It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance.

Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us.

For what do we live, but to make sport for our neighbors and laugh at them in our turn?

Those who do not complain are never pitied.

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Jane Austen is considered one of the great English novelists. *Pride & Prejudice* was published in 1813 and is by far the most popular of her works. In this novel, Austen gives us the opportunity to glimpse the society of early 19th century England and view its social ranks, customs and manners. Its wide appeal to the 21st century readers has inspired many film adaptations of the story.

Born on December 16, 1778 at Steventon in the county of Hants, Hampshire, England, Jane was the seventh of the eight children of a respectable Anglican clergyman. Her mother, Cassandra Leigh Austen, descended from landed gentry and clergy. Jane enjoyed writing comic pieces at an early age which amused her family and friends alike.

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