

Some comments on *Pride and Prejudice*
From Claire Tomalin's *Jane Austen: A Life*

Look through the following statements and discuss to what extent you agree or disagree with each one:

[*Pride and Prejudice*] is the simplest [of Austen's novels] to enjoy, with its good-humoured comedy, its sunny heroine, its dream denouement. (p.161)

The plot moves at a cracking pace. (p.162)

It is a warm story, and a lot of the warmth comes from its steady movement towards consummated love. (p.162)

She (Elizabeth) uses humour as both defence and attack, but she does not overstep the rules of society. (p.163)

Austen endowed her heroine with four admirable qualities, energy, wit, self-confidence and the ability to think for herself (p.162)

She (Elizabeth) is the clear moral centre of the book, and her judgements of character are good in almost every case (p.163)

Social awkwardness ... supplies a good deal of the comedy in *Pride and Prejudice* (p.164)

Mrs Bennet is the first modern mother. (p.165)

Mrs Bennet dominates the book from its opening sentence. (p.165)

A puzzling weakness of the book is the way in which Darcy, a fastidious and educated man, accepts the many crude conversational manoeuvres of Bingley's sisters, intending to flatter him and put down the Bennets. (p.166)