

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**

Jane Austen



Katie Wilson
M^a Isabel Sánchez Vegara

For readers aged 4+ | 9781786031198 | Hardback | £9.99

Lots of the activities and discussion topics in these teacher's notes are deliberately left open to encourage pupils to develop independent thinking around the book. This will help pupils build confidence in their ability to problem solve as individuals and also as part of a group.



The Front Cover

What do you already know about Jane Austen?

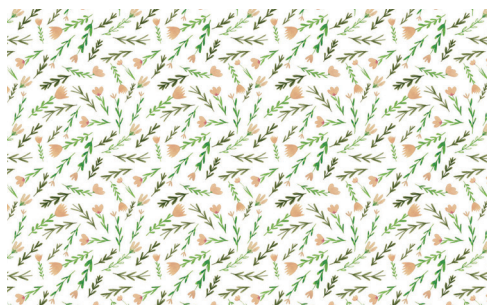


The Blurb

Clarify the meaning of 'commentaries' and 'landed gentry'

What extra information do you find out about reading the blurb?

Can you name any of Jane Austen's novels?



The Endpapers

Why do you think Katie Wilson used this design for the end papers?



Have a look at a map of England.

Where do you think the 'heart of the English countryside' might be?

How does the illustrator show that this is the 'Heart of the English countryside'?

How many daughters and sons did the Austens have?



What are the boys and girls doing in the illustration?

How has life changed for girls in Britain since the time in which Jane lived?

Who do you think made the rules about what girls could and couldn't do?

Are there things today which girls are not allowed to do?



Why do you think the author starts this page with 'However ...'?

Looking at the illustration, who do you think is enjoying the class most and why do you think this is?

What details in this illustration show that Jane lived a long time ago?

Discuss whether girls have a right to do the same things as boys and vice versa.

What can you infer about Jane's father?



Why do you think Jane preferred books to dolls?

What are your favourite ways of spending your free time?

What sort of books do you like to choose?

What do you notice about the books in the illustration?



What does the word 'siblings' mean?

Who is in the audience in the illustration?

How have the children created a theatre?

What makes a good story?

In groups:

- Plan a story line for a short play.
- Decide how many characters there will be and what sort of props you will need.
- Write the script out with any necessary stage directions.
- Practise performing and discuss whether you need to make any alterations.
- If possible, create an outdoor theatre space to perform your play. Think how you can do this most effectively.
- Issue invitations to the performance, remembering to write the title of the production, the date, time, venue.
- Advertise the event by designing posters which will persuade people they must see it.
- Design programmes with a cast list.



How would you amuse yourself in the evenings if you had no electricity to run devices like televisions, radios, electronic tablets, phones and computers?

If you read or created stories, what subjects and genres do you think you would choose?



What other stories can you think of where there are balls?

How do you predict things will work out for Jane?



What is the meaning of the word 'heiress'?

Write thought bubbles to place on the illustration to show what you think Jane, Tom, and the heiress are thinking.

How is this room different from the sitting room where Jane's family lives?

How do you think the author feels about Tom? Which words suggest this?



Clarify the meaning of the words that appear in the text, to make sure you fully understand it:

- pride
- prejudice
- daring
- heroine

What do you think the storyline of 'Pride and Prejudice' is?

How did Jane go about writing her book?



Why do you think Jane chose to write about young women?

Undertake some literary detection to find out the titles of Jane's books and match the character names shown in the illustration to the names of the books.



Why do you think Jane decided to keep her name a secret?

If you wrote a book, what name would you use as the author?

What name was used on Jane's book?



Why do you think that someone who wrote so long ago is considered as one of the greatest writers of the world today?

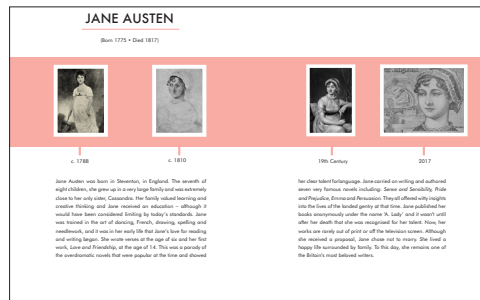
Can you think of any other writers who lived a long time ago who are still considered very important today?

What do you think the author means by 'full of grace and talent'?



What is unusual about this illustration and what is the illustrator conveying?

Which novel do you think the girl has bought?



Create a timeline for Jane Austen, showing her birth and death. Find out when the Napoleonic Wars were and mark this on your timeline too.

Do you think it was a fortunate or unfortunate that Jane wasn't recognised for her talent until after her death? Give reasons for your opinion.

Why do you think Jane chose not to marry?

Look closely at the final picture on the book's timeline. What does it show?

Look at a ten pound note or find an image of one online and find the quote from *Pride and Prejudice*.

Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Support your opinion with reasons. Find out why this particular £10 note was particularly important.

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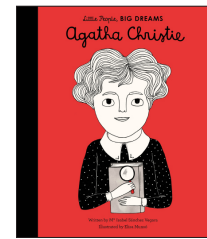
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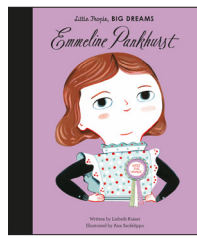
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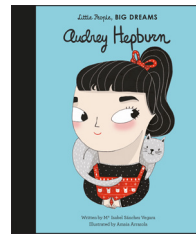
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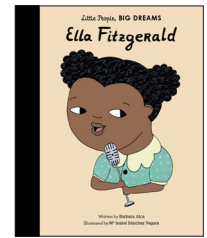
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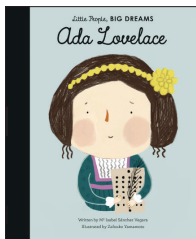
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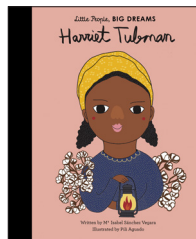
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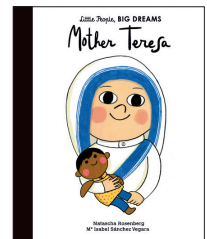
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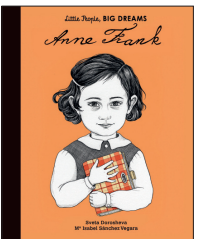
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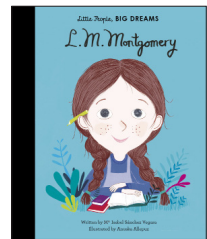
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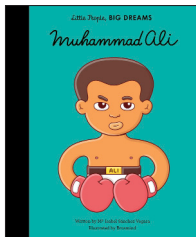
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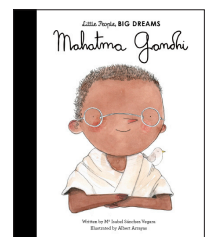
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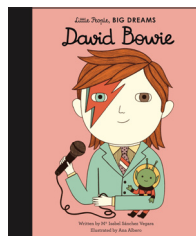
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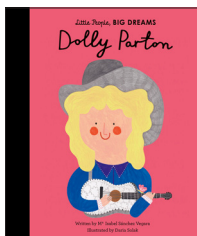
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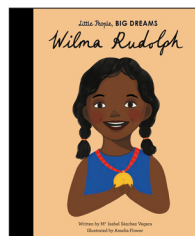
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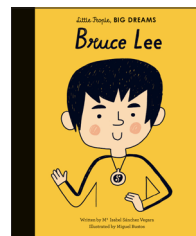
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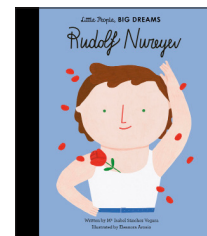
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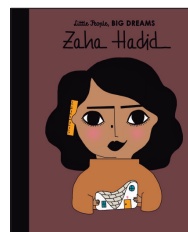
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