Jane Austen: The Novels

ANALYSING TEXTS

General Editor: Nicholas Marsh

Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales *Gail Ashton*

Shakespeare: The Tragedies *Nicholas Marsh*

Virginia Woolf: The Novels *Nicholas Marsh*

Jane Austen: The Novels *Nicholas Marsh*

Thomas Hardy: The Novels *Norman Page*

Further titles are in preparation

Analysing Texts

Series Standing Order ISBN 978-0-333-73260-1

(outside North America only)

You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address, the title of the series and the ISBN quoted above.

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS, England

Jane Austen: The Novels

NICHOLAS MARSH

palgrave
macmillan

© Nicholas Marsh 1998

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HE.

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 1998 by
MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London
Companies and representatives throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-69377-3

ISBN 978-1-349-26318-9 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-26318-9

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and
made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

Editing and origination by
Aardvark Editorial, Mendham, Suffolk

Published in the United States of America 1998 by
ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,
Scholarly and Reference Division,
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 978-0-312-21370-1 cloth

ISBN 978-0-312-21371-8 paperback

For Disraeli

Contents

General Editor's Preface	xi
<i>A Note on Editions</i>	xii
Part 1: Analysing Jane Austen's Novels	1
1 Language and Texture	3
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , pp. 102–3	3
<i>Emma</i> , p. 7	10
<i>Mansfield Park</i> , pp. 5–6	16
<i>Persuasion</i> , p. 36	21
Conclusions	25
Methods of Analysis	26
Suggested Work	27
2 Characterisation	28
Characterisations in general	29
<i>Emma</i> , p. 21	29
Self-deception and self-knowledge	32
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , pp. 168–9	32
<i>Emma</i> , pp. 55–8	40
<i>Mansfield Park</i> , pp. 364–6	50
<i>Persuasion</i> , pp. 147–8	55
Conclusions	62
Methods of Analysis	63
Suggested Work	65
3 Structure in Jane Austen's Novels	66
A Social Event	68
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , Chapter 18 (pp. 76–87)	68
A Dialogue	73
<i>Emma</i> , p. 160	74
Structure in Themes	79
<i>Mansfield Park</i> , pp. 133–5	79

Linguistic Structure	83
<i>Persuasion</i> , p. 236	83
The Analysis of Plot (<i>Emma</i> , Chapter 47)	85
Conclusions	89
Methods of Analysis	92
Suggested Work	93
4 Society	94
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , pp. 286–8	96
<i>Emma</i> , pp. 270–1	106
<i>Mansfield Park</i> , pp. 164–6	113
<i>Persuasion</i> , pp. 205–7	122
Conclusions	127
Methods of Analysis	128
Suggested Work	129
5 The Place of Women	130
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , pp. 35–6	130
<i>Emma</i> , pp. 73–4	137
<i>Mansfield Park</i> , pp. 260–1	144
<i>Persuasion</i> , pp. 55–7	152
Conclusions	157
Methods of Analysis	159
Suggested Work	160
6 The Theme of Change and the Change of Theme	162
The Theme of Change	162
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , p. 129	162
<i>Emma</i> , p. 319	166
<i>Mansfield Park</i> , p. 73	168
<i>Persuasion</i> , p. 50	170
The Change of Theme	175
Conclusions	194
7 Irony, and the Author	196
The Difficulty of Finding the Author	196
Irony	198
<i>Mansfield Park</i> , p. 390	199
<i>Emma</i> , p. 321	201

<i>Persuasion</i> , p. 132	204
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , pp. 226–7	206
Conclusions	211
Methods of Analysis	211
Suggested Work	212
Conclusions to Part 1	214
Part 2: The Context and the Critics	217
8 Jane Austen's Life and Work	219
Jane Austen's Life	219
Jane Austen as Novelist	224
9 Jane Austen's Contribution to the Development of the Novel	232
The Novel before Jane Austen	232
Integrating Aspects of the Novel	234
10 A Sample of Critical Views	245
Controversy	245
Samples of Criticism	246
Andrew H. Wright	246
LeRoy W. Smith	253
Barbara Rasmussen	261
<i>Further Reading</i>	271
<i>Index</i>	275

General Editor's Preface

This series is dedicated to one clear belief: that we can all enjoy, understand and analyse literature for ourselves, provided we know how to do it. How can we build on close understanding of a short passage, and develop our insight into the whole work? What features do we expect to find in a text? Why do we study style in so much detail? In demystifying the study of literature, these are only some of the questions the *Analysing Texts* series addresses and answers.

The books in this series will not do all the work for you, but will provide you with the tools, and show you how to use them. Here, you will find samples of close, detailed analysis, with an explanation of the analytical techniques utilised. At the end of each chapter there are useful suggestions for further work you can do to practise, develop and hone the skills demonstrated and build confidence in your own analytical ability.

An author's individuality shows in the way they write: every work they produce bears the hallmark of that writer's personal 'style'. In the main part of each book we concentrate therefore on analysing the particular flavour and concerns of one author's work, and explain the features of their writing in connection with major themes. In Part 2 there are chapters about the author's life and work, assessing their contribution to developments in literature; and a sample of critics' views are summarised and discussed in comparison with each other. Some suggestions for further reading provide a bridge towards further critical research.

Analysing Texts is designed to stimulate and encourage your critical and analytic faculty, to develop your personal insight into the author's work and individual style, and to provide you with the skills and techniques to enjoy at first hand the excitement of discovering the richness of the text.

NICHOLAS MARSH

A Note on Editions

References to *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park* and *Emma* are page references to the Penguin Classic editions of 1996. References to *Persuasion* are page references to the 1985 Penguin Classics edition which includes C. E. Austen-Leigh's *Memoir* of his aunt. Where the full title of the novel would be clumsy, the abbreviations *PP* for *Pride and Prejudice* and *MP* for *Mansfield Park* have been used. Where it is obvious from the context which novel is being quoted, the page number appears on its own.