

MIDTERM
PRACTICAL EXAMINATION
IN
GREAT BOOKS

Film Review of the movie

“Pride and Prejudice”

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“Pride and Prejudice”

A Film Review



“You have bewitched me body and soul. And I love...I love...I love you. I never wish to be parted from you from this day on.” - Mr. Darcy to Elizabeth.

In the award-winning film, *Pride and Prejudice*, a man by the name of Mr. Darcy falls in love with a girl by the name of Elizabeth Bennet. The story is formed by the trials and tribulations faced by this couple and their

families in the form of scandals,

misunderstandings, and overcoming pride. Released in September of the year 2005, *Pride and Prejudice* is a romantic drama film based on the novel published by British author Jane Austen in 1813. Starring Actress Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Bennet and Actor Matthew Macfadyen as Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy. The movie was set in 18th century England in a town called Hertfordshire, the story of *Pride and Prejudice* centers on Elizabeth Bennett, one of the five daughters in the Bennett family, who disdainfully regards the expectations of those around her.

Throughout the movie Elizabeth's mother, Mrs. Bennet, attempts to marry off her daughters to a wealthy suitor. Without much money of their own, Mrs. Bennet's greed drives her to give up her daughters at any cost. With Mrs. Bennet an almost desperate mother that makes sure that every ball and occasion should be attended by all her five daughters is a great opportunity to find a suitable husband for them later on. A ball to celebrate Mr. Bingley's arrival to the town was held and this celebration gave way to the faithful meeting and the tension building connection between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet that initially both showed disdain for each other unknowingly stealing each other's hearts. This movie is filled with many literary devices intended to project certain emotions onto the viewer. Director Joe Wright utilizes theme, characterization, and conflict to express his views on this romance classic, he also revisits the role

of women back then, as well as the contrasting values and culture of social classes.

The film is a shortened and slightly modernized version of the novel but still received generally positive reviews, multiple Academy Award such as two (2) British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) and thirty-five (35) other nominations and eleven (11) wins. In the movie, characterization is a literacy device that creates certain personalities and attributes for the characters within a story. Director Wright does a great job utilizing characterization in the movie. He gives each of Mrs. Bennet's daughters their own personality, which is a form of characterization. Follower, sweet, sassy, troublemaker, and wallflower were the personalities that everyone knew the Bennet sisters by. Without the use of characterization, we wouldn't have had all the drama between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy.

The character of Elizabeth Bennet is meant to be smart and witty, and yet understanding of her limitations. In the movie, Actress Keira Knightley brings forth an abundance of wit and forwardness but at the same time, her character is portrayed as modern to the point of disrespectful in terms of social norms in the 1800's. On the other side, Mr. and Mrs. Bennet were portrayed as more understanding and affectionate rather than strict and rule abiding. This took away from the intended family dynamic and made Elizabeth's character seem unnecessarily rude and disrespectful. Because Elizabeth was sassy, this caused her and Mr. Darcy to resent each other in the beginning of the movie. Characterization also opens the door to use more literacy devices such as conflict.

Conflict creates a lot of drama and creates a lot of twists and turns throughout the plot. Conflict not only adds excitement to a movie, but also could be the entire point of the movie. Without conflict, *Pride and Prejudice* would not be the same. If Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy just hit it off and never had any sort of argument, then the movie would only be about 40 minutes long. It's because Director Wright uses the literary device conflict, that the story goes on and leaves the viewer on the edge of their seat wondering if these two will ever fall in love and have their happily ever after.

Theme is another one of the greatest literacy devices also a director could use to influence their audience. Transformation is a theme that plays a huge role in the relationship between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth. From their petty arguments when we first see them interact in the beginning of the movie to the deep and passionate love they share at the end, their love truly does transform throughout the movie. Freedom is also another theme that is largely used

throughout the movie. Mrs. Bennet forces all her daughters to begin to marry whether they want to or not. She takes away the freedom to choose whether or not they even want to get married.

One of the main plotlines also focuses on the pride of Mr. Darcy towards his social status and his contempt towards the lower class. While the Bennets were not as high up in social status as Mr. Darcy, they were not lower class either. The Bennets are a respectable middle-class family. Because of Director Wright outstanding work with characterization, the characters that he developed within this movie have left an ever-lasting impression on society. *Pride and Prejudice* is seen as a timeless classic and would not be so if it wasn't for the memorable characters that we have grown to love.

Director Joe Wright makes us feel as if we are a part of the movie because the characters are so realistic. The screenplay by Deborah Moggach does an exquisite job conveying the romantic entanglements, the misjudgments, and the mishaps. Director Wright has created two festive dance sequences that were filled with telling nuances regarding all the characters in the movie. The entire production is carried by the exquisite performance of all the actors and actresses as they portrayed their roles very well at the same the cinematography, settings, and other technicalities are well-planned and crafted. I just love about every part of this movie. Whether it was the set design, the plot, or the classic love story of Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth, I believe that this was an overall great movie.

The *Pride and Prejudice* has a lot of lessons for us; **first, 'is to not be too prideful or judgmental toward others.'** Don't judge the proverbial book by its cover, don't let first impressions dictate your approach to a certain person, and don't shy away from something because you fear it—try to view it from a different perspective. **Second, 'it's okay not to be good at everything.'** Mr. Darcy indicates that such a lady would be able to play music, sing, dance, draw, speak several languages, and read frequently. Rather than pretend she possesses these qualities—or feel ashamed that she doesn't—Elizabeth accepts who she is. It reminds us that it's okay not to be good at everything because each of us has its own strengths and weaknesses.

Third lessons, 'if at first you don't succeed – try again.' There's no shame in failure. Mr. Darcy failed miserably in his first attempt at proposing to the object of his affection, but he tried again. We will encounter or experiences failures in our life but don't let these failures discourage us but a motivation and inspiration to keep moving in life. **And lastly, it is good to honor thy parents.** Familial relationships in the movie express the importance of honor and respect. Despite

the many flaws in their parents, particularly their mother, they are unfailingly polite and respectful in their presence and when speaking about them. They maintain this respect even when they finally feel the need to express problems. I highly recommend and encouraged this film to watch because it does not only reminds and teach us different and meaningful lessons in life but it also allows us to go into a time period in the past and gives insight to the Georgian Era as well, without feeling bored or confused.