

# Stuck Up & Stupid

AUTHORS

**ANGOURIE RICE AND KATE RICE**



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**ISBN:** 9781760658281

**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Lower to Mid Secondary  
(Alcohol References, Violence)

## SYNOPSIS

The quiet coastal community of Pippi Beach is rocked when a party of young Hollywood movie stars and influencers arrives for the summer. Like most of the locals, mum Lydia is thrilled but her teenage daughter Lily finds the Hollywood types are superficial and arrogant—especially Dorian Khan, the most famous of them all. Lily’s opinion is confirmed by handsome backpacker Alex, who has quite the story about Dorian’s past. On a holiday to Los Angeles, Lily stays with family friend Wilson, an ambitious player who introduces her to powerful movie producer Stacy Black. Lily is in turns amused and appalled by the excesses of the movie business, and more than a little surprised when Dorian Khan seeks her out. Could they actually become friends? And what’s more, has she been what she hopes never to be . . . stupid?

Inspired by *Pride and Prejudice*, this modern tale captures the spirit and energy of Austen’s original satire of manners, while updating and developing it for contemporary audiences, coming of age in the 2020s.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Angourie Rice is an actor with international feature film and television credits, including *Mare of Easttown*, *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, *Black Mirror* and *Ladies in Black*. Angourie also writes, produces and hosts a literary podcast, The Community Library.

Kate Rice is an AWGIE award-winning playwright with a PhD in ethical creative process and experience writing theatre with and for young people. Her work has been commissioned by Melbourne City of Literature, Curtin University, Deckchair Theatre, Barking Gecko Theatre, Darwin Theatre Company, Darwin High School and Corrugated Iron Youth Arts.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Before reading, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer

after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.

- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and give them some idea of what the book is about.

## WHILE READING

### Orientation

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. Answer the following questions after reading the opening scene of the novel:
  - Which character/s are we introduced to?
  - What mood is the author setting?
- Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.

### Complications

- It is the author's job to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?

### Characterisation

- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words.
  - Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?

### Setting and World-building

- Consider the world the author has created in this novel and then answer the following questions:
  - Can you describe it?
  - How is it different to the world you live in?
  - Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seems fantastical?

### Resolution

- How does the story conclude (resolution)?
- Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter.
- Were you surprised by where the story went?

## AFTER READING

- Compare and contrast this modern retelling with *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. What similarities and differences did you notice?
- Design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Watch a screen adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* to prepare you for the following task. Imagine that a movie was being made of *Stuck Up & Stupid*. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have.
  - Once you have chosen your soundtrack, think about your ideal cast and setting. Then create a movie poster advertising the adaptation.
  - Think about any adjustments you might have to make to the plot when adapting from page to screen. Why did you make those decisions? Did you notice any changes to the story in the *Pride and Prejudice* adaptation from the book?

AUTHOR OF NOTES

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