

***PRIDE AND PREJUDICE***: BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are based on the essays included at the beginning of the Plumleaf Press edition of Jane Austen’s* Pride and Prejudice: *the Foreword (pp. viii–ix), by Louise Ansdell, Trustee of Chawton House, and the Introduction (pp. x–xiv), by Natalie Jenner, international bestselling author of* The Jane Austen Society.

In the Foreword, Louise Ansdell says, “The exquisite writing in *Pride and Prejudice* gives us a filmic experience of the people, places, and story, to which it is possible to return again and again, and in which to find something new each time.” How is reading *Pride and Prejudice* like watching a film? If you have read the book more than once, what do you think would become richer and more enticing upon rereading?

In the Introduction, Natalie Jenner writes that “authorial choice is behind the success of *Pride and Prejudice*, which has arguably inspired more literary, genre, and other media adaptations than any other novel in the history of our world.” Why do you think that *Pride and Prejudice* is so popular that it has inspired so many adaptations and that it remains popular with readers the world over? What adaptations have you seen?

Ansdell talks about the “bond among those who love and cherish *Pride and Prejudice* that is not unlike a sibling attachment. We have something fundamentally shared, something that is part of us all, always ready to welcome more to our circle.” Why do you think this bond exists? What is the “something fundamentally shared” that you feel there is with the book?

Ansdell calls Elizabeth walking through ankle-deep mud to reach Jane, who is ill at Netherfield, “one of the world’s best-known scenes of walking in all literature.” What other scenes stood out to you? Why?

Natalie Jenner calls Darcy’s first proposal scene “one of the greatest comic moments in literary history” and his letter the next morning “the crux and heart of the book.” Do you agree with this evaluation of this scene’s importance? Were other scenes more important in your view? Explain.

Ansdell talks of “the joy of how it [*Pride and Prejudice*] lived” for Jane Austen. Why do you think this particular novel brought Jane Austen so much joy? What in the novel brings you joy?

Jenner feels that for many writers, the ending is the reason they write the book and with the ending of *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen has given readers “a great and hard-earned catharsis.” What did you most like about the ending? What would you change if you could?

Final thoughts and comments? Who do you think would most enjoy reading *Pride and Prejudice* if they haven’t done so already?