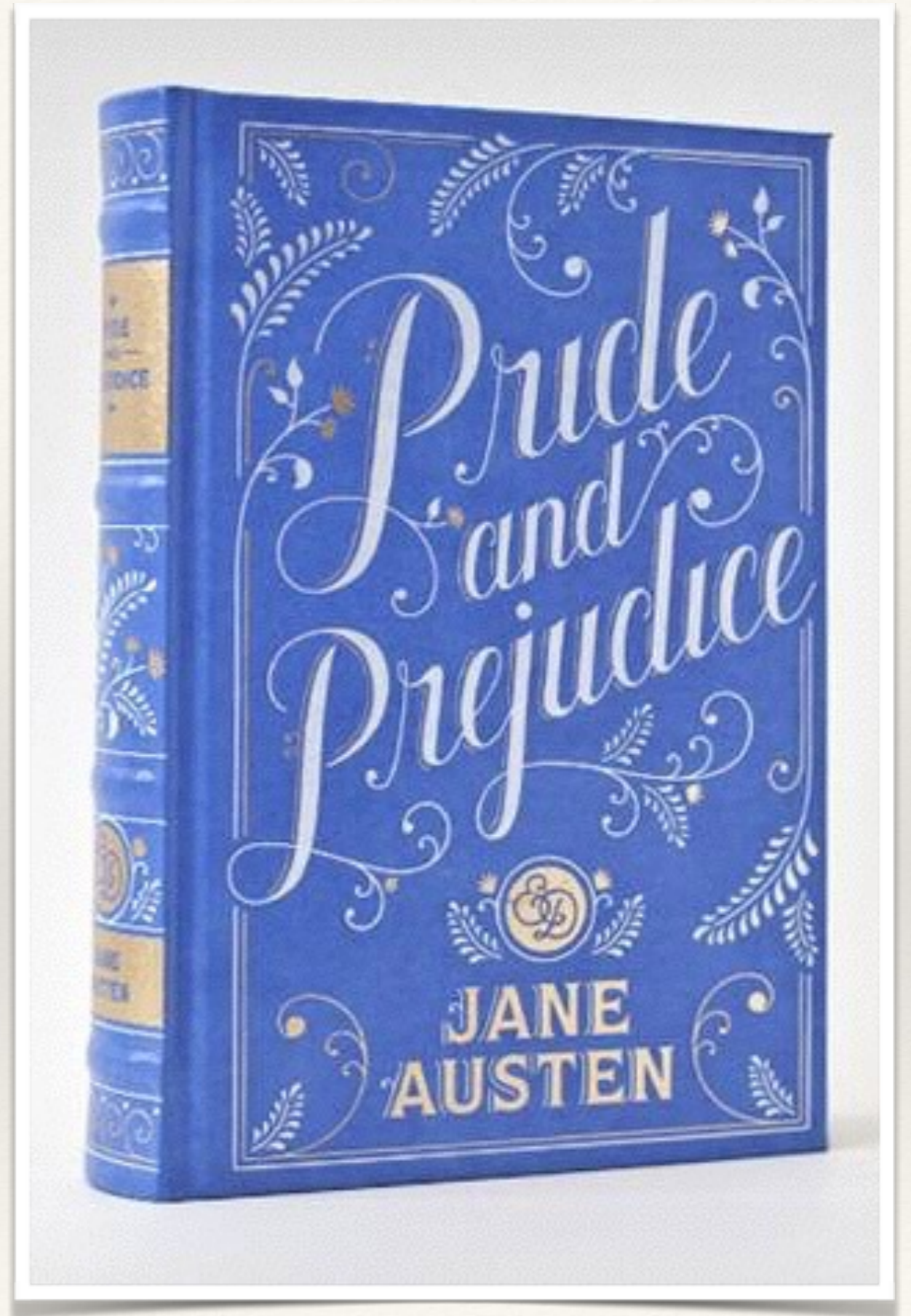
*The Beginning*

---

# Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

---

The original *Pride and Prejudice* was written by Jane Austen in 1813. It represented a heroine by the name of Elizabeth Bennet. She was witty, independent, strong and intelligent, unlike many of the women of her kind. She is drawn through the process of finding a suitable husband along with her other sisters. In this search she develops a strange relationship with a man named Mr. Darcy, until they ultimately fall in love.







# Elizabeth Bennet

**Intelligent:** Reads diligently. The most well read in her family.  
(Only common trait of wealthier women of this time).

**Strong:** Willing to put her families needs before her own and speak her opinion on situations.  
Within the book and movie, Elizabeth says no to a marriage proposal and helps to aid her sisters quest in developing a relationship with Mr. Bingley.

**Witty:** Elizabeth does her best to take every bad situation with a grain of salt. She understands the importance of her marrying to help provide for her family. However, she does not take commentary that berates her or her family. She is a feminist and will talk back appropriately against the men that oppose her position in society.

**Independent / Self-Reliance:** Elizabeth is the only daughter in the family that does everything in her power to not be dependent upon her family. She tries to be responsible for her younger siblings, takes long trips on her own and lives by the path she chooses instead of the one others choose for her.



# heroic

: of or relating to courageous people or the mythological or legendary figures of antiquity

: of, relating to, resembling, or suggesting heroes especially of antiquity.

“A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.”

–*Christopher Reeves*

# Elizabeth Bennet: Intelligence

- ❖ According to Merriam-Webster, heroic is defined as a courageous person. We see Elizabeth Bennet stepping outside the lines to help and protect and enhance her families standing in society many times through both the book and film.
- ❖ One instance is when her eldest sister Jane Bennet, meets Mr. Bingley.
- ❖ Jane Bennet and Mr. Bingley are not in the same standing in society. Elizabeth pushes her sister into situations that provoke them developing relationships. She does this through getting them to dance and meet in the market place.
- ❖ When Jane falls ill on her travels to dine with the Bingley's, Elizabeth travels to their home to take care of her sister and diffuse any ill words said by Mr. Bingley's sister.
- ❖ Through Elizabeths relationship with Mr. Darcy (a friend of Mr. Bingley), she urges the reconnection with Jane and ultimately the marriage proposal between the two.





# Elizabeth Bennet : Self-Reliance



- ❖ Women of this era were supposed to be dependent upon their families and husbands. Elizabeth took it upon herself in multiple situations to stand by her personal beliefs.
- ❖ One major instance of this is with a man named Mr. Collins.
- ❖ Mr. Collins is the inheritance of the estate that the Bennet's live on. He is not good with his social graces and overall a pompous moron.
- ❖ He asks for Elizabeth's hand in marriage. She refuses to marry him; although this may be beneficial for her family, it compromises her overall happiness.
- ❖ She declines against her mother's wishes.
- ❖ Many women in this era of time would often be disowned for disgracing their families with a refusal to marry.
- ❖ Without marriage, women were the burden of their families household and another expense.



---

# Elizabeth Bennet: Strength and Wit

---

- ❖ The relationship between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy is the main conflict within the book and film.
- ❖ Mr. Darcy is a wealthy man who initially judges Elizabeth and her family for their standing in society. He deems them unfit as potential matches for his friends and himself in marriage.
- ❖ Elizabeth stands up to him to gain a connection for her sister to Mr. Bingley.
- ❖ She even uses the phrase, “My courage always rises with every attempt to intimidate me”.
- ❖ Through her ability to speak against his negativity of her and her family, they both begin to realize each other’s best qualities.
- ❖ Her strength and wittiness cause Mr. Darcy to fall in love with her excuse his initial prejudices because of how she handles her families situations without intimidation.
- ❖ This leads to Elizabeth finding a relationship that provides her with the happiness that she has been looking for.







# Old vs. New

Adaptations between the book and film.  
Perspectives that offer deeper connections to the hero.



---

# Adaptations: Old vs. New

---

- ❖ Elizabeth is seen as more impatient in the film to offer the audience a deeper understanding of her independence and pride.
- ❖ Her social standing comes off as being more poor in the film versus the book. This helps to develop the prejudice that Mr. Darcy has against her better qualities in their initial meetings.
- ❖ Elizabeth's relationship with Jane becomes estranged as the film progresses. In the book she remains close to her sister Jane and opens up to her after difficult situations. The film's adaptation provides the audience with a stronger sense of independence and strength to overcome obstacles.
- ❖ The perspective is derived from both Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. This helps to develop their relationship in the film and allow him to become more human to Elizabeth as she gets to know him quicker through the storyline. In the book the perspective is completely from Elizabeth which allows the reader to connect almost solely with Elizabeth and not as much with the other characters as the film. She uses her wit and intelligence to circumvent his banter against her until he realizes that social standing isn't everything.



A woman with short brown hair and bangs is shown from the chest up, reading an open book. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved top. The background is a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills and trees under a warm, golden sunset sky. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# Why Elizabeth Bennet is a Hero

She is a feminist that spoke against the common social standings of inequality between men and women.

She treated her prospects for marriage as more than a trade of financial gain for her family. She sought after a marriage that would bring her love and happiness instead.

She helped fix many marital situations for both herself and her sisters happiness and security.



---

# References

---

Austen, J. (1995). *Pride and Prejudice*. New York: Modern Library.

ElizabethDarcy (n.d.). [Username]. (2006). William Collins. [IMAGE] Retrieved April 4th, 2017 from <http://pridenprejudice.proboards.com/thread/85/characters-pride-prejudice>

Heroic. (n.d.). In *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/heroic>

Kingdomofdust (n.d.). [Username]. (2017). Kiera Knightley and Rosamund Pike as Elizabeth and Jane Bennet, *Pride and Prejudice* (2005). [IMAGE] Retrieved April 4th, 2017 from <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/564x/41/89/c9/4189c964d47088487204d5a03857cdbc.jpg>

lauramalvinci (n.d.). [Username]. (2017). Kiera Knightley gif. [IMAGE] Retrieved April 4th, 2017 from [https://68.media.tumblr.com/2f82cf4e6ae0078e3e27b461a71a0a35/tumblr\\_o0p66xqmYJ1shq1dno1\\_500.gif](https://68.media.tumblr.com/2f82cf4e6ae0078e3e27b461a71a0a35/tumblr_o0p66xqmYJ1shq1dno1_500.gif)

Literary Articles (n.d.). (2017). Elizabeth in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*: An Atypical Woman for Society. *Literary Articles*. Retrieved April 4th, 2017 from <http://www.literary-articles.com/2010/02/elizabeth-bennet-in-jane-austens-pride.html>

Reeves, C. (n.d.). *BrainyQuote.com*. Retrieved April 4th, 2017 from <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/c/christophe141891.html>

Shrivastava, L. (2016). 15 Quotes from Jane Austen's '*Pride and Prejudice*' that have Withstood the Test of Time. *Story Pick*. Retrieved April 4th, 2017 from <http://www.storypick.com/pride-and-prejudice-quotes/>

Tyler, R. (2015). Elizabeth Bennet, played by Kiera Knightley, from *Pride and Prejudice*. [IMAGE]. Retrieved April 4th, 2017 from <https://adrianagabriellewrites.wordpress.com/tag/rose-tyler/>

Wright, J. (Director). (n.d.). *Pride and Prejudice* [Video File]. Retrieved April 3rd, 2017.