

THIRD ANNUAL “JANIES” 2020

This year’s Janies will focus on the characters in Jane Austen’s novels who can be described as villainous, nasty, unpleasant, annoying — negative in some respect.

Below you will find the nominees in various categories. Please review and come to Saturday March 7th meeting ready to “VOTE” and discuss.

1. What is usually meant by a “villain”?
2. Are there any actual “villains” in Austen’s novels?
3. Rivals are not the same as villains, but do they play a similar role?
4. Are there significant differences between the male and female negative characters?
5. Annoying characters fall in between hero/heroine and villain. Are there some annoying characters who you would classify in the latter category?
6. “The villain has all the best lines” is a common observation. Do you feel that way about any of Austen’s “bad” characters?
7. Think about this: do any of the villains actually get punished? Who is the worst off by the end of the novel he/she appears in?
8. There is a saying, “To understand all is to forgive all.” Are there any negative characters who you think are just misunderstood?

Here are the nominations in several categories.

1. *Most villainous male character*

- a) Henry Crawford
- b) General Tilney
- c) George Wickham
- d) John Willoughby
- e) Other _____

2. *Most villainous female character*

- a) Fanny Dashwood
- b) Mrs. Ferrars
- c) Mrs. Norris
- d) Lady Susan Vernon
- e) Other _____

3. *Worst action by a character who is not actually a villain*

- a) Lady Catherine trying to prevent Elizabeth and Darcy's engagement.
- b) Frank Churchill encouraging Emma's worst beliefs about Jane Fairfax.
- c) Mary Crawford's making it clear she is hoping for Tom Bertram's death.
- d) Darcy concealing Bingley's presence in London.
- e) Mr. Elton's obvious insult to Harriet Smith at the dance.
- f) Emma discouraging Harriet from accepting Robert Martin's proposal.
- g) John Thorpe lying to General Tilney about Catherine's prospects and family.
- h) Other _____

4. *Worst rival or associate of a heroine*

- a) Caroline Bingley
- b) Penelope Clay
- c) Mary Crawford
- d) Augusta Elton
- e) Louisa Musgrove
- f) Lucy Steele
- g) Isabella Thorpe
- h) Other _____

5. *Least Admirable Hero*

- a) Edmund Bertram
- b) Fitzwilliam Darcy
- c) Edward Ferrars
- d) George Knightley
- e) Henry Tilney
- f) Frederick Wentworth
- g) Other _____

6. *Most annoying or dislikable minor character*

- a) Miss Bates
- b) Mr. Collins
- c) Robert Ferrars
- d) Mary Musgrove
- e) Lieutenant Price
- f) Harriet Smith
- g) John Thorpe
- h) Mr. Woodhouse
- i) Other _____