***Emma***

***Chapter 29***

***Vol2Chapter11***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary:***

After the successful dinner party at the Coles' house, Mr. Churchill wishes to dance again. Mr. And Mrs. Weston do not tire of repeating how wonderfully Mr. Churchill and Emma danced together. Finally they decide to hold a party of their own.

However, Randalls is too small to hold a large party so it decided that they would hold their party at Crown's, a local inn. Plans are being made and the guest lists are being drawn up.

Mr. Churchill asks Emma for the sole privilege of the first two dances, which she accepts. Mr. Weston, overhearing this, joyously tells his wife of the dances and says that he knew Mr. Churchill would ask Emma.

While the Woodhouses are visiting Randalls, Frank and Emma work on planning a ball so they can finish the dancing inaugurated at the Coles’. They decide the room at Randalls is too small. Mr. Woodhouse privately tells Mrs. Weston his concern that Frank is so thoughtless about opening and shutting doors that he exposes Emma, Harriet, and Mrs. Weston to dangerous drafts. The next solution proposed by Frank on behalf of Mr. Weston is that the ball be given at the Crown Inn. Though Frank does a poor job reassuring Mr. Woodhouse that this plan will not give them all colds, Emma comforts her father, and she agrees to the plan. There are further practical difficulties, and Frank proposes he go fetch Miss Bates along with her niece, whom Frank admits he does not immediately recollect, for advice. By the time he returns, the difficulties have been resolved, the date of the ball has been set, and Frank secures from Emma a promise to dance the first two dances with him.

The Woodhouses visit the Westons, and the possibility of having more dancing is discussed at length. The space at Randalls is limited, however, and [Mr. Woodhouse](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Emma/character-analysis/#Mr._Woodhouse) fears drafts from open windows. When he visits Emma at Hartfield the next day, Frank comes up with the idea of hosting a ball at the Crown Inn. Emma then walks over to the Inn with Frank, who suggests it will be a good idea to fetch Miss Bates and Jane for their opinion, and he leaves to get them. In the meantime, Mrs. Weston and Mrs. Stokes, the proprietor of the Inn, set a date.

***Analysis:***

After reading this chapter, it is apparent that Emma isn't the only person who fancies herself a matchmaker. Mr. Weston seems to be hoping that a match can be made between Emma and his son, Mr. Churchill.

Everyone is anxiously awaiting the evening of the party, and hoping that Mr. Churchill will be able to make it since it is planned for a few days after he was supposed to leave. Will Mr. Churchill be able to squeeze a few more days out of his aunt?

***Critical Study:***

[Frank Churchill](https://www.gradesaver.com/emma/study-guide/character-list#frank-churchill), who so enjoyed dancing at the Cole's party, plans another one for Highbury. Although initially planned for Randalls, the lack of acceptable space for dancing leads him to plan it instead for the Crown Inn.

This chapter demonstrates the planning that goes into the various social events that occur throughout Austen's novels. Everyone's tastes and opinions must be considered, even—to a lesser degree—[Miss Bates](https://www.gradesaver.com/emma/study-guide/character-list#miss-bates). There are deep considerations about who to invite and why, how comfortable each person will be, whether or not a location is suitable to all. This is what occupies most of the time of the elites in Highbury such as Emma and the Westons.

Frank Churchill differs from the other men of Highbury, as this chapter makes clear. He has no profession, like Mr. Elton, and he does not behave with the authority or reserve that Mr. Knightley or [Mr. Weston](https://www.gradesaver.com/emma/study-guide/character-list#mr-weston) show. His major concern is pleasure, the very reason why he organizes a dance for Highbury. Austen shows this through the contrast between what Emma focuses on while planning the party and what Frank Churchill considers. While Emma wants to please everybody, Frank, who obsesses over whether or not there will be enough room to dance, thinks more about ensuring that he enjoys himself at the ball.

***Summary part by part and analysis***

***Summary part 1:***

[Frank](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters/frank-churchill) persists with his scheme for a ball, and [Emma](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters/emma-woodhouse) assists. They plan for ten couples, measure out the dimensions of various rooms, and decide on the Crown Inn. [Mr. Woodhouse](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters/mr-woodhouse) frets over the dangers of catching colds at inns, but Emma assuages his fears.

***Analysis part 1:***

Dances are one of the favorite pastimes of young people in Austen’s society. Frank’s delight for entertainment is evident; his lively disposition actively seeks enjoyment.

***Summary part 2:***

After some more debate about the technical details of the ball, Frank proposes that they get second opinions from their neighbors. He runs off to fetch [Miss Bates](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters) and [Jane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters/jane-fairfax). Miss Bates gives her warm approval, and all anticipate the dance with pleasure. Frank requests the first two dances with [Emma](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters/emma-woodhouse), which [Mr. Weston](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters) notes with quiet delight to [Mrs. Weston](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/emma/characters).

***Analysis part 2***

Frank displays an energetic and determined interest in the ball. He willfully perseveres through all technical difficulties and debate to ensure that everything will be taken care of and that nothing will spoil the evening of entertainment that he desires.