

APPENDICES

Synopsis of *Pride and Prejudice*

Elizabeth Bennet is the second of five daughters of Mr Bennet - a country gentleman living in Longbourn, and his wife. Having five unmarried daughters and no son to be the heir of his husband's inheritance, Mrs Bennet is eager to find eligible and wealthy husbands for her daughters. When a well-off young gentleman named Charles Bingley has rented Netherfield Park, a grand house in the local area, Mrs Bennet sees it as an opportunity for one of her daughters to obtain a wealthy spouse. Much to her delight, Bingley sets his eyes on Jane, the eldest of Bennet sisters. Lizzy, on the other hand, finds Mr Darcy – a friend of Bingley – an arrogant and conceited man. Lizzy's dislike of him increases when she finds out that Darcy is the man behind Bingley and Jane's separation, in addition to the story of the charming Mr Wickham about how Darcy has cheated him off his inheritance. A surprising marriage proposal from Darcy, which Lizzy turns down, results in a letter from Darcy revealing the truths about the matters that anger her. Lizzy, stunned by this revelation, begins to see Darcy in a new light. When Mr Wickham and Lydia – the youngest of Bennet sisters – elope, the family reputation is at stake. Darcy, out of love to Lizzy, settles the affair secretly. Finding out about this, Lizzy realizes that her opinion of Darcy has changed

completely, and she is indeed in love with him. It is not until Lady Catherine – Darcy’s haughty aunt – visits Longbourn that Lizzy admits her feelings. Upon hearing a rumour, Lady Catherine thinks that Darcy is planning to marry Lizzy, alongside of Bingley that is going to marry Jane. Lizzy refuses to promise Lady Catherine not to get into engagement with Darcy. Learning about this from his furious aunt, Darcy sees a new hope of marrying Lizzy. Soon after, Darcy proposes and Lizzy gladly accepts his proposal.

Synopsis of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

When an enigmatic young widow named Helen Graham arrives at Wildfell Hall, she and her young son, Arthur, become the talk of the small village. Gilbert Markham, a young local farmer, soon finds himself enchanted by Helen’s charms. Gilbert refuses to believe any scandalous rumours about Helen. However, owing to the artful Eliza Millward, Gilbert’s former love interest, he is led to believe that Frederick Lawrence is courting Helen and might be in fact, the father of Arthur on account of their resemblance. Urged by his feelings, Gilbert proposes to Helen, which she turns down. Instead of explaining the reason of her refusal, Helen gives Gilbert her diary. On reading this, Gilbert finds out that Helen is actually Mrs Helen Huntingdon, the wife of Arthur Huntingdon, the lord of Grassdale Manor. The diary tells the accounts of their marriage and the degradation of Huntingdon due to his alcoholic and debauchery lifestyle. Huntingdon’s corruption of their son – encouraging little Arthur to drink and swear – is the final straw for Helen. Helen escapes Grassdale with the help from her brother, Frederick Lawrence, and plans to make a living by painting. Gilbert becomes more determined about his affection towards her. Unfortunately, Helen is now back at Grassdale, nursing her

gravely-ill husband, who soon passes away. A year later, when Gilbert hears a rumour about Helen's impending wedding, he goes to Grassdale only to find that it is Frederick who marries Esther Hargrave, Helen's friend. He also finds out that Helen is now the heiress of her late uncle and lives at her estate in Staningley. Gilbert, despite being aware of their different social status and rank, confesses his unaltered love to Helen. The two marry in the next summer and live happily at Staningley.

Biography of Jane Austen

Jane Austen was born at Stevenson Rectory, Hampshire, England on 16 December 1775. She was the seventh child (out of eight) and the second daughter (out of two) of Reverend George Austen and his wife, Cassandra. At their young age, Austen and her siblings had been encouraged to read from their father's extensive library. In order to acquire a more formal education, Austen and her only sister, also named Cassandra, were sent to Abbey School in Reading. However, owing to financial constraints, Austen and her sister returned home after a short period of time and received education at home, guided by their father and older brothers, James and Henry. Austen began writing at a young age, but her first novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, did not appear until 1811. The novel gained favourable reviews and provided Austen with some financial independence, although it was pseudonymously published. Her second novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, was published in 1813 and received critical acclaims. Her other works, *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1815) were also quite a success. In 1816, Austen's health was declining; yet, she still continued working. Subsequently, Austen's health deteriorated, and culminated in her death on 18 July 1817, at the

age of 41 in Winchester. A retrospective analysis of her symptoms, published today, suggests that she may have died of tuberculosis. By the effort of Henry and Cassandra, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were published posthumously in 1818 with a preface by Henry, unveiling Austen as the author who was then still nameless to the world. Until today, Austen is still regarded as one of the world renowned authors whose timeless works have earned her a place as one of the most widely read authors in English literature.

Source: “Jane Austen Biography”, “Jane Austen’s Biography : Life (1775-1817) and Family”, Bowcott

Biography of Anne Brontë

Anne Brontë was born in Yorkshire, England on 17 January 1820. She was the youngest child (out of six) of Patrick Brontë – an Irish clergyman – and his wife, Maria. Anne and her siblings had been brought up by their father and aunt since their mother’s death in 1821. The unexpected deaths caused by consumption of the two eldest Brontës – Maria and Elizabeth – while attending school in 1825, distressed the family so that their father decided to educate the children at home. Their father’s well-stocked library was a source of knowledge for the Brontës children which fed their imagination and later became the apprenticeship for their literary talents. Anne received her formal education at Miss Margaret Wooller’s boarding school. After leaving school, a 19-year-old Anne became a governess in order to earn a living. The traumatic and tiresome experiences while being a governess at Blake Hall were depicted in her first novel, *Agnes Grey* (1847). Anne’s notable work is her second novel, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, published in 1848 and became an instant, phenomenal success. Anne and her sisters –

Charlotte and Emily – under the pseudonyms of Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell, the initials of which were the same as theirs, published *Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell* in 1846. In 1848, following the deaths of her brother Branwell and her sister Emily, Anne fell ill. In May 1849, when visiting Scarborough, Anne's physical health was gradually declining. She died of pulmonary tuberculosis on 28 May 1849, at the age of 29.

Source: “Anne Brontë (1820-1849)”, “Anne Brontë : Biography”