

## **KEY EVENTS IN JANE AUSTEN'S LIFE**

1775: Jane Austen born

1776: Declaration of Independence and Revolutionary War

1782: Cassandra and Jane sent to boarding school, sent home because of typhoid outbreak

1783: Edward Austen adopted by Knight family

1787: Jane begins writing stories (*Juvenilia*)

1790: Jane writes *Love and Friendship* (dedicated to Eliza)

1794: Jane writes *Lady Susan*; Eliza's husband is beheaded in Paris during French Revolution

1795: Prince of Wales marries Caroline of Brunswick and Jane begins *Elinor and Marianne*; around this time, Jane spends time with Tom LeFroy

1796: Jane begins working on *First Impressions*

1798: Jane revises *Elinor and Marianne* and begins *Susan*

1800: Jane completes *Susan*; George Austin retires

1802: Jane briefly accepts proposal of Harris Bigg-Wither

1803: Henry sells *Susan* to Crosby & Company; war with France resumes

1805: Jane revises *Lady Susan*; Mr Austen dies and Mrs Austen, Cassandra, and Jane forced to move frequently

1806: Austen women move in with Martha Lloyd

1808: Frank Knight offers Chawton House to mother and sisters

1809: Jane asks for *Susan* manuscript back; as Mrs. Ashley Dennis (MAD), family moves to Chawton

1810: Thomas Egerton buys *Sense and Sensibility*, Prince of Wales officially becomes Regent

1811: *Sense and Sensibility* is published as "by a Lady"

1812: Thomas Egerton buys *Pride and Prejudice*

1813: *Pride and Prejudice* is published as "by the author of *Sense and Sensibility*," the novel is a great success and a second edition is published that fall, Egerton buys *Mansfield Park*

1814: *Mansfield Park* comes out as "by the Author of S&S and P&P" and is great success, becoming Jane's most profitable novel yet, Jane begins *Emma*

1815: Napoleon defeated at Battle of Waterloo, Jane and Henry find new publisher, John Murray for *Emma*, Jane dedicates *Emma* to Prince Regent at his request, Jane begins *Persuasion*

1816: Jane buys copyright to *Susan* for £10, family is losing money, Jane becomes ill

1817: Jane Austen dies 28 July, Henry publishes *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* with Jane identified as author

1832: Richard Bentley publishes collected works of Jane Austen and her novels never go out of print

2025: We celebrate 250 Years of Jane Austen!

## 10 JANE AUSTEN FUN FACTS!

- Jane was one of eight children and was the only one who didn't have a middle name. Jane was close to her sister, Cassandra, and her often feature sisters who are close.
- Jane's family valued education. She and Cassandra were sent to boarding school, but they had to come home because of a typhoid outbreak. She spent lots of time in the family library reading.
- Jane had to rely on gifts of money from her family until she started earning her own income at age 36 from the sale of *Sense and Sensibility*.
- Austen's novels combine first and third person character, meaning we don't just see what is happening, we are often let into characters' thoughts.
- Even though everyone makes a big deal about how wealthy Mr Darcy is, there is one character even wealthier. One of the Bertrams' neighbors in *Mansfield Park*, Mr Rushworth, has an income of £12,000 a year—besting Darcy by £2,000.
- Even though the main characters end up in respectable marriages, most of Austen's novels include at least one elopement or secret engagement, which were scandalous at the time. Such actions were thought to potentially pollute the shades of Pemberley!
- When she died, Jane named Cassandra as her heir. Her will also mentioned her brother Henry and Henry's late wife's secretary, Madame Bigeon.
- *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were published together after Jane's death by her brother Henry. He gave them titles added a "Biographical Notice," which was her first biography.
- The term "Janeites" started being used to refer to Jane Austen fans, especially after Rudyard Kipling wrote a story about World War I soldiers who bonded over their love for Austen's novels. The story was called "The Janites."
- *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen's most popular novel, made her the least amount of money in her lifetime but has sold more than 200 million copies across the world.

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