SYNOPSIS
This is the story of the Bennet family: mother, father and five daughters. The family has a large country estate. They are not very wealthy, however, and because there are no sons, the family will lose the estate when Mr Bennet dies. It is important, therefore, for the daughters to marry men with money. At least, Mrs Bennet thinks so; her two oldest daughters, who are more refined than their mother, would rather marry for love. When rich, young Mr Bingley and his sisters come to live at nearby Netherfield Park, Mrs Bennet is delighted. She plans that Mr Bingley will marry one of her daughters. And he does fall in love with her eldest daughter Jane. And Jane falls in love with him. Mr Bingley’s sisters and his best friend Mr Darcy, however, do not approve. They are proud of their high social standing and do not believe he should marry into a family with so little money and such inferior relatives. Mr Darcy then falls in love with the second Bennet daughter, Elizabeth, against his own judgement.

The story follows these two love stories, as well as the activities of their wild youngest sister, Lydia. When she elopes with the good-for-nothing Mr Wickham, Jane and Elizabeth believe they have no chance of making a good marriage.

THE BACK STORY
Jane Austen (1775–1817) lived an uneventful life, mainly in the country, although the family spent some years in Bath and Southampton. She was the seventh of eight children. She wrote secretly, with busy family life going on around her. After Jane’s death at only 41, her sister Cassandra removed all intimate details from her letters and burned them, so no one is very sure about her true feelings or her love life. Her novels were popular during her lifetime, although some people – including Charlotte Brontë (contemporary of Austen and author of Jane Eyre) – thought they were ‘limited’. The Prince Regent (the future King George IV) loved her novels and kept a set in each of his palaces.

It was not until after her death that Jane Austen became such a well-known and well-loved writer. Pride and Prejudice is her most popular novel, with film, TV and radio versions appearing year after year.

MEDIA LINKS
DVD: The photographs in the Scholastic reader come from director Joe Wright’s 2005 film of Pride and Prejudice, starring Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Bennet and Matthew Macfadyen as Mr Darcy.
CD: A recording of Pride and Prejudice is available to accompany the Scholastic media reader.
Internet: www.bbc.co.uk/drama/prideandprejudice
Books: There are many editions of Jane Austen’s classic story. Her other books include Sense and Sensibility (1811), Mansfield Park (1814), Emma (1816) and Northanger Abbey (1818).

Choosing and motivating
Is this the right story for your class? Have students seen the film of Pride and Prejudice? Do they like classics? Do they like romantic love stories? Motivate them by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere, or playing the first chapter on the CD in class.

Organising
Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. (All the answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Using the CD
Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Using the DVD
Select the English language option on the DVD. The film is 127 minutes. You could show it in chunks of, say, ten minutes in parallel with the class reading schedule. Alternatively, choose key scenes and set language tasks related to them.

Glossary
Go to ‘New Words’ at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

The language of Jane Austen’s time
Introduce the old-fashioned expressions used in Pride and Prejudice (see page 6 of the reader). Students will find these notes useful as they read this story and other stories from the same period. They help to give a flavour of the original, without making the style difficult to access.

Fact Files
Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. These provide background information about Jane Austen’s life and times, Pride and Prejudice today, the importance of love and marriage in Jane Austen’s day and how families like the Bennets spent their time.

What did they think?
Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of Pride and Prejudice. Compare opinions. Will they see the film? Did you like it? Let us know at readers@link2English.com.
People and places

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
   a) Mr and Mrs Bennet have four daughters.  
   b) Mr Darcy likes Mr Bingley.  
   c) Something has happened in the past between Mr Darcy and Mr Wickham.  
   d) Mr Collins is connected to the Bennets and Lady Catherine de Bourgh.  
   e) Mr Darcy is usually in London in the winter.  

Chapters 1–3

1 Circle the correct words in italics.
   a) Mr Bennet tells / doesn’t tell his wife before he visits Mr Bingley.  
   b) Mrs Bennet is very happy / cross when she hears about the visit.  
   c) People at the Meryton Ball don’t like Mr Darcy because he is rich / proud.  
   d) Mr Bingley / Mr Darcy loves dancing.  
   e) Elizabeth thinks that the Bingley sisters have very fine / bad manners.  

2 Make sentences.
   a) Mr Bingley i) has changed his mind about Elizabeth.  
   b) Charlotte Lucas ii) is jealous of Elizabeth.  
   c) Mr Darcy iii) is in love with Jane Bennet.  
   d) Elizabeth iv) does not believe in marrying for love.  
   e) Caroline Bingley v) is not interested in Mr Darcy.  

3 Put these events a–h in the right order.
   a) Caroline invites Elizabeth to walk around the room with her.  
   b) Elizabeth walks to Netherfield.  
   c) Jane gets very wet on the way and has to stay the night.  
   d) Jane is invited to Netherfield.  
   e) The Bingleys invite Elizabeth to stay because Jane is too ill to leave.  
   f) On the first evening, Elizabeth joins the Bingleys for dinner.  
   g) The next day, Elizabeth and Jane are able to go home.  
   h) The next evening, Jane joins them as well.  

4 After Jane and Elizabeth’s stay at Netherfield, do you think Mr Darcy is more or less interested in Elizabeth?

Chapters 4–7

1 Answer these questions.
   a) Have the family met Mr Collins before?
   b) How does Mr Collins feel about Lady Catherine de Bourgh?
   c) How do we know that Miss de Bourgh is not pretty?
   d) Why does Mr Bennet enjoy Mr Collins’s company?
   e) Why has Mr Collins come to visit the Bennet family?

2 Circle the mistakes in these sentences.
   a) Mr Wickham and Mr Darcy are not surprised when they see each other in Meryton.  
   b) Mr Wickham says he hated Mr Darcy’s father.  
   c) Mr Wickham doesn’t think Miss Darcy is proud like her brother.  
   d) Jane believes Mr Wickham’s story.  
   e) Elizabeth dances the first two dances at the Netherfield ball with Mr Wickham.  
   f) Nobody at the ball believes Mr Bingley and Jane Bennet will marry.  
   g) Mrs Bennet will be happy if her daughters marry after the Lucas girls marry.  
   h) Elizabeth refuses Mr Collins’s proposal three times.  
   i) Elizabeth broke Mr Collins’s heart when she refused him.  
   j) Mrs Bennet is very pleased that Charlotte Lucas is marrying Mr Collins.  

   Now write the correct sentences in an exercise book.

   a) Mr Collins  
   b) Mr Wickham  
   c) Mr Darcy  

Chapters 8–11

1 Who …
   a) is a regular visitor to Longbourn over the winter?  
   b) thinks Wickham would be a bad husband for Elizabeth?  
   c) is very unfriendly to Jane when she is in London?  
   d) does Elizabeth think is rude when she visits Hunsford?  
   e) tells Elizabeth that he is too poor to marry just for love?  

2 Talk to a partner. What do these statements mean?
   a) ‘I am not good at meeting strangers,’ said Mr Darcy. ‘I am not good a playing the piano … because I do not practise,’ says Elizabeth.  
   b) ‘I am not rich enough to marry without thinking of money,’ says Colonel Fitzwilliam.  
   c) ‘I am not sorry for refusing you, because you have not acted like a gentleman,’ says Elizabeth.
3 Tick (✓) the things that Mr Darcy says in his letter.
   a) He does not love Elizabeth now. ☑
   b) He did not believe that Jane was in love with Mr Bingley. ☐
   c) He told Mr Bingley that Jane was in London. ☐
   d) He gave Mr Wickham three thousand pounds instead of a church. ☐
   e) Mr Wickham lost the three thousand pounds at cards. ☐
   f) Mr Wickham was in love with Georgiana. ☐

4 Mr Darcy asks Elizabeth to tell no one about Mr Wickham and Georgiana. Why, do you think?

Chapters 12–15
1 Talk to a partner. Do you agree with these statements?
   a) Lydia is selfish. ☑
   b) Mr Bennet is a bad father. ☐

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
   a) The housekeeper tells the Gardiners and Elizabeth that Mr Darcy is coming to Pemberley the next day. F
   b) She thinks Mr Darcy is very proud. ☑
   c) Elizabeth and Mr Darcy are very embarrassed when they meet. ☑
   d) Elizabeth knows that Mr Darcy still loves her because he wants to introduce his sister to her. ☐
   e) Miss Darcy is very proud. ☐

3 Put these events a–i in the right order.
   a) Lydia goes to Brighton with the officers. ☑
   b) Colonel Forster follows Lydia and Mr Wickham but loses them. ☐
   c) Elizabeth and the Gardiners return to Longbourn. ☐
   d) Lydia runs off with Mr Wickham. ☑
   e) Mr Bennet goes to London to look for them. ☑
   f) Mr Bennet returns to Longbourn without them. ☐
   g) Mr Gardiner returns to London. ☑
   h) Mr Gardiner sees Mr Wickham and Lydia and Mr Wickham agrees to marry Lydia. ☑
   i) Mrs Bennet tells all her friends. ☑

Chapters 16–20
1 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

   accepts arranged promise wedding proposes second sent

   a) Elizabeth learns that Mr Darcy was at Lydia's ................... .
   b) Her aunt tells her that Mr Darcy ......................... everything.
   c) Lydia and Mr Wickham are ....................... to the north of England.
   d) Mr Bingley ......................... to Jane.

   e) Lady Catherine wants Elizabeth to ......................... never to be engaged to Mr Darcy.
   f) Mr Darcy proposes to Elizabeth for a ......................... time.
   g) This time Elizabeth ......................... him.

FINAL TASKS
Writing
1 Choose one of the photographs in this book. Describe the characters and what is happening in the picture, what has just happened and what is going to happen.
2 What did you think of this book? Write about it and say why you did/didn’t enjoy reading it. Will you read any more books by Jane Austen?
3 You are Mr Darcy. You have just heard from Elizabeth that Lydia has run off with Mr Wickham. Describe what you do from that moment until the point where Mr Wickham and Lydia are finally married.

VOCABULARY BUILDER
Find ‘New Words’ at the back of the book for each of these definitions.

1. This joins two people together for life. 

2. You may feel this when you do something that you know is wrong. 

3. You do this when you ask someone to marry you. 

4. This person works for another person in their house. 

5. You may feel this when you hear some bad news. 

6. You may do this when you say something rude to someone. 

7. This person is your brother's or sister's son. 

8. This is a big house with a lot of land. 

9. You may feel this if you have a high opinion of yourself. 

10. This is a lot of money. 

11. This person works in a church. 

12. You may be this if you behave like a child. 

13. It may be hard to do this to a naughty dog. 

14. Horses pull this along the road. 

15. You can dance the night away at this.
CD FOLLOW-UP

What happens next?

Play a short scene from the CD. Ask students to tell you what happened before this scene and what they think is going to happen immediately afterwards.

JANE AUSTEN: THEN AND NOW (pages 78–9)

Modern Retelling

Students work in pairs. They plan a new version of Pride and Prejudice in a modern context. They locate the story where the main characters live and choose new names and jobs for the Bennets, the Bingleys, the Darcys, Mr Wickham, Mr Collins and Lady Catherine and her daughter.

LOVE AND MARRIAGE IN REGENCY ENGLAND (pages 80–1)

Project

Students research aspects of love and marriage 200 years ago in their country. They write a paragraph comparing ideas about love and marriage today. Students can choose different topics and then present their information to the class.

Possible topics: reasons for marrying, ways of proposing, styles of wedding, life after marriage.

Survey

Students work in small groups and prepare questions to find out class views on marriage. They can ask about reasons for getting married; arranged marriages; if people should wait before they marry; and if divorce is too easy/difficult.

Groups interview all the other students and collate their answers. They can present the information they collect in different ways.

Examples: Most of the class thinks divorce is too easy. Twenty-five per cent of the class are in favour of arranged marriages.

SOCIALISING IN REGENCY ENGLAND (pages 82–3)

Roleplay

Students work in pairs. They choose one of these situations in Regency England and write or improvise a dialogue. They can act out their conversation for the class.

- Lydia wants Mrs Bennet to let her go to a ball with her sisters.
- Miss Bingley walks round the room and tries to attract Mr Darcy’s attention. Mr Darcy wants to read his book.
- Elizabeth and Mr Darcy walk through the woods at Pemberley just after they are married

FILM FOLLOW-UP

Who says what?

Choose a short scene before the lesson. Write five or six short quotes from the scene on the board. Students watch the scene and note down the speaker in each case.

Correct the details

Choose another short scene before the lesson. Change four or five details from the scene. Write the incorrect sentences on the board. Students watch and correct the details.

Examples: Lady Catherine plays the piano. Mr Darcy doesn’t speak to Elizabeth or Mr Collins.

FACT FILE FOLLOW-UP

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 84–8)

1 a) a clergyman  b) an estate  c) offend  d) charming  e) engaged
2 a) Mr Wickham  b) Lydia  c) Lady Catherine de Bourgh  d) Mr Bingley  e) Mr Collins
3 a) Because he has a large fortune.  b) She dislikes him.  c) No, because she hides her feelings.  d) No, she has no idea of his feelings.  e) She has a low opinion of them.  f) Because Jane will have to stay at Netherfield and Mr Bingley may fall in love with her.  g) We don’t know, but he seems more interested in Elizabeth.  h) No, she isn’t.

1–6 Open answers.
7 a) Right  b) Wrong – Jane is his first choice  c) Right  d) Right – he does not have his own church because of him  e) Wrong – they are polite but cold  f) Right  g) Wrong – Mrs Bennet wants her to accept; Mr Bennet wants her to reject  h) Right
8–10 Open answers.
11 a) Caroline Bingley  b) Elizabeth  c) Lady Catherine de Bourgh  d) Mr Darcy  e) her family
12–14 Open answers.
15 a and b are mistakes; c and e have good results; we do not know what the consequences of d will be
16–20 Open answers.
21 a) Mr Wickham to Elizabeth Bennet  b) Mrs Bennet to Mr Bingley  c) Mr Bingley to Jane Bennet  d) Lady Catherine de Bourgh to Mr Darcy  e) Mrs Bennet to Lady Lucy and all her friends
22–23 Open answers.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places
1 a) F  b) T  c) T  d) T  e) F
Chapters 1–3
1 a) doesn’t tell  b) happy  c) proud  d) Mr Bingley  e) bad
2 a) Mr Bingley is in love with Jane Bennet.  b) Charlotte Lucas does not believe in marrying for love.  c) Mr Darcy has changed his mind about Elizabeth.  d) Elizabeth is not interested in Mr Darcy.  e) Caroline Bingley is jealous of Elizabeth.
3 The correct order is: d, c, b, e, f, h, a, g.
4 Open answers.
Chapters 4–7
1 a) No, he is a stranger to them.  b) She is the most important person in his life.  c) He says that ‘high class’ is more important than being pretty.  d) He likes to laugh at him.  e) He is looking for a wife.
2 a) not surprised > shocked  b) hated > loved
3 a) not interested > interested  b) believes > doesn’t believe  c) Mr Wickham > Collins  d) Nobody > Everybody
4 Open answers.
Chapters 8–11
1 a) Mr Wickham  b) Mrs Gardiner  c) Caroline Bingley  d) Lady Catherine  e) Colonel Fitzwilliam
2 a) Mr Darcy should practise meeting strangers so he can be less rude when he goes to dances.  b) He is not going to ask Elizabeth to marry him, although he obviously likes her. She is not rich enough.  c) Mr Darcy has been rude about her and her family in his proposal.
3 a) F  b) T  c) T  d) T  e) F
4 Open answers.
Chapters 12–15
1 Open answers.
2 a) T  b) F  c) T  d) T  e) F
3 The correct order is: a, b, d, e, c, g, f, h, i.
Chapters 16–20
1 a) wedding  b) arranged  c) sent  d) proposes  e) promise  f) second  g) accepts

Vocabulary Builder