

# Activity Idea

## The Jane Austen Book Club:

Emma

*Recommended for Adults*

### Background:

Jane Austen: Born in 1775, Jane Austen was ahead of her time, though largely unknown, during her life. Austen's comic romance novels gained popularity in the 20th century due to her descriptions of everyday life of the Georgian-era middle class. Using a pseudonym, Jane Austen published four novels: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Emma*. Yet, it was not until after her death in 1816 that her family revealed her as the author. Over time, Jane Austen's novels have become classics that continue to shape and influence pop culture to this day.

*Emma*: Twenty-one-year-old Emma Woodhouse comfortably dominates the social order in the village of Highbury, convinced that she has both the understanding and the right to manage other people's lives—for their own good, of course. Her well-meant interfering centers on the aloof Jane Fairfax, the dangerously-attractive Frank Churchill, the foolish, if appealing, Harriet Smith, and the ambitious young vicar Mr. Elton, and ends with her complacency shattered, her mind awakened to some of life's more intractable dilemmas, and her happiness assured.

### Resources:

#### Books

*Emma* on OverDrive - [tinyurl.com/umhwhau](https://tinyurl.com/umhwhau)

*Emma* (Audiobook) on RBDigital - [tinyurl.com/yx7ntylc](https://tinyurl.com/yx7ntylc)

*Jane Austen's Emma* (graphic novel) on Hoopla - [tinyurl.com/ul3tpwz](https://tinyurl.com/ul3tpwz)

#### Movie:

*Emma* (1996) on Hoopla - [tinyurl.com/u24fynj](https://tinyurl.com/u24fynj)

#### Research:

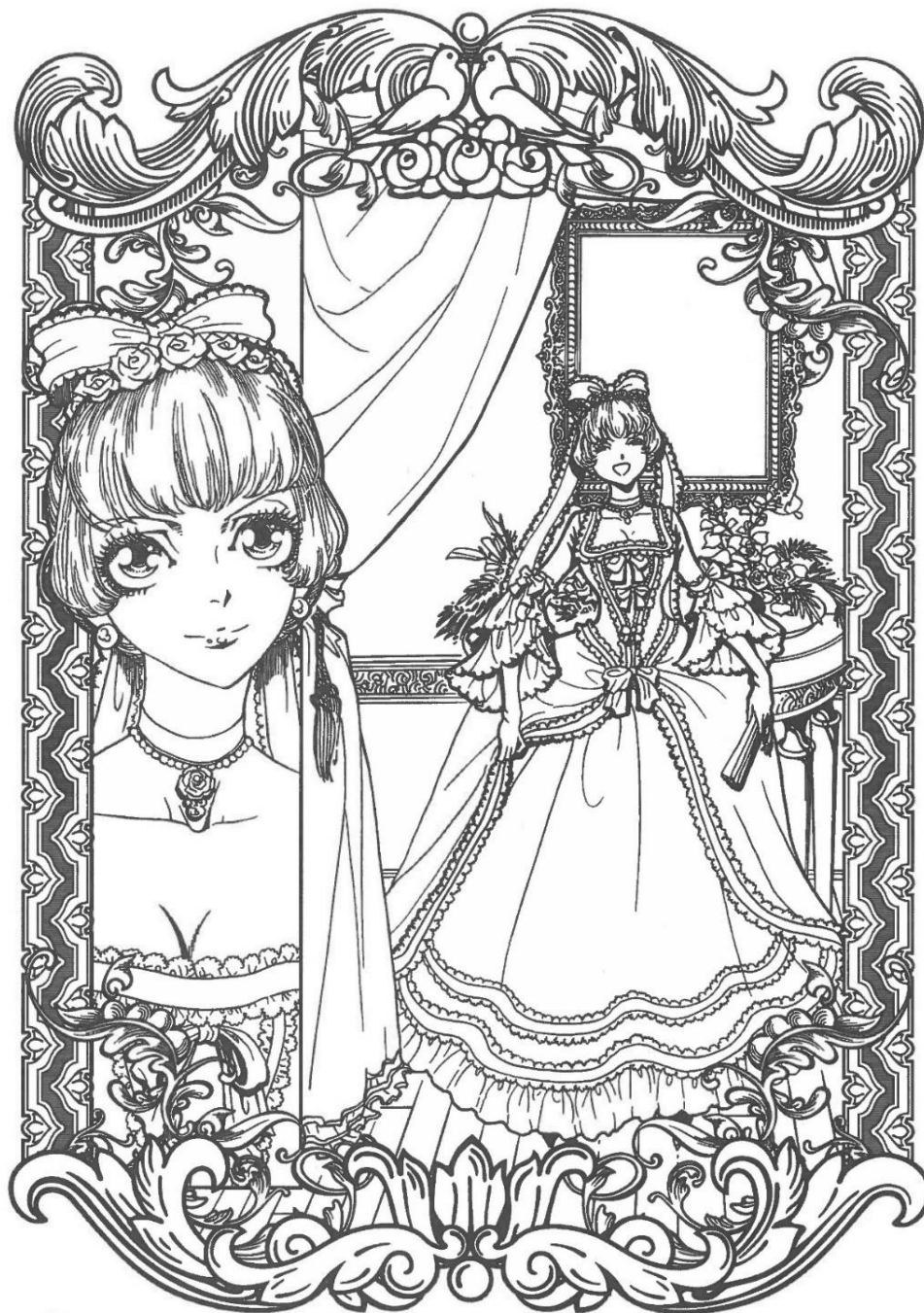
Gale Literature Resource Center - [tinyurl.com/vof9wa5](https://tinyurl.com/vof9wa5)

### Spark an Idea!

Do you see any parallels between Emma and all the dating shows on TV right now?

Do you think Emma had good intentions when matchmaking or was she just looking to entertain herself?

Some criticize Austen because her novels do not address the events of her day and lack historical perspective. Do you think this is true? Does a novel need this to be considered a classic?



Emma Woodhouse at the ball