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Jane Austen

Today, we're going to talk about Jane Austen... in just a minute.

Jane Austen was born on December 16th, 1775, in England. She was a pioneer of the novel of manners—one that depicts the minute details of a society's traditions and values.

Austen began writing in 1787, sharing her stories with family and friends—but when she published her first major work, *Sense and Sensibility*, in 1811, she chose to be anonymous. Both critics and readers celebrated the book, leading to a succession of novels over the next few years. *Pride and Prejudice* came in 1813, followed by *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*. Two novels, *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*, were published posthumously in 1817—finally revealing Austen as the author of all of her novels.

Austen's novels are studies of English middle-class life during the early 19th century. She wrote about—and often satirized—ordinary people navigating everyday interactions and social customs. Although she never married during her life, the books often use love and marriage as central points of conflict and commentary.

What influence did Jane Austen have on modern literature?