

Jane Austen

An English Novelist



(Portrait by Jane's sister, 1810)

Brief Introduction

Jane Austen was an English novelist known primarily for her six major novels, which interpret, critique, and comment upon the British landed gentry at the end of the 18th century. Austen's plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage in the pursuit of favourable social standing and economic security. Her works critique the novels of sensibility of the second half of the 18th century and are part of the transition to 19th-century literary realism.

Basic Information

- Born on 16/December/1775
Steventon Rectory, Hampshire, England
- Died on 18 July 1817
Winchester, Hampshire, England
- Age: 41
- Resting Place: Winchester Cathedral
- Creation Time: 1787-1817
Father: George Austen
Mother: Cassandra Leigh
Sister: Cassandra
- Jane Austen*

Skills and Strengths

- Novel Creation
- Dramatic Writing
- Private Theatricals
- Dancing
- Sewing
- Footepiano
- Reading

Formula for Austen

$$f(x|\mu, \sigma^2) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \varphi\left(\frac{x - \mu}{\sigma}\right)$$

EDUCATION

After 1786



Home Schooling
Steventon Rectory

📍 Hampshire, England

The remainder of her education came from reading, guided by her father and brothers James and Henry.

1785-1786



Attending Boarding School
Reading Abbey Girls' School

📍 Reading, England

The school curriculum probably included some French, spelling, needlework, dancing and music and, perhaps, drama. The sisters returned home before December 1786 because the school fees for the two girls were too high for the Austen family.

1783-1785



Taught by Private Tutor
Mrs Ann Cawley

📍 Southampton, England

In 1783, Austen and her sister Cassandra were sent to Oxford to be educated by Mrs Ann Cawley who took them with her to Southampton when she moved there later in the year. In the autumn both girls were sent home when they caught typhus and Austen nearly died.

MAIN PUBLICATIONS

Sense and Sensibility

1811

The novel follows the three Dashwood sisters as they must move with their widowed mother from the estate on which they grew up, Norland Park. Because Norland is passed down to John, the product of Mr. Dashwood's first marriage, and his young son, the four Dashwood women need to look for a new home. They have the opportunity to rent a modest home, Barton Cottage, on the property of a distant relative, Sir John Middleton.

Pride and Prejudice

1813

The novel follows the character development of Elizabeth Bennet, the dynamic protagonist of the book who learns about the repercussions of hasty judgments and comes to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness. Pride and Prejudice has consistently appeared near the top of lists of "most-loved books" among literary scholars and the reading public. It has become one of the most popular novels in English literature.

Mansfield Park

1814

The novel tells the story of Fanny Price, starting when her overburdened family sends her at the age of ten to live in the household of her wealthy aunt and uncle and following her development into early adulthood.

Emma

1815

The novel is about youthful hubris and romantic misunderstandings, written by Jane Austen. It is set in the fictional country village of Highbury and the surrounding estates of Hartfield, Randalls and Donwell Abbey, and involves the relationships among people from a small number of families.

Northanger Abbey

1818

Northanger Abbey is a coming-of-age novel and a satire of Gothic novels written by Jane Austen. Austen was also influenced by Charlotte Lennox's The Female Quixote.