

# Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| About the Author                             | 6  |
| About the Book                               | 7  |
| <b>FACT FILE</b> Happily ever after          | 8  |
| Characters                                   | 12 |
| Before Reading                               | 14 |
| Chapter 1                                    | 19 |
| Chapter 2                                    | 22 |
| Chapter 3                                    | 25 |
| Chapter 4                                    | 29 |
| Chapter 5                                    | 33 |
| Chapter 6                                    | 36 |
| Chapter 7                                    | 40 |
| Chapter 8                                    | 48 |
| Chapter 9                                    | 51 |
| Chapter 10                                   | 53 |
| Chapter 11                                   | 57 |
| Chapter 12                                   | 64 |
| Chapter 13                                   | 66 |
| Chapter 14                                   | 68 |
| Chapter 15                                   | 76 |
| After Reading <b>with NEW ACTIVITIES</b>     | 79 |
| <b>LIFE SKILLS</b> The anonymous Jane Austen | 90 |

# Happily ever after

## MARRIAGE AND SOCIAL STATUS IN JANE AUSTEN'S TIME

### Marriage

Marriage and talk of marriage is one of the main themes in Jane Austen's novel *Emma*. The main character encourages, observes and meditates on a number of marriages around her that cause change in the social status of the people involved. In *Emma*, more than in any other of her novels, the writer emphasizes



the social aspects of marriage, that is, the connection between marriage and social status. Class differences are the most evident and important distinctions between the characters in the novel. And marriage in Austen's time was the easiest way for women to improve their position in society. Women with little or no income or property of their own had to depend on their husbands for financial stability. They were expected to marry, so marriage was not only a matter of love, it was a ritual involving important social aspects and something that could be used to get a better position in society.

### *Social status*

In early nineteenth century rural England, social status was determined by a combination of family background, reputation and income. Women in particular could not improve their social status through any amount of hard work or personal achievement. The only way they could raise their social status was by marrying a man of a higher social rank. For women, a good marriage meant independence from men and from degrading jobs. It has been noted that there aren't any fairy-tale endings in Austen: If people are happy, it is because they are well-off.

### Did you know?

Jane Austen, author of many stories about courtship and marriage, never married! She once accepted the marriage proposal of a rich man, but at the last minute she mysteriously changed her mind and refused to marry him.

How important are differences in cultural background, income and social status today?

- **achievement:** important goal reached
- **courtship:** period of time when two people start a romantic relationship
- **degrading:** that make one feel bad about oneself
- **distinctions:** (here) differences
- **income:** money
- **matter:** (here) question; case
- **meditates on:** thinks about
- **property:** houses etc. one owns
- **rank:** position
- **reputation:** what people think of a person
- **well-off:** rich

# Emma



Frank Churchill



Miss Taylor/Mrs Weston



Mr Weston

Mr Woodhouse



Jane Fairfax



Mr Knightley



Emma Woodhouse

# BEFORE READING

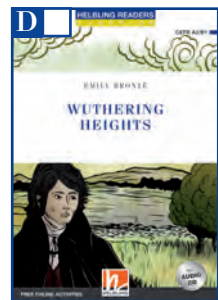
1 Read the following statements. Which of them were true in Jane Austen's time (1775-1817)? Tick (✓) T (true) or F (false).

|  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a A woman could ask a man to marry her.                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b A woman couldn't ask a man to dance.                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c A man and a woman couldn't go for a walk together.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d When a father died, he couldn't leave his house to his daughter. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e An educated woman could be a teacher.                            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 What could help you to find a husband in Jane Austen's time? Tick (✓).

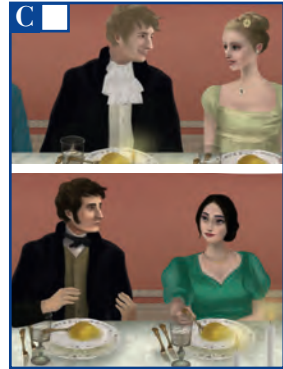
- a  having a university degree
- b  being wealthy
- c  being able to play the piano well
- d  having a good job
- e  being beautiful
- f  being able to paint and draw well


3 These novels show daily life at the time they were written. Have you read any of them? Tick (✓).





4  Describe what is happening in each of the pictures below. Then with a partner, choose a couple and act out their conversation.



5  Look at the pictures in Exercise 4. Guess which character is Emma. In pairs ask and answer the following questions about the pictures.

- a Which event do you think is part of Emma's daily life?
- b Which event do you think is a special occasion?
- c What is Emma doing in each picture?

6 Match the words with their definitions.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> match-making | b <input type="checkbox"/> marriage     |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> engagement   | d <input type="checkbox"/> relationship |

- 1 being connected to somebody and having feelings for them
- 3 formal promise to marry somebody
- 4 trying to find somebody a good partner
- 6 legal union between a man and a woman

7 Make sentences with each of the words from Exercise 6.

## Chapter 1

1 Emma Woodhouse was happy, beautiful, clever and rich. At twenty-one, there was nothing in her life that upset her. She was the youngest daughter of a very affectionate father, Mr Woodhouse. Her elder sister, Isabella, was married and lived in London, and her father was widowed, so Emma was the mistress of his house.

Emma's mother died when she was five, and Emma and Isabella were brought up by Miss Taylor, a very kind and loving governess. Miss Taylor loved both daughters, but particularly Emma. They lived together as friends and Emma did whatever she wanted.

Unhappiness came at last when Miss Taylor married. The marriage to Mr Weston was a happy one, and Emma really liked Miss Taylor's husband. But now she felt miserable. She had no friends at home, and she missed Miss Taylor very much.

Emma's father hated change, and marriage brought change. On the evening after Miss Taylor's wedding day, they sat together and Emma smiled and chatted as cheerfully as she could. But when tea came, Mr Woodhouse said, 'Poor Miss Taylor! I wish she was here. What a pity that Mr Weston wanted to marry her!'

'I can't agree with you,' said Emma. 'Miss Taylor couldn't live with us forever, and now she has a house of her own.'

'A house of her own! But why does she need a house of her own? This house is three times as large.'

'We'll go and see them often, and they'll come to see us,' Emma promised.

- **brought up:** taught; cared for
- **governess:** woman who lives with a family and teaches their children at home
- **miserable:** very unhappy

- **mistress:** (here) woman in charge
- **upset her:** made her sad
- **whatever:** (here) all the things
- **widowed:** left alone after husband or wife dies





Emma wanted to cheer her father up•, so she decided to play a game of backgammon•. But just as she prepared the backgammon table, a visitor walked in. It was Mr Knightley, a good-looking man, of about thirty-seven. He was a very good friend of the family, and he was the elder brother of Isabella's husband. He lived about a mile away from Hartfield, and he often visited them. Mr Woodhouse was very pleased• to see him.

'I hope the wedding went well,' said Mr Knightley. 'Who cried most?'

'Ah! Poor Miss Taylor!' said Mr Woodhouse.

'Poor Mr and Miss Woodhouse,' said Mr Knightley, 'not poor Miss Taylor. It must be better to have only one husband to look after• instead of you two.'

'Especially when one of those two is very difficult!' said Emma joking. 'That's what you mean.'

'That's very true,' said Mr Woodhouse. 'I'm afraid I am sometimes very difficult.'

'Father, I didn't mean you. I meant myself. Mr Knightley loves to criticise• me.'

Mr Knightley was one of the few people who could see faults• in Emma Woodhouse, and the only person who ever told her about them.

'Emma knows I never flatter• her,' said Mr Knightley.

- **backgammon:** board game
- **cheer up:** make happy
- **criticise:** talk about somebody's bad points
- **faults:** defects; bad points

- **flatter:** give compliments
- **look after:** take care of
- **pleased:** happy

‘Emma,’ said her father, ‘will really miss Miss Taylor.’

‘Of course Emma will miss her,’ said Mr Knightley. ‘But all Miss Taylor’s friends must be glad• that she is so happily married.’

‘And you’ve forgotten,’ said Emma, ‘that I made the match• myself.’

Mr Knightley shook his head at her. Her father said, ‘Please don’t do any more match-making•, Emma.’

‘I promise I won’t do it for myself, but I will for other people. It’s great fun! And now I’ve been successful, I can’t stop match-making.’

‘I don’t understand what you mean by “successful”,’ said Mr Knightley. ‘People can find themselves a husband or wife.’

‘Please don’t make any more matches,’ said Mr Woodhouse.

‘Only one more. I must find a wife for Mr Elton.’

‘If you want to be kind to Mr Elton, ask him to dinner.’

‘Yes,’ said Mr Knightley, laughing. ‘Invite him to dinner, Emma, but leave him to choose his own wife. A man of twenty-six can find his own wife.’

## *Match-making*

Do you think match-making is positive or negative?

Have you ever tried match-making your friends?

- **glad:** happy
- **match:** (here) marriage
- **match-making:** (here) finding somebody a husband, wife or partner

## AFTER READING VOCABULARY

## 1 Read and match the words in bold to their definitions.

Emma is full of examples of one of Jane Austen's most **peculiar** narrative techniques: free indirect **discourse**. Free indirect discourse or speech is different from normal indirect speech in that it **lacks** expressions such as "s/he said" or "s/he thought". This means that a character's voice (for example, Emma's) is **mediated** by the voice of the author (Jane Austen). The language used is that of the characters, but because their words are not placed in **quotation marks** it is often difficult to understand if the author **approves** of the characters' actions and thoughts or if she is pointing to some defects in them. This technique allows the author to play with **irony** in the book, especially regarding the character of Emma. It is often difficult **to distinguish** between the thoughts of the narrator and those of Emma, suggesting that the readers should take Emma's **statements** with **skepticism**.

- a ..... : does not have
- b ..... : use of words to say the opposite of what one thinks in order to be funny
- c ..... : to recognize; to tell
- d ..... : doubt about the truth of something
- e ..... : unique characteristic
- f ..... : punctuation used at the beginning and the end of dialogue
- g ..... : things that are said or written
- h ..... : communicated
- i ..... : has a favorable opinion
- j ..... : things that are said

**P** B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

1 Read the text below and choose the best word (A, B, C, or D) for each space.

- 1 Emma's ..... sister, Isabella, was married and lived in London.  
A elder            B young            C old            D younger
- 2 Just ..... Emma prepared the table, Mr. Knightley walked in.  
A as            B like            C until            D because
- 3 Mr Knightley thought that a man should be able to find his ..... wife  
A one            B real            C own            D only
- 4 'I must go and see my father. He'll be hurt ..... I don't visit him.'  
A when            B if            C but            D as
- 5 It wasn't ..... Mr Knightley to dislike somebody without meeting them.  
A for            B to            C about            D like
- 6 ..... the arrival of Jane Fairfax, Emma paid a visit to her.  
A On            B At            C Since            D By
- 7 Frank Churchill went to London to ..... his hair cut.  
A do            B have            C let            D make
- 8 '..... lucky that we arrived at the same time!' said Emma.  
A Is            B What            C Ever            D How
- 9 When they saw the piano, everybody agreed it ..... be from Colonel Campbell.  
A can            B must            C will            D can't
- 10 Mr Dixon saved Jane's life when she was ..... to fall off the boat.  
A just            B quickly            C about            D by