

REEL TO REAL TEACHERS' RESOURCE

Pride and Prejudice

Understand more about the world of the film
Key Stage 3–5: English, Drama and History

INTO FILM

V&A

Reel to Real: Pride and Prejudice

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Introduction

This resource is intended for teachers to use with their students on site at the V&A. It was created as part of a partnership with education charity Into Film.

The resource explores the film *Pride and Prejudice*. It guides students to objects in the Museum that provide historical context for the film, and suggests activities and topics for discussion. The resource aims to immerse students in the world of the film.

We suggest that groups divide into pairs to follow the activities.

Film summary

This film is based on the novel written by Jane Austen in 1813. It tells the story of the unlikely love affair between Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy. At first they hate each other but they come to accept that they have displayed pride and prejudice in their behaviour towards each other, and their love grows. Class, etiquette, social status and self-discovery are themes of the story.

At the Museum

Visit the following V&A galleries to provide a context for *Pride and Prejudice*. Use this resource in conjunction with the V&A Map.

Britain 1760–1900, Level 4, Room 120

Look at the white muslin dress in the case next to the doorway. In what ways is it similar to dresses worn by Lizzie in the film? Was a dress like this more or less practical for a young wearer like Lizzie than the style of dress worn by the older women?

On the other side of the doorway is a small display Being British. Do you think these paintings are a romantic or realistic view of the countryside? How does the film attempt to use landscapes and animals to communicate a sense of the English countryside?

Opposite the case with the dress is a display of furniture, including a music stand. What role does playing music have for the women in the story? Do you think their social pastimes differ from ours today?

Britain 1760–1900, Level 4, Room 119

Read the panel The Private Sculpture Gallery. What do you think the scene in Mr Darcy's private sculpture gallery is meant to reveal about his character? Do you think that seeing Mr Darcy's art collection changes Lizzie's view of him?

Follow-up activities/find out more

Visit the V&A hub page for the 19th Century:
www.vam.ac.uk/page/0-9/19th-century/

Search the V&A's collections: <http://collections.vam.ac.uk/>

Watch the introduction film to Sculpture at the V&A:
<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/videos/i/video-introduction-to-the-galleries-of-sculpture-in-britain/>

Videos from the National Video Archive of Performance (NVAP) can be viewed by groups free of charge at the V&A. Email bookings.office@vam.ac.uk to make an appointment. A list of available recordings can be found here: www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/t/nvap/

Continue learning through film by setting up a free Into Film Club at your school. www.filmclub.org/ register. Access a catalogue of over 4000 film titles including those in the Reel to Real programme, as well as curriculum-linked resources created in partnership with the V&A. <http://www.intofilm.org/>