

*Jane Austen*

*MANFIELD*

*PARK*



**Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park***



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**Pre-Reading Considerations**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Variations on the Themes—to be answered individually or in small groups:**

1. Have you ever spent time living with another family? What adjustments do you (and they) have to make? If you haven't, how do you imagine it would be?
2. How do you deal with abuse—to yourself? To others? If you see something happening that shouldn't, do you report it, or try to help? What is your responsibility to others in light of the Bible? Are we our brother or sister's keeper?
3. How is our character formed? Is it influenced by environment and opportunity or are we just born with certain character traits (nurture vs. nature)? Do we have control over our character, and can we change it if we see a need for change?

**Pre-Writing—Write a short essay about one of the following:**

1. What changes have you gone through in your life so far? What brought them about?
2. Are you easily influenced by your surroundings? If so, how? If not, why not?



**Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*  
While You Read**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the following questions based on your reading of *Mansfield Park*:**

1. Keep track of what Austen says about class, gender, relationships, and faith in *Mansfield Park*. At the end, draw some conclusions about Austen's position on each.
2. What are the social positions of the three Ward sisters (Lady Bertram, Mrs. Norris, and Mrs. Price). How did they get there, how do they treat each other, and how have their situations affected how they handle their lives?
3. Trace the growth and demise of the two courtships (Edmund and Mary, Fanny and Henry). How are they similar? Different? What challenges lead to their eventual end?
4. Describe Austen's writing style in this novel. How does it differ from that of her first two novels? Be specific, and give examples where appropriate.





5. Who are the protagonists and who are the antagonists in this story? Why? How?

6. Keep track of and write about appearances and reality in *Mansfield Park*.

7. Pay attention to Fanny's relationships with other key characters. Is she the same from character to character or does she change? If so, what contributes to this?

8. Make a list of the "lessons learned" throughout the book. Who learns the most? Who learns the least? What do *you* learn?



**Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park***  
**Post-Reading Discussion**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer the following questions on your own or in small groups:**

1. Do you like Fanny Price? Why or why not? What specifics contribute to that feeling about her?
2. How does the Bertram family's relationship with Fanny change as the story progresses? What do you think of the way they treat her? How do her feelings for them change from the beginning? What finally allows the family to accept her in the end?
3. *Mansfield Park* was written some 10 years after Austen's previous book (*Pride and Prejudice*). During that time she went through a number of traumatic events (her father died, a potential suitor died, she lost her home and moved from place to place before finally settling into what became her final home. Her country was also at war and was going through a lot of changes itself.) What evidence of these events appears in the novel?



4. In one of the book's most famous scenes, Fanny sits wilted in the heat at the Rushworths' estate, while the other characters come and go around her. How does this symbolize one of the main themes of the book?
5. Compare and contrast the characters to their roles in *The Lover's Vows*. Do you see any irony in the fact that the characters seem to be most real when they are acting?
6. According to Plato, one cannot be "both a good actor and a good citizen." What did he mean? How does this apply to *Mansfield Park*?
7. This book was originally published in three volumes. Does this set-up change the way you read and view the book? Why do you think Austen structured the story this way? What did she gain (or lose) by doing so?



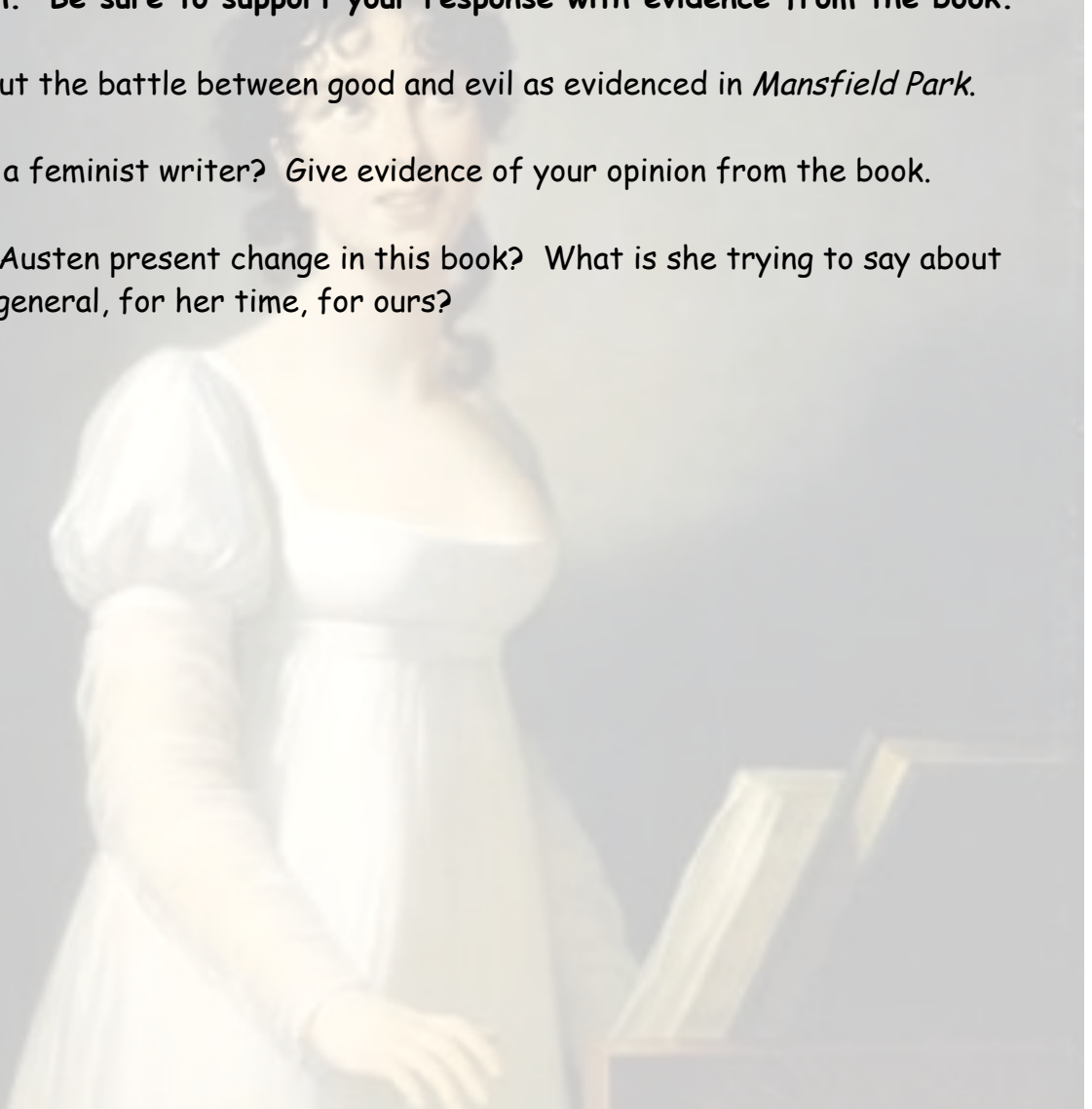


**Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park***  
**Post Reading Considerations**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one of the following options and write a 5-paragraph essay exploring the topic or question. Be sure to support your response with evidence from the book.

1. Write about the battle between good and evil as evidenced in *Mansfield Park*.
2. Is Austen a feminist writer? Give evidence of your opinion from the book.
3. How does Austen present change in this book? What is she trying to say about change in general, for her time, for ours?





**Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park***  
**Post Reading Projects**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one of the following options to demonstrate a further understanding of *Mansfield Park* and its characters. Work with a group as necessary.

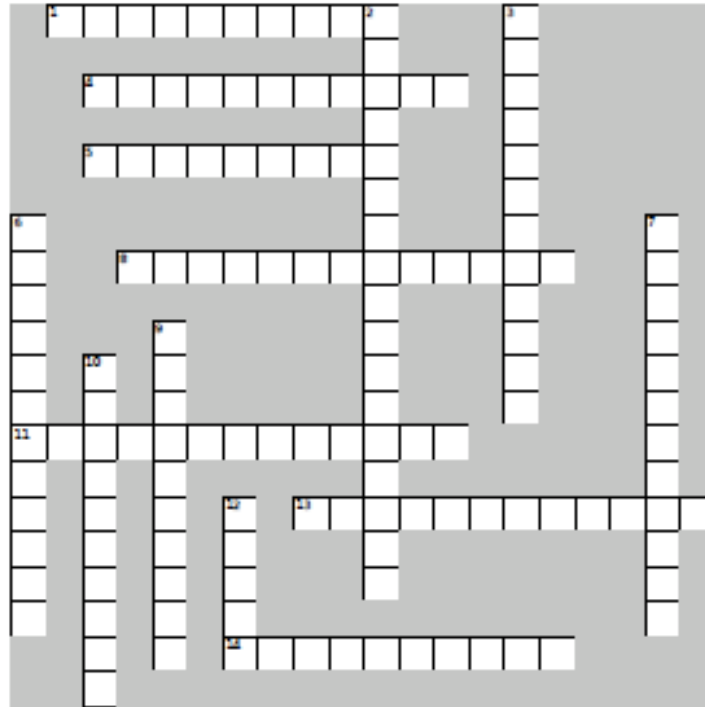
1. Write a modern-day script depicting 2 or 3 of the major scenes in *Mansfield Park*. Cast, direct, produce, and perform the scenes for your classmates.
2. Create a collage depicting the major characters, relationships, and themes of *Mansfield Park*.
3. Create a Facebook page for your favorite character. Update it with status reports. Send messages and comments from other characters in the book. Make the page reflect the true character of your character.
4. Make a web page for Jane Austen, author of *Mansfield Park*. Market the book through the site's pages. Make it interactive and illustrate it with pictures.
5. Create a power point slide show of the characters, themes, or relationships in *Mansfield Park*.





## Who's Who in Mansfield Park?

Determine which character from Mansfield Park is being described in the phrases below.

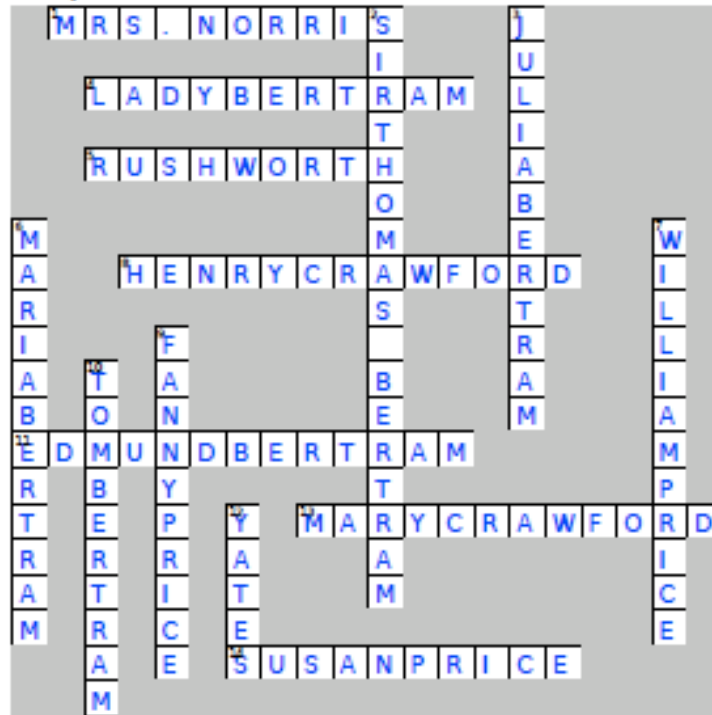


- | Across  | Down   |
|---|--|
| 1 Sister to Fanny's mother and Lady Bertram; wife of the first parson at Mansfield Parsonage.   | 2 A wealthy landowner and Fanny's uncle.   |
| 4 Fanny's aunt; her mother's sister and Sir Thomas's wife. She is neurotic, a hypochondriac, and lazy.                                | 3 The Bertrams' younger daughter. She is equally vain but slightly less cocky, since she is younger and less beautiful than Maria.           |
| 5 Maria's fiance and then husband. He is a bore, but quite wealthy.   | 6 The Bertrams' older daughter. Vain and pretentious, she abuses Fanny and marries Rushworth for his fortune.                                |
| 8 Mary's brother. He is equally charming and possibly even more amoral, and he possesses a sizeable estate.                           | 7 Fanny's brother. Sir Thomas has gotten him a commission in the Navy, and Henry gets him a promotion as part of his effort to seduce Fanny. |
| 11 The Bertrams' younger son. Since he will not be the heir to Mansfield, he will become a clergyman.                                 | 9 The protagonist. The daughter of a drunken sailor and a woman who married beneath her.   |
| 13 Sister of Mrs. Grant, who is the wife of the second parson at Mansfield. She is beautiful and charming, but also shallow and evil. | 10 The Bertrams' older son and the heir to Mansfield.  |
| 14 Fanny's younger sister, with whom she gets reacquainted when she returns to her family's home.                                     | 12 Tom Bertram's friend, who proposes the amateur theatricals at Mansfield.  |



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