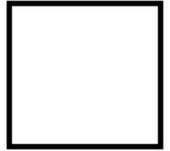


NAME: _____

This one is
my first
choice →



Emma
By Jane Austen

description

Emma, raised to think well of herself, has such a high opinion of her own worth that it blinds her to the opinions of others. The story revolves around a comedy of errors: Emma befriends Harriet Smith, a young woman of unknown parentage, and attempts to remake her in her own image. Ignoring the gaping difference in their respective fortunes and stations in life, Emma convinces herself and her friend that Harriet should look as high as Emma herself might for a husband-- and she zeroes in on an ambitious vicar as the perfect match. At the same time, she reads too much into a flirtation with Frank Churchill, the newly arrived son of family friends, and thoughtlessly starts a rumor about poor but beautiful Jane Fairfax, the beloved niece of two genteelly impoverished elderly ladies in the village. As Emma's fantastically misguided schemes threaten to surge out of control, the voice of reason is provided by Mr. Knightly, the Woodhouse's longtime friend and neighbor.



thematic concerns

love, social class, gender, appearances vs. reality, reputation



Evil Reading Bear says...

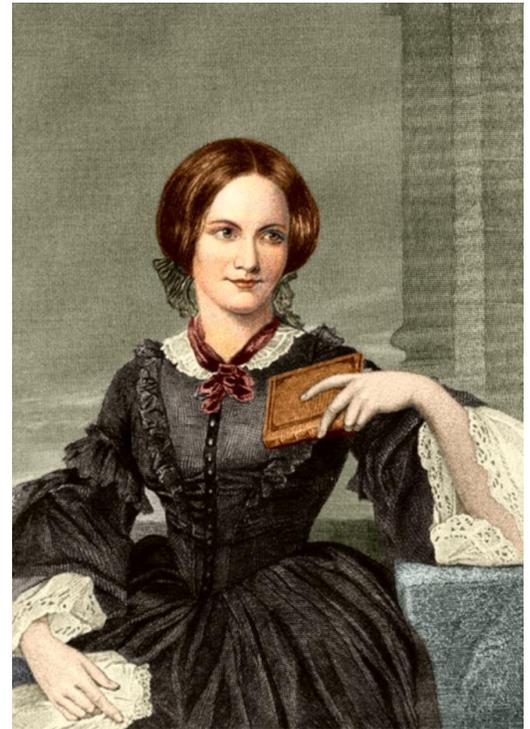
Jane Eyre
By Charlotte Brontë

This one is
my first
choice →



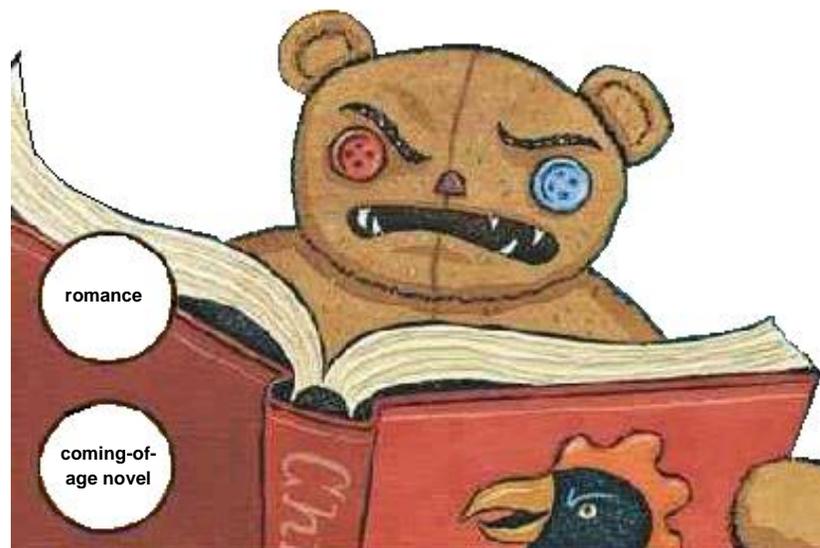
description

Orphaned Jane Eyre grows up in the home of her heartless aunt, where she endures loneliness and cruelty, and at a charity school with a harsh regime. This troubled childhood strengthens Jane's natural independence and spirit-- which prove necessary when she finds a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a choice. Should she stay with him and live with the consequences, or follow her convictions, even if it means leaving the man she loves? A novel of intense power and intrigue, *Jane Eyre* (1847) dazzled and shocked readers with its passionate depiction of a woman's search for equality and freedom. Hailed by William Makepeace Thackeray as "the masterwork of great genius," 'Jane Eyre' is still regarded, over a century later, as one of the finest novels in English literature.



thematic concerns

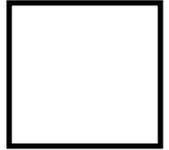
love, religious duty, social class, gender, appearances vs. reality



Evil Reading Bear says...

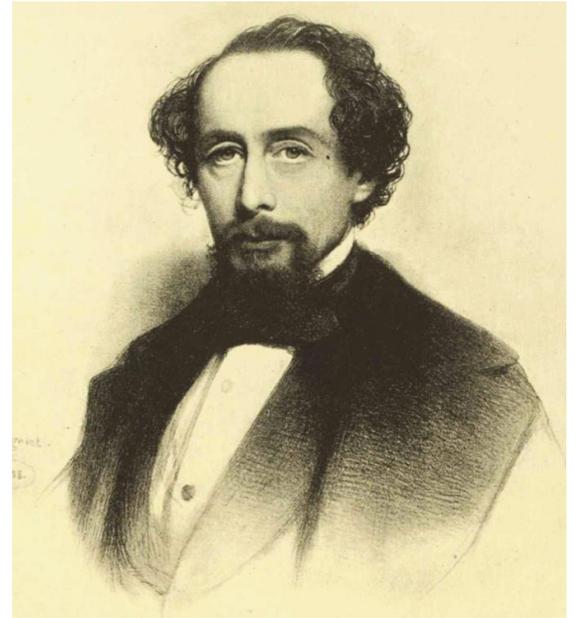
Great Expectations **By Charles Dickens**

This one is
my first
choice →



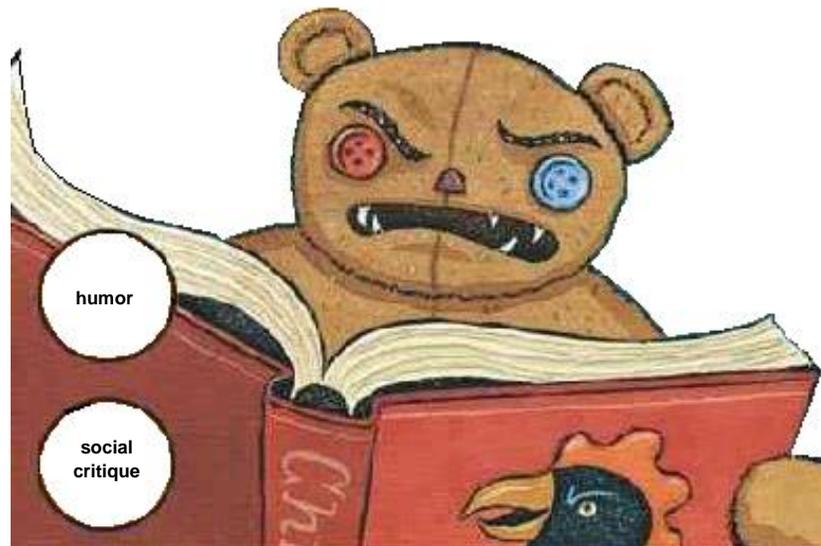
description

Pip, a poor orphan being raised by a cruel sister, does not have much in the way of great expectations between his terrifying experience in a graveyard with a convict named Magwitch and his humiliating visits with the eccentric Miss Havisham's beautiful but manipulative niece, Estella, who torments him until he is elevated to wealth by an anonymous benefactor, joining the ranks of the idle rich and "become a gentleman." Finally, in the luminous mists of the village at evening, Pip the man meets Estella, his dazzlingly beautiful tormentor, in a ruined garden-- and lays to rest all the heartaches and illusions that his "great expectations" have brought upon him. Full of unforgettable characters, *Great Expectations* is a tale of intrigue, unattainable love, and all of the happiness money can't buy. *Great Expectations* has the most wonderful and most perfectly worked-out plot for a novel in the English language, according to John Irving.



thematic concerns

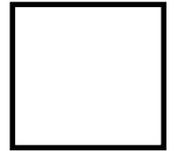
ambition, social class, morality, love, appearances vs. reality



Evil Reading Bear says...

Tess of the d'Urbervilles **By Thomas Hardy**

This one is
my first
choice →



description

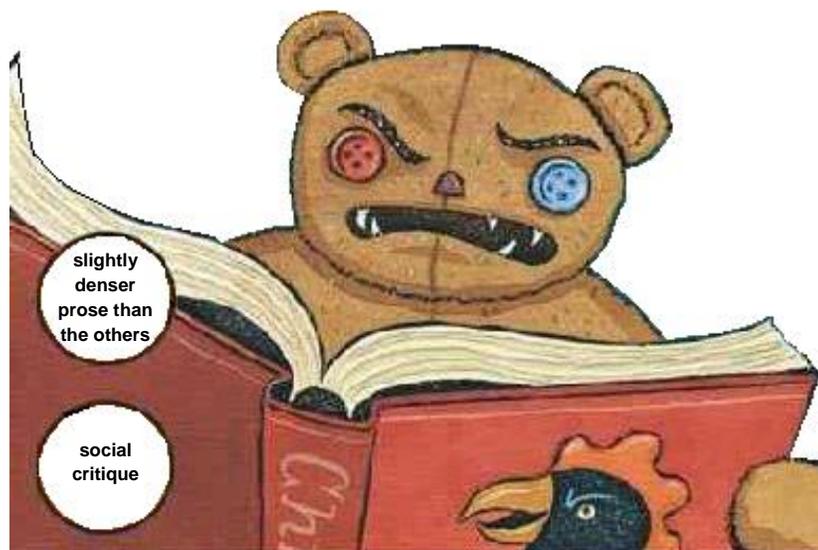
The ne'er-do-well sire of a starving brood suddenly discovers a family connection to the aristocracy, and his selfish scheme to capitalize on their wealth sets a fateful plot in motion. Jack Durbeyfield dispatches his gentle daughter Tess to the home of their noble kin, anticipating a lucrative match between the lovely girl and a titled cousin. Innocent Tess finds the path of the d'Urberville estate paved with ruin in this gripping tale of the inevitability of fate and the tragic nature of existence.

Subtitled *A Pure Woman Faithfully Presented*, Thomas Hardy's sympathetic portrait of a blameless young woman's destruction first appeared in 1891. Its powerful indictment of Victorian hypocrisy, along with its unconventional focus on the rural lower class and its direct treatment of sexuality and religion, raised a ferocious public outcry. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* is Hardy's penultimate novel; the pressures of critical infamy shortly afterward drove the author to abandon the genre in favor of poetry. Like his fictional heroine, the artist fell victim to a rigidly oppressive moral code.



thematic concerns

ambition, social class, morality, love, social class, gender, appearances vs. reality



Evil Reading Bear says...