

Attempt a character - sketch of George Knightley.

Introduction — George Knightley is the hero of Jane Austen's famous novel Emma. He is a sensible, honest and judicious gentleman of the highest principle and strictest moral conduct. He is a good angel for Emma advising her whenever she commits a mistake.

He is always admirable for his good sense. A famous literary critic A.H. Wright quotes, "Mr. Knightley is a sensible man. He appraises coolly, he judges calmly, he acts decisively." When he feels that Emma is trying affect.

and alliance between Mr. Elton and Harriet, he again warns her that vicar wouldn't marry Harriet. His advice indicates that he is a hero of practical wisdom and insight.

As a Sincere lover —

His love for Emma is dependent on intimate friendship lasting over so many years.

He tells her that he had loved her from the time she was thirteen. He regards himself as self-appointed guardian of Emma. His delicacy doesn't permit him to interfere in the relations between Frank Churchill and Emma because he believes that Emma cares for the young man.

As soon as he learns of the engagement between Frank Churchill and Jane Fairfax, he consoles Emma. He speaks to her of his own love and to his great surprise, Emma readily returns the love. He has deep faith to get all the happiness in a true conjugial life.

A man of good sense and high social values —

We find that Knightley had a good sense but Emma lacks in it. His subtle insight into character is again brought out by his assessment of this Frank Churchill who is widely admired at Highbury. It is Mr. Knightley who first guesses the true relations between Frank Churchill and Jane Fairfax, and this declares him as a very good

Observer of human characters.

Mr. Knightley is a complex English man, with a high respect for the established social order. He approves of the marriage between Robert Martin and Harriet. He displays honourable behaviour towards Mr. Woodhouse, father of Emma. If Harriet had any sense she would have known that a gentle man like Mr. Knightley should ever marry beneath himself.

As a balanced and sensible person —

George Knightley is a very sensible, proper, kind, open and enthusiastic man. If Emma had been lead by Mr. Knightley's good sense, she would not have committed many blunders. Her cleverness, charm and wit are in conflict with the standard of values represented by Mr. Knightley till at last opens her eyes, to his real worth. At the Box Hill party, Emma makes fun of poor Miss Bates, at that time he hardly controls his anger. The kindness and courtesy of Mr. Knightley are again brought out by his conduct at the crown, when Mr. Elton and his wife joint together in humiliating poor Harriet. When Elton refuses to dance with poor Harriet, Mr. Knightley soon comes forward and is ready to dance with her because he can not tolerate to see her hurt.

His repeated kindness to her are also the result of the same generous feelings. Although the simple girl misunderstand him. Thus, we find that George Knightley is a very balanced and sensible hero of a social and domestic hero in Emma.

Conclusion — Through out the story of Emma, we find that Mr. Knightley is such a courteous gentleman who would not offend any person. In the story George Knightley says, "There was but one married woman in the world whom I can ever allow to invite what gets she pleases to Donwell and one is Mrs. Knightley, and tell she is in being, I will manage such matters myself."