

كلية: الإداب

القسم او الفرع: اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الثانية

أستاذ المادة: أ.م ياسر مطلب عبد الله

اسم المادة باللغة العربية: ايما

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية: Emma

اسم المحاضرة الثانية عشر باللغة العربية: الرمزية في رواية ايما

اسم المحاضرة الثانية عشر باللغة الإنكليزية: Symbols in Emma

## The Riddle

Also known as charades, riddles in the novel take the form of elaborate wordplay. They symbolize the pervasive subtexts that wait to be decoded in characters' larger social interactions. In Chapter 9, Mr. Elton presents a riddle to Emma and Harriet. Emma decodes it immediately, as "courtship," but she decodes it wrongly in the sense that she believes it is meant for Harriet rather than herself. This wordplay also makes an appearance during the Box Hill party, when Mr. Weston makes an acrostic for Emma.

## The Word Game

Similar to the riddle, a word game is played in Chapter 41 between Emma, Frank, and Jane. It functions as a metaphor for the partial understandings and misunderstandings that exist among Emma, Frank, Jane, and Mr. Knightley. As Mr. Knightley looks on, Frank uses child's blocks to create words for the ladies to decode, though these words mean different things to each of them. Frank makes the word "blunder," which Jane understands as referring to a mistake he has just made, but whose meaning is opaque to Emma and Knightley. He then makes the word "Dixon," which Emma understands as a joke on Jane, and which baffles Knightley. In truth, everyone "blunders" in different ways that evening, because no one possesses complete enough information to interpret correctly everything that is going on.

## **Tokens of Affection**

A number of objects in the novel take on symbolic significance as tokens of affection. Mr. Elton frames Emma's portrait of Harriet as a symbol of affection for her, though Emma misunderstands it as a symbol of affection for Harriet. Harriet keeps court plaster and a pencil stub as souvenirs of Mr. Elton. When the engagement between Jane and Frank is briefly called off, she returns his letters to symbolize her relinquishment of his affection.

#### **Parties**

Parties and social gatherings are symbols of community members coming together. Several parties in Emma allow people to meet and check out possible marriage partners. For example, Frank Churchill is keen on hosting a ball with Emma and Mrs. Weston, two pillars of the community. For him, this party is a sort of official "baptism," through which he will be accepted as a member of local society. Another example is the picnic at Box Hill. Unlike the ball, the picnic is not a success; Frank and Jane are hiding their secret, and unresolved feelings exist between the Eltons, Emma, and Harriet. During this gathering, the community's shared values are sidelined, and it is not surprising that Emma breaks a cardinal social rule by cruelly insulting Miss Bates.

# **Carriages**

Carriages are enclosures that symbolize the desire of the upper classes to reinforce class boundaries and keep themselves apart from what is unpleasant or not to their liking. A carriage gives the person inside the ability to greet or not greet those on foot and also allows the rider to know what is going on in the community without having to put themselves out. Not surprisingly, Mr. Woodhouse always takes a carriage, while Mr. Knightley prefers to walk or ride horseback.

## Music

A woman's ability to play an instrument and sing, as well as a man or woman's ability to dance, are factors in courting rituals and, as such, symbolize courtship and marriage. In Emma, women take the opportunity to perform in the drawing room to show off their talents and charms and possibly attract a suitor. Both Emma and Jane play the piano and sing at the Coles' party, and Frank sings with both women. At the ball, Mr. Elton refuses to dance with Harriet, even though he is now married. Mr. Knightley then dances with Harriet to save her from humiliation, and Emma notices that he is an excellent dancer.