

朗文经典 文学名著英汉双语读物

PEARSON

傲慢与偏见

Pride and Prejudice

原著：【英】J. 奥斯汀 (J. Austen)

改写：【英】J. 特维 (J. Turvey)

翻译：张艳敏

★每周读一部英文名著★



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Pride and Prejudice

Introduction

Pride and Prejudice is the story of a young man and a girl. He is proud—although **attracted** to her, he thinks himself too good for the girl and her family. She is prejudiced—having once formed an opinion of him, she refuses to change it.

A lot of the book is about **marriage**: about marrying for true love, or false love, or money, or safety, or rank or because other people expect it. It is also about how people make marriages and live together in families, and how people should and should not behave to each other.

But the main point about *Pride and Prejudice* is that it is very funny. There are not many books like this in which all the jokes are as easy to understand now as when they were written nearly two hundred years ago. This is because the people Jane Austen laughs at can be found in every time and place.

Even as a child, Jane Austen was known in her family for **imitating** people, the way they spoke, the way they looked. She wrote little plays, and also enjoyed acting with her family and friends. In summer they put on plays in a wooden building in the garden, and in winter in the dining-room. Her books are full of imitations. Imitations of silly people saying silly things in their own special ways. In this book Mrs Bennet, Mr Collins and Lady

简介

attract

v. 吸引

marriage

n. 结婚, 婚姻

imitate

v. 模仿

《傲慢与偏见》讲述了一对青年男女的故事。他十分傲慢——尽管被她吸引，却自认为这位女孩和她的家庭配不上自己；而她则充满偏见——对他一旦心生成见，就决不改变。

这部作品主要探讨各种婚姻问题：为真情或假意而结合，为金钱、安居或地位而联姻，或者因他人的期待而携手。这部作品也反映了人们如何促成婚姻以及为家之道，探讨了夫妻双方相处的准则与禁忌。

然而，《傲慢与偏见》最引人入胜之处却是它妙趣横生的语言。这样的作品并不多见，尽管成书于近两百年前，可书中所有的趣味笑话仍然能引起当代读者的共鸣。这是因为简·奥斯汀所嘲笑的人物，我们时时处处都能见到。

从童年时代起，简·奥斯汀就善于模仿他人的言谈举止，在家族中广为人知。她创作了一些小型戏剧，而且喜欢与亲友们一起扮演其中的角色。夏天，他们在花园的一间木屋里演出，冬天则在餐厅里演出。模仿在她的作品中占相当比重，一般总是模仿那些可笑的人们以自己特有的方式说傻话。本书中的本内特太太、柯林斯先生和凯瑟琳夫人就是

Catherine are good examples.

Jane Austen was born in 1775 in a small village in the south of England. Her father was, like Mr Collins in this book, the village **parson**. However, unlike Mr Collins he was a man of **character** and **intelligence** who passed on his education to all his seven children.

Jane, the youngest, learnt French and some Italian. She sang and played the piano and was good at needle-work. But above all she read a great deal of English literature.

She started writing herself as a child, and in 1796 finished her first book, which, when re-written some years later, was to become *Pride and Prejudice*. Her father, who always encouraged her writing, tried to have it printed, but without success. In fact, it was not until 1811 that her first book was printed, and two years after that *Pride and Prejudice* in its final form appeared. Altogether she completed six books before she died in 1817.

To understand the world of *Pride and Prejudice* we need to understand the world in which its writer lived. Southern England in her time was a land of small farms worked by labourers who in turn worked for farmers. These farmers often did not own their farms, but paid rent four times a year to the landowners. These, the gentlemen, lived in large houses surrounded by parks, or open grassland with a few trees here and there and perhaps a lake to make them more beautiful. Some, like Mr Bennet in this story, would live comfortably without being very rich. Others might own many farms, and have a house in London and a **noble** title. But as long as they owned land they had a position in society and were considered

parson

n. 教区牧师

character

n. 个性；特色

intelligence

n. 才智；智慧

绝好的例子。

1775 年，简·奥斯汀出生在英国南部的一个小村庄。她的父亲，和本书中的柯林斯先生一样，是一位乡村牧师。不过，与柯林斯先生不同的是，他极具个性，才智过人，用自己的学识培养了七个子女。

简是家中最小的孩子，会讲法语，略通意大利语，也会弹琴唱歌，还精于针线活。然而，最重要的是，她阅读了大量英国文学作品。

她从童年时期就开始进行文学创作。并于 1796 年完成了第一部作品。几年后，她的这部作品几经修改，最终定稿为《傲慢与偏见》。她父亲始终鼓励她写作，还想帮她出版这本书，可惜未能如愿。事实上，直到 1811 年她才出版了第一本小说，两年后《傲慢与偏见》也才最终面世。到 1817 年去世前，她一共完成了六部作品。

为了更好地理解《傲慢与偏见》，我们要对作者所处的社会环境有所认识。在简·奥斯汀生活的年代，英国南部小农场遍布，农民为农场主种田，但农场主一般并不拥有农场，他们一年要向地主缴纳四次租金。这些地主，也就是绅士，都拥有华美的住宅。环绕在这些豪宅四周的，或是庭院，或是绿树点缀的绿地，或是一弯湖水，它们都会为庄园增色许多。一些人，就像本书中的本内特先生一样，尽管并不是十分富有，但可以过着安逸的生活。另一些人可能拥有许多农场，在伦敦有住宅，还有贵族爵位。只要他们占有土地，他们就拥有社会地位，就被看作是绅士。这些人中，有人喜欢读书，也有人热衷于家庭装

noble

adj. 贵族的，
显贵的

gentlemen. Some were interested in books or in making their houses and land beautiful. But most of them lived for country sports, hunting and shooting.

Village churches and their parsons were supported by a special tax, and some parsons lived very comfortable lives. Since **landowners** often had the right to give the job of village parson to whoever they wished, they usually chose someone who **suit**ed them, sometimes a younger son. Thus in this book Mr Collins was the right kind of person for Lady Catherine. On the other hand, Darcy did not think Wickham would be a suitable person to be a parson. **In all cases**, however, parsons were educated people and considered to be of the class of gentlemen. The Austens, although they had very little money, were of this class, and it was about this class and its world that Jane Austen wrote.

It was a small world. She travelled little, met few interesting people, and nothing very unusual happened to her. She did not marry, and lived with her family in the village where she was born until her father's death in 1805, then in the towns of Bath and Southampton, and finally in a village again with her mother and only sister.

However, this does not mean that nothing of interest was going on in the world around her. For a large part of her life England was at war with France. The French husband of a cousin whom she knew well had his head cut off in 1789. Two of her brothers were officers in the navy and reached high rank in the wars. The country life she lived was not as quiet and **peaceful** as the life she describes in her books. Nor did people

饰和园艺工作，不过，大部分人终日忙着从事乡间活动——狩猎和射击。

乡村教堂及其牧师都靠专门的税收供养，因此一些牧师生活得相当舒适。由于地主通常拥有一定权利，可以把乡村牧师一职指派给任何人，因此他们通常会选择一个自己认为合适的人，比如有时会选一个小儿子。在本书中，柯林斯先生恰好就是凯瑟琳夫人认为最合适的人选，与此相反的是，达西则认为魏克姆并不适合做牧师。不过，不管怎样，牧师都是受过教育的人，也被认为属于绅士这一社会阶层。奥斯汀一家，尽管并不宽裕，也属于绅士阶层，简·奥斯汀所描写的也正是这一阶层的生活风貌。

奥斯汀的世界很小，她很少旅行，身边的人几乎都平平庸庸，身边的事也都平淡无奇。她终生未婚，和家人生活在她出生的那个村庄里，直到1805年父亲逝世。之后她先后迁居巴思、南安普敦等地，最后又随母亲及唯一的姐姐定居乡间。

不过，这并不意味着她的生活波澜不惊。在她的大半生中，英国一直在与法国交战。1789年，她所熟知的一位表姐的法国丈夫被斩首了。她的两个兄弟也都是海军军官，并在战争中身居要职。她的乡村生活，并不像她书中描写的那样恬静安适，那时的人们，也并不完全像她所描写的那样彬彬有礼。

landowner

n. 土地所有者，
地主

suit

v. 适合

in all cases

任何情况下

peaceful

adj. 平静的；安
宁的

behave quite as politely as they do there.

In other words, in her books she made her own world, which was not exactly the world around her. But that, after all, is what the best writers do.

换句话说，她的小说，并非完全反映了她身边的世界；她在小说中构建了一个属于她自己的世界，而这一点，只有最优秀的作家才能做到。

CHAPTER 1

A New Neighbour

新 邻 居

• QUESTIONS BEFORE READING •

- ▶ Who was “single, rich and young”?
- ▶ What did Mrs Bennet hope?
- ▶ What did Mr Bennet do the next morning?
- ▶ Why did Mrs Bennet visit Lady Lucas?

It is a well-known fact that a single man with plenty of money must be in need of a wife. He may not know this, but neighbours with unmarried daughters are quite sure of it. So imagine the arrival in a **neighbourhood** of a man who is single, rich and young. Imagine its **effect** on Mrs Bennet, who has four unmarried daughters.

"My dear Mr Bennet," she said one day, "Netherfield Hall has been let at last."

Mr Bennet continued to read his newspaper.

"Don't you want to know who's taken it?"

"You're determined to tell me, and I'm ready to hear you," he said.

"Well, then, it's been taken by a rich young man called Bingley," she said excitedly.

"Is he married or single?"

"Why single, my dear, and with £5,000 a year. What a fine thing for our girls."

"Indeed, and how can it affect them?"

"My dear Mr Bennet, how can you be so annoying? You