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Module: English

3 LMD/ Group: 08



### **Jane Austen (1775-1817)**

Jane Austen is a British Romantic novelist commonly recognised as one of the greatest female authors of her era. She was born in Steventon, Hampshire, on December 16, 1775, and grew up in a tight-knit family. She was the seventh of eight children, with six brothers and one sister. In 1801, she moved to Bath with her father, mother and only sister, Cassandra. Austen was removed from the strife and turmoil that dominated eighteenth- and nineteenth-century England and was reported to have led an idyllic existence, despite the fact that she never married nor had children.

Austen's only sister, Cassandra, was not only her sister but also a friend, confidante, and supporter. In order to acquire formal education, Jane and Cassandra were sent to boarding schools. The young ladies were fortunate to have been born into a family where education was highly prized. Within months, the twelve-year-old Jane was writing seriously. She also had access to her father's library of some five hundred volumes, many of which she read, along with books borrowed from friends, neighbours, and wider family members, enabling her to discover the world of authors such as Samuel Richardson and Frances Burney.

Jane's teenage texts consist of imitations and parodies of the literary works she was reading at the time, including her school textbooks and her beloved literature. Her juvenile stories can be described as mainly hectic, with girls misbehaving, overeating, stealing money, fighting, and fleeing with each other's fiancés. Although they appear to be worlds apart from her careful and sombre adult works, her early writings allowed her to find her voice among her counterparts.

Austen's life seemed to have been most rewarding after 1811. She was delighted to see her work in print and received constructive criticism; her novels were widely read. The British novelist's literary works released during her lifetime include *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1815). However, two of her novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, were published posthumously in 1817. Austen's

fictitious works were praised for their morals and entertainment, the character drawing, and the domestic reality as a refreshing contrast from the romantic melodrama that was popular at the time.

Jane Austen was a woman of wit and keen intelligence. Following her death, on July 18, 1817, only a few of the author's manuscripts survived, as most of her correspondences were either destroyed or substantially edited shortly before her death by her sister, Cassandra. Nowadays, the intimacy of Austen's novels is still inspiring her readers. Considering the timeless nature of her novels, her works are deemed relevant to modern society due to the minimal nature of their plot, strong female characters, commonly provincial setting, and straightforward style.



**Part I: Reading Comprehension**

**Read the above text carefully and answer the following questions:**

- 1)- What are the main ideas presented in the text?
- 2)- How would you define Jane Austen's life?
- 3)- Which paragraph covers Jane Austen's early works?
- 4)- What characterises Austen's writings?
- 5)- The presented text is:
  - a. Narrative                      b. Descriptive                      c. Expository                      d. Argumentative
- 6)- Find in the text terms that are semantically equivalent to:
  - a. Peaceful =                      b. Pleased =                      c. Everlasting =                      d. Youthful =
- 7)- Identify two sentences in the text that have been formed using the passive voice
  - a)- .....
  - b)- .....

**Part II: Written Expression**

**Read the provided text thoroughly and write a short summary highlighting its principal ideas.**