

## Olentangy Local School District Literature Selection Review

|             |                           |            |       |
|-------------|---------------------------|------------|-------|
| Teacher:    | Hartley, Shoemaker        | School:    | OHS   |
| Book Title: | Pride and Prejudice       | Genre:     | Novel |
| Author:     | Jane Austen               | Pages:     | 375   |
| Publisher:  | Barnes and Noble Classics | Copyright: | 2003  |

*In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.*

**Book Summary and summary citation:** (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." Thus memorably begins Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, one of the world's most popular novels. *Pride and Prejudice*--Austen's own "darling child"--tells the story of fiercely independent Elizabeth Bennet, one of five sisters who must marry rich, as she confounds the arrogant, wealthy Mr. Darcy. What ensues is one of the most delightful and engrossingly readable courtships known to literature, written by a precocious Austen when she was just twenty-one years old.

Humorous and profound, and filled with highly entertaining dialogue, this witty comedy of manners dips and turns through drawing-rooms and plots to reach an immensely satisfying finale. In the words of Eudora Welty, *Pride and Prejudice* is as "irresistible and as nearly flawless as any fiction could be."

(taken from back cover of this novel)

**Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s):** (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

1. Develop an in-depth understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure.
2. Analyze the characteristics of different literary periods, works, and writing styles of various authors.
3. Analyze a work's structure, style and theme as well as the use of other literary elements (ex: imagery, symbolism and tone).

**Include two professional reviews of this title:** (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be “cut and pasted” (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

Jane Austen is a novelist with an extremely narrow focus that extends, surprisingly, into a wide range of concerns. Her books can be viewed most simply as eerily good romance novels, more broadly as sharp critiques of nineteenth-century vanity, cruelty and folly, and--broadest of all--as an indictment of a social system and economic system dedicated to the marginalization and commodification of a full half of the human experience.

This is the important point to remember about classic literature--the reason why it even became classic in the first place: classic works can be read simply because they're enjoyable to read, simply because when truth and insight are added to fiendish complexity of plot and a strong capacity for wit, the results are rarely dry fodder for academics. The results are faithful, engrossing portraits of life: satisfying even in their narrowness, ultimately satisfying perhaps because of their narrowness.

(Taken from [classiclitt.about.com/od/prideprejudice/fr/aa\\_prideprej.htm](http://classiclitt.about.com/od/prideprejudice/fr/aa_prideprej.htm))

Review #2

Common Sense Media says

Masterpiece of romance and manners entertains at any age.

Review #3

I first read Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* when I was in high school. I wondered what relevance a social comedy set in the English countryside at the end of the 18th century could possibly have to a citified black girl in the 1970's. I was quickly hooked by the flawed, wonderfully drawn characters, the razor-sharp picture of an oppressively class-bound culture, and the strong woman at the center who skillfully wove her way through all the genteel perils. I read *Pride and Prejudice* about once every five years, swept away by the witty developments as Elizabeth Bennet and Darcy struggle to love and acceptance.

(Reviewed by Mary C. C., Mary C. Curtis, *The Charlotte Observer*)

**What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?**

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| <u>Title:</u> <b>Sister Carrie</b>             | <u>Author:</u> <b>Theodore Dreiser</b> |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>My Antonia</b>                | <u>Author:</u> <b>Willa Cather</b>     |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>Great Expectations</b>        | <u>Author:</u> <b>Charles Dickens</b>  |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>Jane Eyre</b>                 | <u>Author:</u> <b>Charlotte Bronte</b> |
| <u>Title:</u> <b>Tess of the D'Erbervilles</b> | <u>Author:</u> <b>Thomas Hardy</b>     |
| <u>Title:</u>                                  | <u>Author:</u>                         |

**Document any potentially controversial content:**

Book discusses men's and women's roles in 19<sup>th</sup> century Great Britain, using subtleties and inferences to promote women's issues.

**Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)**

Gifted/Accelerated  Regular  At Risk

**GRADE LEVEL(S):** 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

**Reading level of this title (if applicable):**

**Date Submitted to Department Chair:** September, 2012

**Suggested Professional Literary Review Sources:**

School Library Journal

Horn Book

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)

Library Journal

Book Links

Publisher's Weekly

Booklist

Kirkus Review

Wilson Library Catalog

English Journal (and other resources of the National Council of Teachers of English)

The Reading Teacher (International Reading Association)

Literature for Today's Young Adults