

1932: Pride and Prejudice Revisited

Book Group Questions

1. *1932* is an early 20th century variation on Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, but it takes a significant shift from the original plot at Chapter 12. If you have read Austen's novel, how do you think this plot shift affects the rest of the story? Do the characters still have to overcome "pride" and "prejudice" to reach a happy ever after? How are those obstacles different than in the original novel?

2. When *1932* was first published in 2010, it took place seventy-eight years in the past; now the story takes place eighty-eight years in the past. Is that enough time to call it a "historical" romance novel?

3. *Pride and Prejudice*'s Darcy is initially described as "a fine figure of a man, much handsomer than Mr. Bingley" but quickly he is seen as "proud...above his company, and above being pleased." Does *1932*'s Darcy share these qualities? How might the time, place, and other context of *1932*'s story have changed Mr. Darcy, the character?

4. Elizabeth Bennet is a lively, witty, self-assured young woman in *Pride and Prejudice* who learns from her mistakes. Which of these qualities remain in *1932*? Which character traits have changed and how?

5. The original title of *Pride and Prejudice* was *First Impressions*, and the story was about the fallacy of judging others by initial opinions of their character and behavior. Do you think that *1932* shares this theme? If not, what do you think is the main theme of *1932*?

6. Do you think Darcy's lack of experience on his wedding night makes sense in the story's context? Why or why not? Does their physical intimacy progress at the same pace as their emotional intimacy? If not, does this cause them problems?

7. What is your opinion of *1932*'s Mrs. Bennet?

8. Do Maggie and Ruth add to the *1932* story or change the two main characters? How?

9. Who—or what—is the antagonist/villain of *1932*?

10. What did you like best about the book? Who is your favorite character? Which character did you not like? Why?