

The Novel of Manners



JANE AUSTEN
(1775 – 1817)

JANE AUSTEN



JANE AUSTEN



- Born in 1775 at Steventon, Hampshire
- Her father was rector of the church
- She was educated at home by her father
- She was the 6th of seven children
- She spent her short and uneventful life in the circle of her family
- Her inseparable companion was her sister, Cassandra, who like Jane, never married
- All her novels were published anonymously while she was alive
- Died in 1817

JANE AUSTEN'S NOVELS



1811

- **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY**

1813

- **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE**

1814

- **MANSFIELD PARK**

JANE AUSTEN'S NOVELS



1816

- EMMA

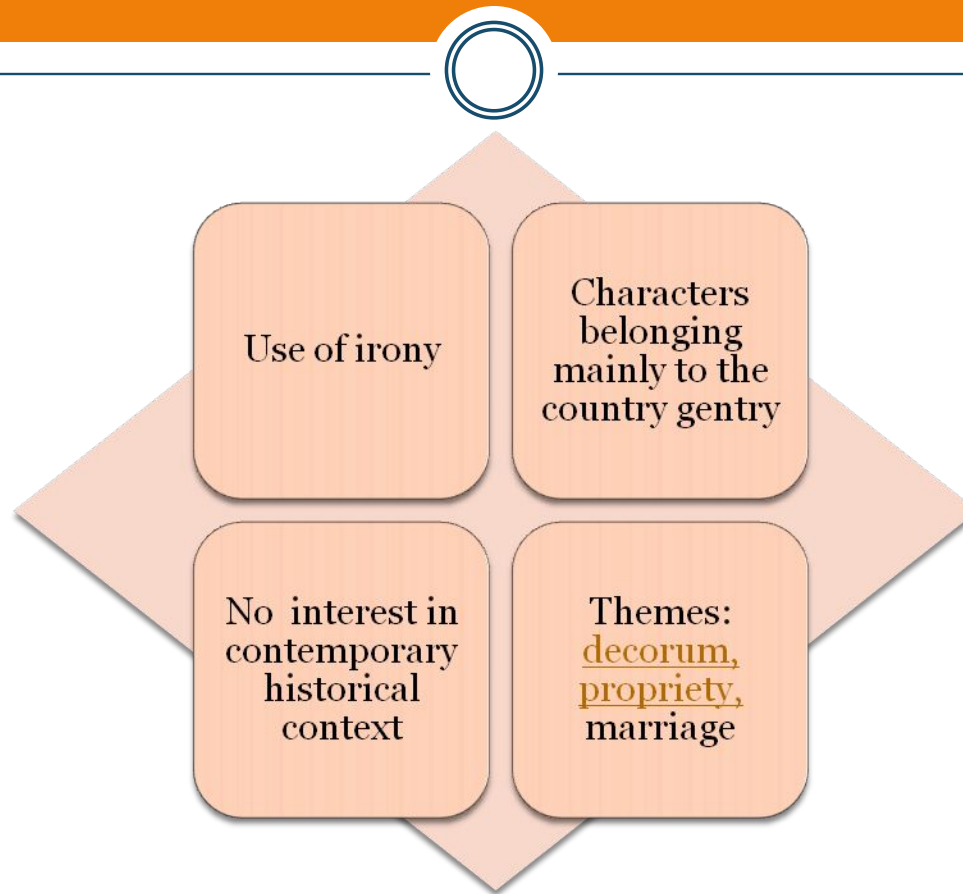
Posthumous

- PERSUASION

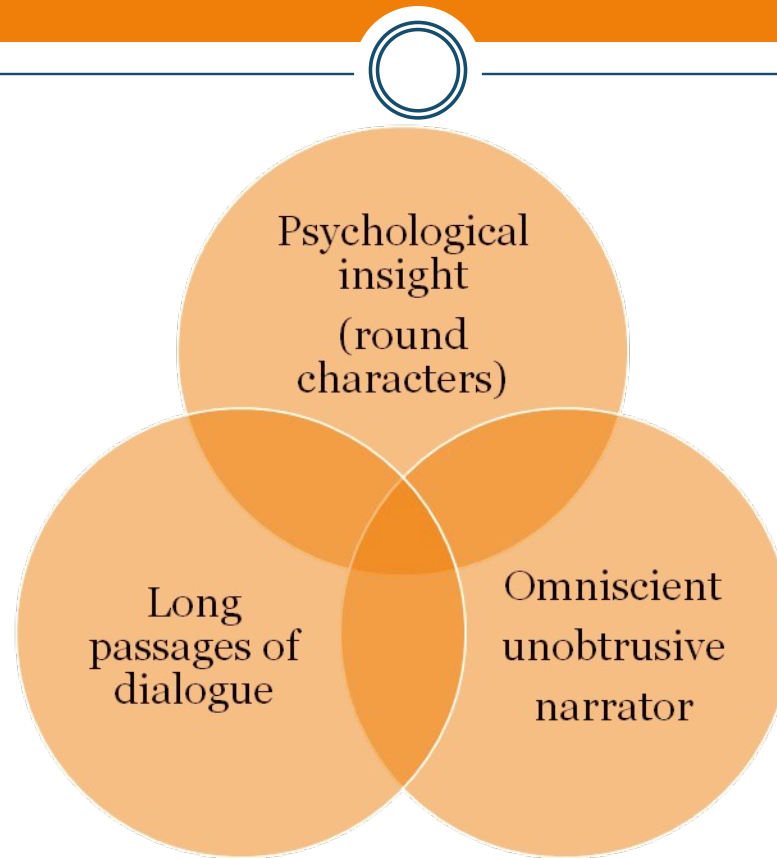
Posthumous

- NORTHANGER ABBEY

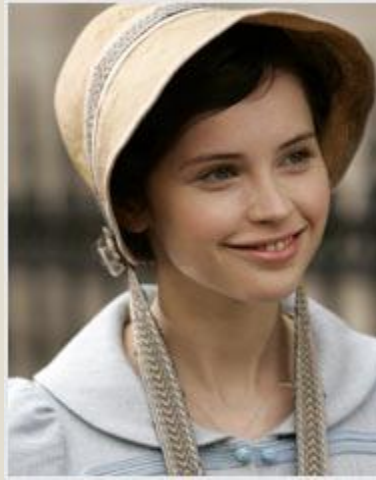
General features



General features



Are Jane Austen's novels merely romances?



THE THEME OF MARRIAGE



**HOW IS LOVE POSSIBLE IN A
RUTHLESS,
MONEY-AND-STATUS-ORIENTE
D SOCIETY?**

Different examples of marriage



- **FOR INTEREST AND SOCIAL STATUS**
- **AFTER AN ELOPMENT**
- **TO SURVIVE AND AVOID POVERTY (MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE)**
- **FOR LOVE AFTER OVERCOMING SEVERAL OBSTACLES**
- **FOR LOVE AFTER A JOURNEY OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE AND SELF-AWARNESS**

Why did many women accept a marriage of convenience?



- **THEY COULDN'T HAVE A PROFESSION OR MONEY OF THEIR OWN
(AFTER MARRIAGE THEIR DROWRY WAS RUN BY THEIR HUSBANDS, THEIR PROPERTY PASSED TO THEIR HUSBANDS)**
- **INHERITANCE WAS STILL REGULATED BY THE LAW OF PRIMOGENITURE**
- **IF THE DIRECT HEIR WAS A GIRL AN ESTATE COULD BE "ENTAILED"**

In Jane Austen's works ...



- Romanticism is absent (her heroines and heroes are rather formal in their courting habits, no physical contacts of any kind between them, no sensual descriptions, no passionate scenes)
- Love is not idealised but rather realistically prospected
- Satire (through irony) and social criticism are hugely present and often sharply achieved by the author
- Balance, common sense, love based on mutual understanding and respect prevail on passion, impulse and rushed decisions
- Marriages for interest or convenience are always unhappy

JANE AUSTEN



SENSE & SENSIBILITY

1811

Book I

- Elinore and Marianne: their different attitude towards the man they hope to marry

Book II

- London – They both seem to lose their lover to a rival woman

Book III

- Elinore and Marianne become increasingly like each other, a process which makes both of them more complete people.

PRIDE & PREJUDICE

1813

- It is a journey towards self-awareness and self-knowledge
- Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy have great qualities but also great weaknesses
- She is proud and her pride blinds her to his virtues
- He is prejudiced by his upbringing and is disgusted by the vulgar behaviour of Elizabeth's mother and younger sisters.