

QUESTIONS ON *MANSFIELD PARK*
(Please bring these questions with you on September 26)

NOTE: The September 26th “How Austentatious” session will begin with a performance of three scenes from *Lovers’ Vows*. After the performance we will break into groups for a discussion of the novel. Below are questions we will address in our discussion.

1. Now that you have seen the performance of scenes from *Lovers’ Vows*, ponder the following two questions:

a). What is significant about each of the three scenes? Why do you think they were chosen for performance? How does seeing these scenes performed help you better understand the relationship between the play and the novel?

b). Why is *Lovers’ Vows* a particularly inappropriate play for the young people at Mansfield to choose for their acting scheme?

2. In volume 2 the novel begins to focus on two potential sets of lovers. First, a couple of questions on Henry Crawford and Fanny. Then a question on Mary Crawford and Edmund.

a). How do the following characters react to the prospect of a marriage between Henry and Fanny?

- Sir Thomas Bertram
- Lady Bertram
- Mrs. Norris
- Edmund Bertram
- Mary Crawford

b). Do you think that Henry is in love with Fanny? Would he make her a good husband?

c). Edmund is attracted to Mary almost from the start, but Mary’s attraction to Edmund takes longer to develop. Why? What is it about Edmund that Mary finds appealing? Do you think that Mary is in love with Edmund? Would she make him a good wife?

3. Fanny Price is perhaps an even more controversial heroine than Emma Woodhouse. Often criticized for being too passive and too perfect, Fanny is certainly very different from Austen’s other heroines and seems to lack many of their endearing qualities. What do you think of her? Do you find her an appealing heroine?