

B. A. Part II (Hons.)

Paper IV (Novel)

A character - sketch of Emma -  
Emma Woodhouse is the heroine of a social and domestic novel, entitled Emma, written by Jane Austen. She is handsome, clever, and rich with a comfortable home and happy disposition. Austen writes, 'Emma had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.' She possessed the power of having rather too much her own way, and a disposition to think a little too well of herself.

When we study the novel deeply, we find that Emma commits three major and grave mistakes in her life. First of all, she affords to make Harriet into the wife of a gentleman when her social status shows that she would be better suited to the farmer who loves her. Then, she starts flirting with Frank Churchill even though she does not care for him. Emma always claims that she would live a single throughout her life, she is in love with Mr. George Knightley, the hero of the novel and wants to marry him. These three serious mistakes of Emma frighten Harriet's happiness and comfort and arouse obstacles to her. Throughout the novel, Knightley tries to correct and guide her.

The genre of narration of Emma is creates a complicated mixture of sympathy with Emma and ironic comment on her behaviour. Emma seems to be a perfectly multidimensional character. There are ambiguous distinctions shown between Emma and the other female characters in this novel. Jane is

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similar to Emma, but she doesn't have Emma's financial independence, so her difficulties are more and more. Emma is refined and basically well-behaved. Like Emma, Mrs. Elton is independent and imposes her will upon her friends.

Emma Woodhouse is the chief character and here is the most fully rounded, three-dimensional characterization. Her dominant feature is willful imagination. She also possesses the elements of goodwill, but she also possesses when her willfulness does not compel her into self-deception. Her characterization has so been done that one can not be completely sure that she will never plan again. She has a good chance of remaining in terms with herself and her environment because of her growth beside her. She now has George Knightley as protagonist of Jane Austen's novel Emma, written in 1815.

While writing the novel, called Emma, Jane Austen said, 'Emma is a heroine, whom no one but myself will much like.'  
Emma is a free, wealthy woman who lives with her father in their home Hartfield near the village of Highbury. She always



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professes that she does not ever wish to marry  
as she has no financial necessity as she  
has a large inheritance and does not wish to  
leave her father alone. After series of new  
engagements, she visits at Highbury. She  
finds herself in love with her neighbour and  
sister's brother-in-law, George Knightley.  
Emma's misplaced confidence in her abilities  
as a matchmaker and her prudish fears  
love make the central focus of the novel,  
which finds out Emma's errors and growing  
self-understanding.

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