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**Group 1: English**

# **Humour and satire in *Pride and Prejudice***

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**1** Find at least two movie versions of *Pride and Prejudice* and compare the marriage proposal scenes. Which version more accurately captures the narrator's attitude toward Mr Collins? Toward Mr. Darcy? Why?

There are several movie versions available. Particularly useful for this activity are the 1995 A&E version starring Colin Firth and Jennifer Ehle as Mr Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, and the 2005 version starring Matthew Macfadyen and Keira Knightly in the same roles.

**2** This article in the *Huffington Post* contains a lengthy excerpt from P. D. James' book *Death Comes to Pemberley* (2013):

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/23/pride-and-prejudice-sequel-pd-james\\_n\\_1110862.html?page=1](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/23/pride-and-prejudice-sequel-pd-james_n_1110862.html?page=1)

The excerpt begins at the beginning of the novel. Take the first 200 words or so and compare them directly to the first 200 words of *Pride and Prejudice*. Does P. D. James manage to convey a similar gentle satire in the tone of her narrator? If so, how? If not, why not? You can try this head-to-head comparison with any one of the more than 85 modern sequels to *Pride and Prejudice* — you will find that Austen's style is extremely difficult to mimic.