

# AUTHOR FACTFILE

## Jane Austen

Jane Austen (1775–1817) is one of the most recognised names in English literature. Her six major novels – *Pride and Prejudice*; *Sense and Sensibility*; *Persuasion*; *Mansfield Park*; *Northanger Abbey* and *Emma* – are considered classics today, renowned for their portrayal of English middle-class life in the early 19th century. She originally started writing to amuse herself and to entertain her family, who enjoyed reading aloud to each other. Although Jane's books sold steadily during her lifetime, it was not until the Victorian period that she was recognised as a great author.



Jane was the seventh child and second daughter of clergyman George Austen and the well-connected Cassandra Leigh Austen. Jane was born into a respectable, middle-class family. She was primarily taught at home by her Oxford-educated father and was encouraged, along with her siblings, to explore their father's extensive library.

Having grown up in the village of Steventon in Hampshire, Jane moved with her parents and sister, Cassandra, to Bath in 1801, at the age of 25. Following the death of her father in 1805, Jane, her mother and sister moved several times before settling in Chawton, near Steventon.

Despite writing a multitude of romantic novels, Jane never married.

If any of our Tabor readers would like to explore Austen's most famous works then they can look in the classics section of the library where we have several copies for students to enjoy.