

CREATIVE BRIEF

book choice, direction, inspiration

EMMA, JANE AUSTEN

“Emma” is a novel written by Jane Austen and published in 1815. The story is set in Highbury, a fictional village in England, and follows the life of Emma Woodhouse, a beautiful, wealthy, and intelligent young woman who prides herself on her matchmaking abilities. Emma lives with her father, a hypochondriac who is overly protective of his daughter.

Throughout the novel, Emma takes it upon herself to matchmake her friends and acquaintances, often with disastrous results. Her attempts to pair off Harriet Smith, a naive and impressionable young girl, with various eligible bachelors cause a great deal of confusion and heartache for all involved. Along the way, Emma learns important lessons about love, friendship, and the consequences of her actions.

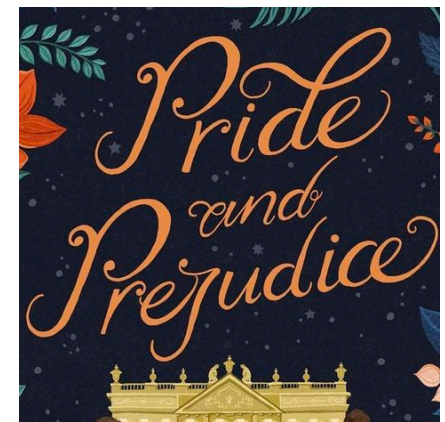
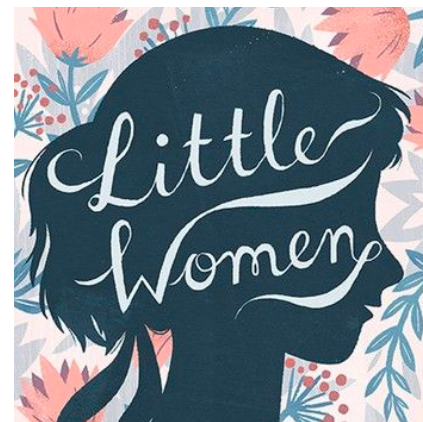
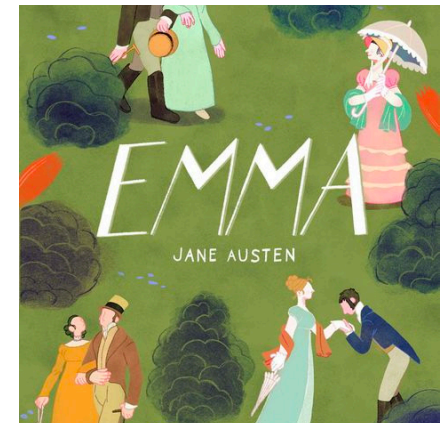
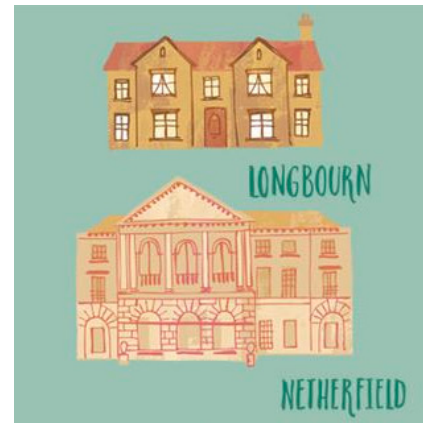
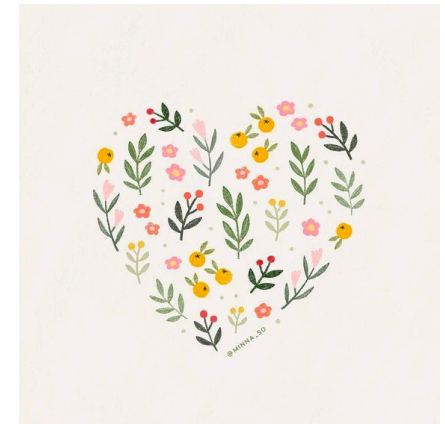
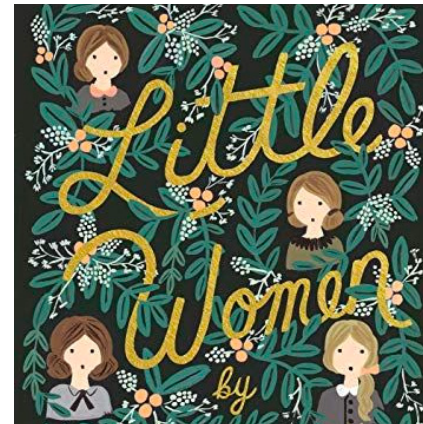
The novel is a witty and charming portrayal of English society in the early 19th century. Austen’s sharp observations and clever wit are on full display, as she satirizes the social conventions and expectations of her time. “Emma” is widely regarded as one of Austen’s greatest works and remains a beloved classic of English literature.

BRIEF

My book cover illustration will be for “Emma” by Jane Austen. My hope is that the cover captures the novel’s themes of matchmaking, love, and society in a visually appealing and eye-catching way. I want it to catch the eye of current fans Jane Austen and ones new to classics.

My initial thought is to create a digital illustration that features one or more of the pairs that were matched throughout the novel, along with other elements (houses, items, outfits, etc) that represent moments throughout the story. I intend to work with a limited color palette will be used to create a cohesive and elegant look, while simple characters will give the illustration a clean and modern feel. The typography for the cover will be hand-lettered to add a personal and unique touch. **However, this idea may change throughout the sketching and illustration process.**

The front cover will, of course, feature the main illustration, while the remaining parts of the cover will continue the use of smaller elements mentioned in the story.



TEXTUAL RESEARCH
for possible destinations

JANE AUSTEN

Jane Austen was an English novelist whose works are still widely read and studied today. Born in 1775, Austen lived most of her life in the English countryside, where she drew inspiration for her novels from her observations of the people and society around her.

Austen's novels are known for their sharp wit, incisive social commentary, and nuanced portrayals of women's lives and relationships. In addition to *Emma*, her other major works include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Mansfield Park*, *Northanger Abbey*, and *Persuasion*. Austen's novels have been adapted into countless films, TV shows, and stage productions, and her influence on English literature and culture is immeasurable.

Despite her success as a writer, Austen lived a relatively quiet and uneventful life. She never married and spent most of her life living with her family. Austen's novels offer a glimpse into the world she lived in, and her ability to capture the complexities of human relationships and societal norms continue to resonate with readers today.

EMMA

Emma is a novel that follows the life and romantic pursuits of its titular character, Emma Woodhouse. Beautiful, clever, and rich, Emma seems to have it all, including a comfortable home and a happy disposition. Raised by her affectionate father and her dedicated governess, Miss Taylor, Emma has enjoyed a life free from hardship or disappointment.

However, despite her privileged upbringing, Emma's greatest flaw may be her tendency to meddle in the romantic affairs of those around her. She takes it upon herself to play matchmaker for her friends and acquaintances, often with disastrous results. Emma's misguided attempts at matchmaking lead to misunderstandings, hurt feelings, and unexpected consequences that challenge her perception of love, friendship, and societal expectations.

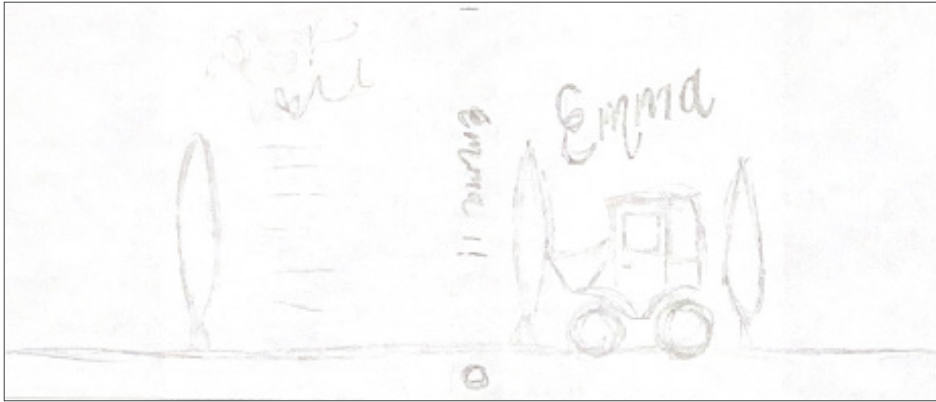
Throughout the novel, Jane Austen expertly weaves together themes of class, gender, and social hierarchy, offering a sharp critique of the rigid conventions that governed English society in the early 19th century. Despite Emma's privilege and wealth, she is not immune to the strict rules and expectations that governed the behavior of women in her time.

QUOTES

- "Silly things do cease to be silly if they are done by sensible people in an impudent way."
- "There is no charm equal to tenderness of heart."
- "It is always incomprehensible to a man that a woman should ever refuse an offer of marriage."
- "I cannot make speeches, Emma...If I loved you less, I might be able to talk about it more."
- "Vanity working on a weak head produces every sort of mischief."
- "I have blamed you, and lectured you, and you have borne it as no other woman in England would have borne it."
- "One half of the world cannot understand the pleasures of the other."
- "A mind lively and at ease, can do with seeing nothing, and can see nothing that does not answer."
- "I must learn to be content with being happier than I deserve."
- "I may have lost my heart, but not my self-control."

SKETCHES

initial



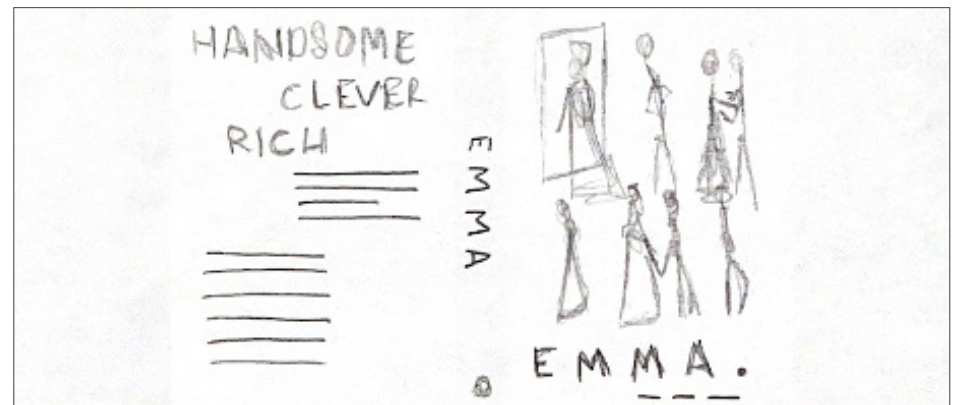
#1. carriage



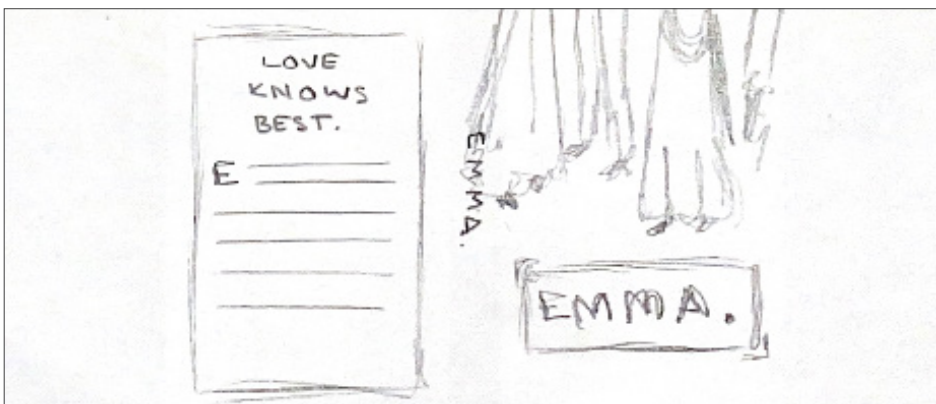
#2. simple portrait



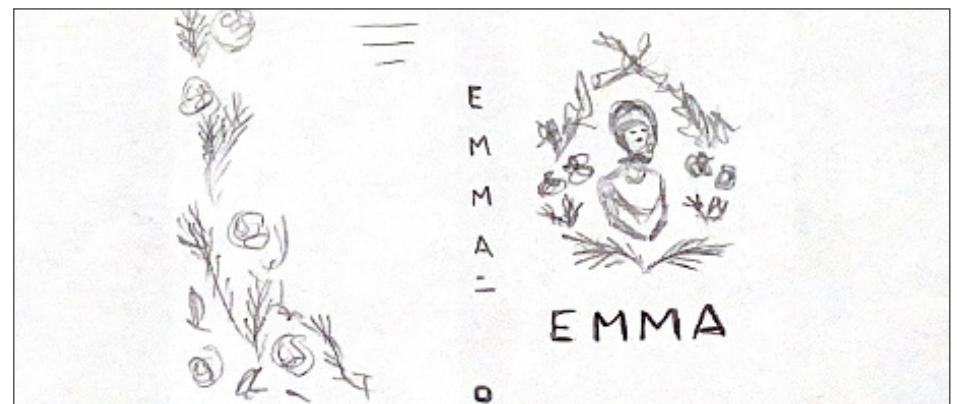
#3. basket of fruit given to miss bates



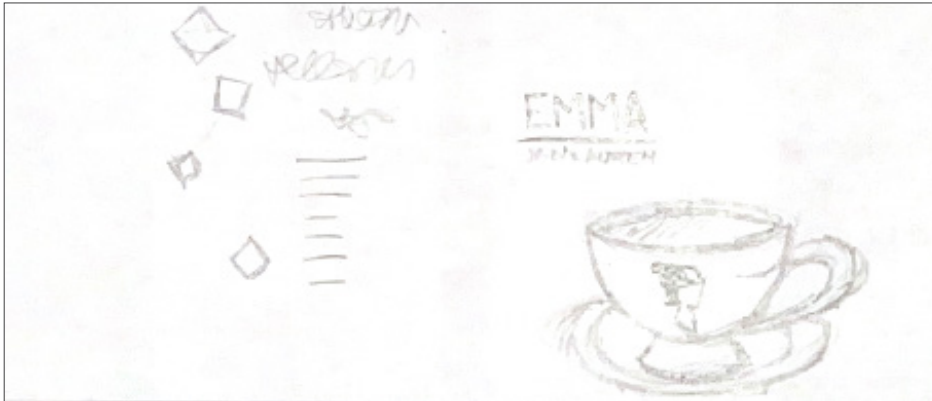
#4. various characters and pairings from the book, emma in front



#5. 'bottom-half' view, like at a party or dance



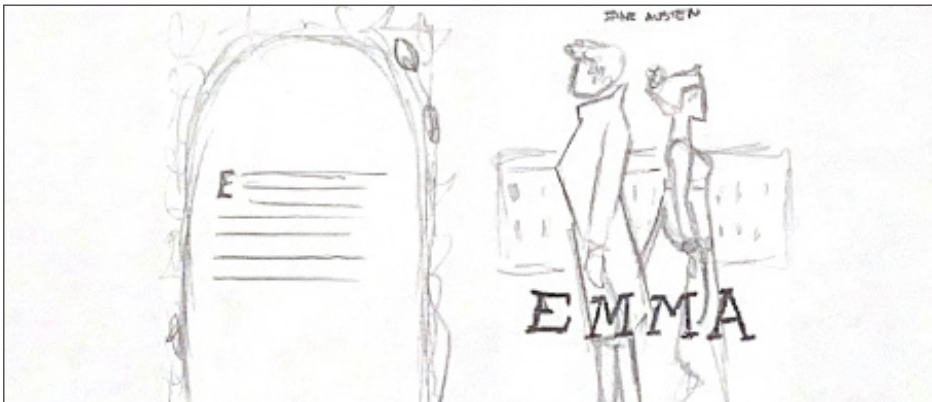
#6. portrait, upper-body, surrounded by flowers, minimal



#7. tea cup and sugar cubes, like the gossip scenes from the book



#8. emma at the center, surrounded by the various 'matchmade' pairs

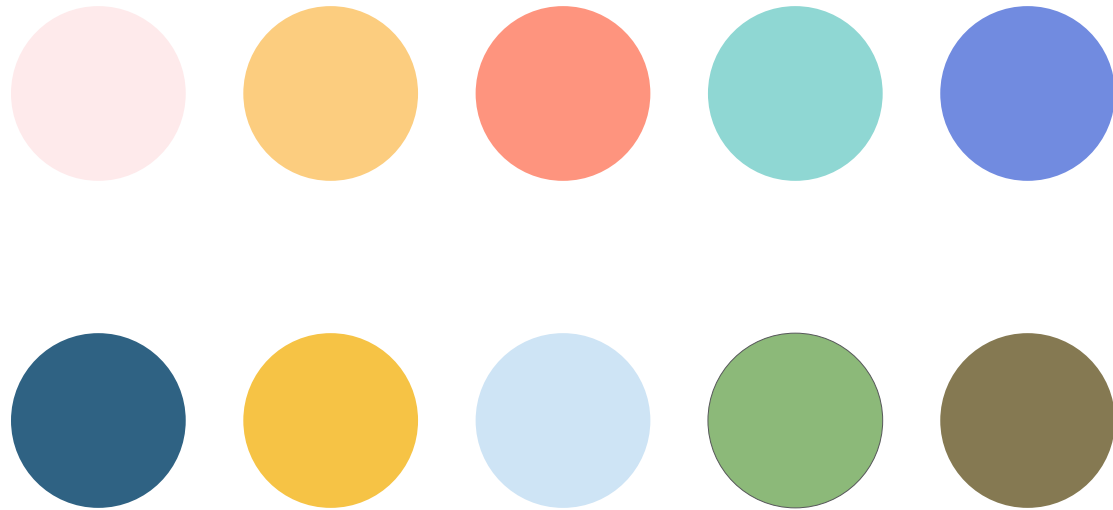


#9. emma and mr. knightley (romantic pairing) with hartfield (her house) in the background



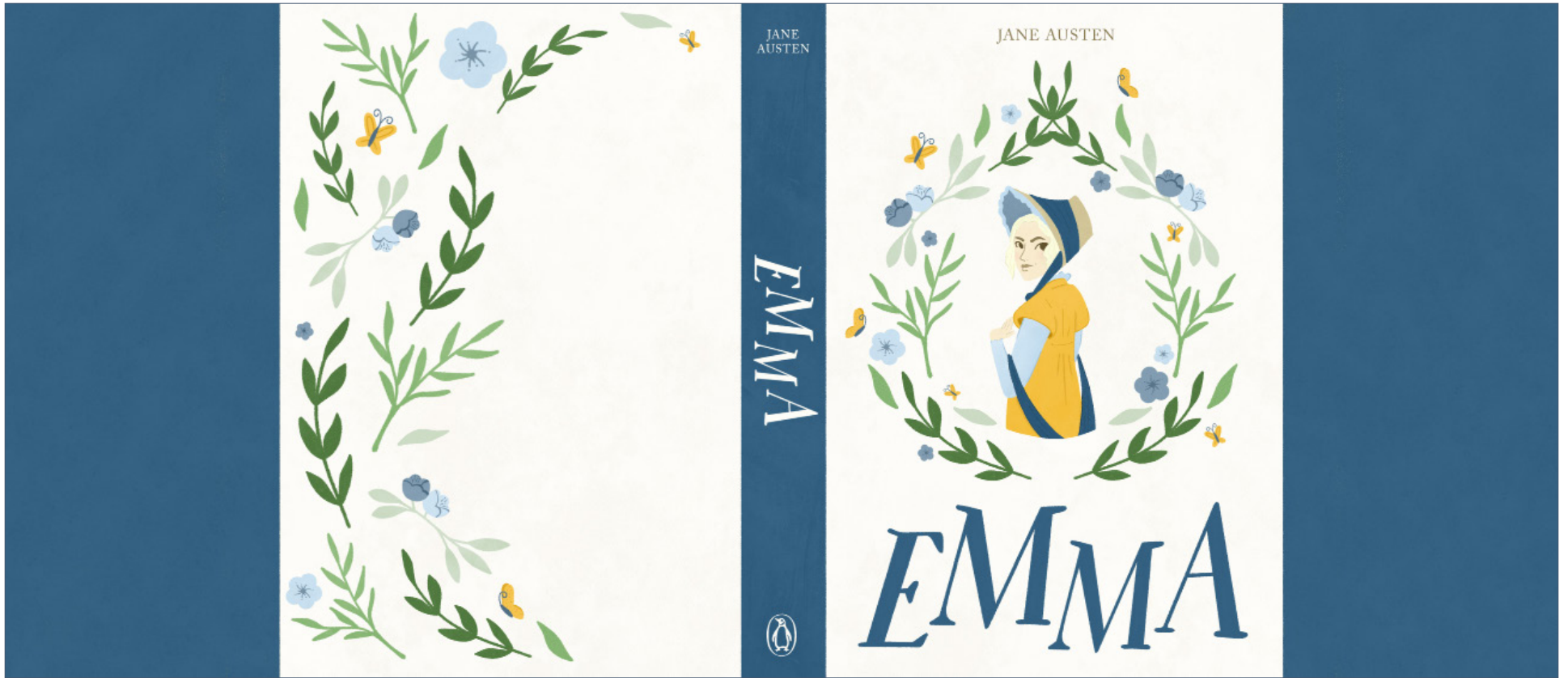
#10. 'matchmaking cards' of various characters

COLOR PALETTE CONSIDERATIONS



FINAL ILLUSTRATION

without text, with text, on mockups



*without text

Jane Austen

Jane Austen was an English novelist whose works are still widely read and studied today. Born in 1775, Austen lived most of her life in the English countryside, where she drew inspiration for her novels from her observations of the people and society around her.

Austen's novels are known for their sharp wit, incisive social commentary, and nuanced portrayals of women's lives and relationships. In addition to "Emma," her other major works include "Pride and Prejudice," "Sense and Sensibility," "Mansfield Park," "Northanger Abbey," and "Persuasion." Austen's novels have been adapted into countless films and stage productions, and her influence on English literature and culture is immeasurable.

Jane Austen and her novels offer a glimpse into the world and period she lived in, and her ability to capture the complexities of human relationships and societal norms continue to resonate with readers today.

Illustration © 2023 by Gabrielle Siegfried
Cover Design by Gabrielle Siegfried
Jacket © 2023 Myers School of Art
Printed in the U.S.A.



EMMA WOODHOUSE, HANDSOME, CLEVER, AND RICH...

"...with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best pair blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.

She was the youngest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father; and had, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been the mistress of his house from a very early period. Her own mother had died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses; and her place had been supplied by an excellent woman as governess, who had fallen little short of a mother in affection."

LOVE KNOWS BEST...
& EMMA KNOWS LOVE.



JANE
AUSTEN

EMMA



JANE AUSTEN



EMMA

*"I may have lost my heart,
but not my self-control."*

Emma Woodhouse. Beautiful, clever, and rich, Emma seems to have it all, including a comfortable home and a happy disposition. Raised by her affectionate father and her dedicated governess, Miss Taylor, Emma has enjoyed a life free from hardship or very many disappointments.

However, despite her privileged upbringing, Emma's greatest flaw may be her tendency to meddle in the romantic affairs of those around her. She takes it upon herself to play matchmaker for her friends and acquaintances, often with disastrous results. Emma's misguided attempts at matchmaking lead to misunderstandings, hurt feelings, and unexpected consequences that challenge her perception of love, friendship, and societal expectations.

As Emma navigates the complexities of love and friendship, she learns valuable lessons about the dangers of pride and the importance of humility. Her growth as a character is reflected in her relationships with those around her, including the kind-hearted Mr. Knightley, her steadfast friend Harriet, and the very handsome and elusive Frank Churchill.

"Emma" is a timeless classic that continues to captivate readers today with its witty dialogue, insightful portrayal of societal norms, and vividly drawn characters. Austen's sharp observations about human nature and the complexities of love and friendship make "Emma" a must-read for fans of classic literature.

*with text



*with text



*without text

END

thank you!