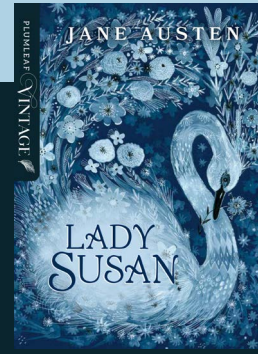


LADY SUSAN



BY
JANE
AUSTEN

1. Is Lady Susan villainous or admirable? Is she both? Does she have any redeeming qualities? Do you have any feelings of sympathy for Lady Susan?
2. In her introduction to this edition of *Lady Susan*, Natalie Jenner calls Lady Susan “duplicitous and manipulative.” Lady Susan has also been called “one of Austen’s most intriguing characters.” Evaluate the accuracy of these assessments.
3. Lady Susan is a strong, if morally dubious, female character. Throughout *Lady Susan*, how is it clear that it is the women in the novel who have the real power? Why does Jane Austen portray the men in the novel as she does? Can *Lady Susan* be called a feminist book?
4. Why does Lady Susan have such scorn for the word “respectable”? What does it represent to her? In what ways can Lady Susan be described as “respectable”?
5. The characters in the novel are important primarily insofar as they relate to Lady Susan. Which characters change as the book progresses? What precipitates changes in these characters?
6. Describe Lady Susan’s relationship with her daughter. What motivates Lady Susan to act as she does with her daughter? How has Frederica managed to escape being like her mother? What importance does Frederica have in the development of the narrative?
7. *Lady Susan* is told in an epistolary format. What are the benefits of this style of storytelling? What are the drawbacks? How would the story change if there were an omniscient narrator recounting Lady Susan’s ideas and actions?
8. Jane Austen wrote *Lady Susan* when she was about 19 years of age. What evidence is there that she was on the verge of becoming the writer she became? What might have changed in the telling of the story if a more experienced writer had written it?