

Emma - The film

Teacher's Notes **B1+** **B2**

One of the greatest classics in English literature and the "most beloved" Jane Austen novel is on screen! Come and meet this new *Emma*.

How to renew this two-hundred-year-old plot? Here's the answer. This new *Emma* brings humour and vitality into Austen's world while respecting its atmosphere and plot. So why not venture into these activities and offer your students a new vision of marriage in the 19th century upper-class England?

This work on *Emma* will perfectly fit into *Shine Bright LLCE Snapfile 6 "Unmarriageable"*. Jane Austen's views on marriage and love may well be still alive and well!

► VOCABULARY AND STRUCTURES

- Love: *match-making, love affair,*
- Describing people: *unfeeling, precocious, young, control freak...*
- Movie: *editing, sound track, trailer, actors... series*
- Analysis: *suggest, imply, tally with, be reminiscent of, be in keeping with, stress, underline...*

- Opinion+ qualifying it: *I reckon, to my mind, in my opinion, / to a certain extent, on the one hand, yet...*
- Organising ideas: linkwords (cause, consequence), arguments...
- Using the different media and their codes: Twitter post vs interview for example

► PRONUNCIATION

- names of the characters,
- *innocence*

► LISTENING, SPEAKING, WRITING

- We suggest starting with a very quick brainstorm on the title and author to check what the students already know. The Biobox slideshow will provide more information about Austen.
- Then, watching a short video will enable them to get the gist of the plot and of Emma's personality.
- Finally, working on the teaser trailer and full trailer and putting them into perspective will help them understand what's new about this version in order to get ready for the final task.

- In the end, the students will have to promote the movie and / or voice their opinion about it in different ways (written or oral tasks). These task may be the occasion for each one to practise and improve their weaknesses/ weakest point / skill. Depending on the level of the class and the task chosen, you may want to encourage the students to complete this chart in order to anticipate and get ready.

Voicing your opinion	Praising / promoting	Cause / consequence

► BIOBOX TRANSCRIPT

I was born on 16 December, 1775, in Hampshire, England.

I was the seventh of eight children and my father was a vicar.

When my father died in 1805, my mother, my sister Cassandra and I had no fixed place to live.

My first novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, was published in 1811, anonymously.

My second novel, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), was a great success.

I lived in the Regency period and the Prince Regent was a fan of my work. In 1816, I dedicated *Emma* to him.

Four novels were published in my lifetime, and two posthumously.

Cassandra and I had romances but didn't want to marry just for money or social status.

My novels focus on human relationships and in particular marriage.

As a middle-class woman in the 19th century, I couldn't work or own property.

But my books have been read by millions of people.

I became ill and died in 1817, at the age of 41.

My name is Jane Austen.

► VIDEO TRANSCRIPTS

■ Emma in 60 seconds

<https://people.com/movies/bill-nighy-emma-cast-hilariously-explain-movie-60-seconds/>

Anya Taylor-Joy: I play Emma in the film *Emma*.

Bill Nighy: I play Mr Woodhouse.

Mia Goth: Harriet Smith.

Johnny Flynn: Mr Knightley.

Cast: *Emma* Woodhouse is a handsome, precocious and rich young woman.

Bill Nighy: She has what we would now call "control issues".

Emma: It is exactly as I planned.

Callum Turner: She fancies herself the best matchmaker around.

Emma: It is the greatest amusement in the world.

Mia Goth: Her long-time friend George Knightley disapproves of her meddling in the affairs of others.

Knightley: I hope you are mistaken.

Anya Taylor-Joy: Harriet Smith is new to town.

Callum Turner: So, she's the perfect candidate for Emma's new project. A socially sound candidate would be Mr Elton.

Anya Taylor-Joy: The local vicar.

Bill Nighy: And then, Emma meets this guy.

Callum Turner: Frank Churchill.

Anya Taylor-Joy: Causing a stir like Highbury has never seen before. As more characters come into Emma's purview, she commits an unfortunate social misstep.

Knightley: How could you be so unfeeling?

Bill Nighy: And it's only in the last little...

but I mustn't tell you that. Somebody's shouting... They say I shouldn't say that because, obviously, it's a spoiler.

Miss Bates: Such a charming man.

Anya Taylor-Joy: So, see how all of our fates unfold

Mia Goth: When *Emma* comes to theatres.

■ Teaser

https://youtu.be/sR8E_SDxBI8

Miss Bates: Such news!

Mr Woodhouse: Emma!

Voiceover: The most joyfully romantic movie of the season.

Emma: You have been much missed in Highbury.

George Knightley: Have I?

Voiceover: *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone* and *Vogue* are all talking about *Emma*. Four stars. It's "deliciously wicked," and "Absolutely stunning."

Be charmed by the dazzlingly new vision of Jane Austen's beloved comedy. With deleted scenes and gag reel.

► SOLUTIONS

These are examples of what students can say.

A.1. She was an author in the 19th century. She wrote romantic books. She wrote *Pride and Prejudice*.

Young ladies + gentlemen

Upper and upper-middle class background / aristocracy. Affluent / well-off / wealthy background.

Countryside / manor houses

Love affairs

The movie is bound to be / likely to be about a young lady looking for love or whose love is impossible

She lived from 1775 to 1817. She was an English author. She wrote six novels but they were published anonymously. She wrote about relationships and marriage. She didn't want to marry for money. She died young.

2.a. Emma is a handsome, precocious affluent young lady. She has "control issues" / she's a control freak.

Miss Bates: Too wonderful!

Voiceover: *Emma*.

■ Trailer

<https://youtu.be/qsOwj0PR5Sk>

Dearly beloved friends, we gather here in this time of man's great innocence.

Mr Woodhouse: Innocence? Innocence? No? Behold a new vision of Jane Austen's beloved comedy about love and all its surprises.

Emma: Mr Elton!

Various characters: *Emma*.

Emma and Knightley (indistinct argument)

Miss Bates: Miss Woodhouse! Miss Woodhouse! Such news!

She believes she's a great match-maker and loves meddling with other people's love affairs, which her best friend disapproves of. When Harriet Smith arrives in Emma's town, she is perfect for Emma's new match-making plan: the perfect suitor is the local vicar.

Yet, we understand Emma commits a social blunder / mistake and is "unfeeling" even though we don't know why exactly.

b. At first sight, it seems to correspond to Jane Austen's world and novels

B. Discover the new Emma

1. Costumes, places and characters really embody and correspond to the typical Austen characters. (And the Regency period.)

At the end of the video, the voiceover announces "a dazzling new vision" and mentions deleted scenes and a "gag reel" as bonuses in the DVD + we can see the character/ actress of Emma dancing and acting funny.

SPEAKEASY NEWS

L'actualité au cœur des cours d'anglais



We can infer this version is a rather humorous / funny one.

2. a. The costumes and the setting are in keeping with the atmosphere and background mentioned before. The characters have 19th century habits and hobbies. Horse carriages and long dresses confirm it.

b. The trailer is quite comical / funny as the actors / characters pull faces or make puns+ lively trailer.

3.a. Questioning the vicar's pronunciation of this word and almost turning it into ridicule is a funny twist in the story (all the more so as

the situation and general speech of the vicar sound rather formal).

b. fast-paced / quick-changing shots/ running characters/ not much is said but a lot is shown and given to understand.

c. Although classical, the sound track is lively and rhythmic → we understand this film is not about a wishy-washy love affair.

4. I don't think I'd like to / I guess I'd like to... To a certain extent, / On the one hand, on the other hand...