

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE REVISION



Re-read the book!

Some questions to think about as you do:

Chapters 1 and 2

1. The original title of this novel was *First Impressions*. What are your first impressions of the Bennet family?
2. What is to be the theme of the novel? How do we know this from the beginning?
3. What is ironic in the emphasis of the first sentence?
4. What examples of humour are found in these chapters?

Chapters 3 and 4

5. What can we gather about Mr. Bingley's character by the fact that he doesn't allow himself to like Jane until he receives his sisters' approval?
6. How does Austen go against the grain of the typical romance novel of her time?

Chapters 5 and 6

7. What is Charlotte's opinion of marriage and courtship? How is Austen commenting on her society in this opinion?
8. What is Elizabeth's opinion of marriage and courtship?

9. As Miss Bingley points out, what are the perceived differences that could keep Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth and Mr. Bingley and Jane apart?

Chapter 7

10. What are Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's opinions on Lydia and Catherine's attitudes? What does this say about Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's own attitudes toward parenting? Who is the worse parent in your opinion?

Chapters 8-12

11. What is the distinction in class made throughout chapters 8-12?
12. How are both Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy clouded by pride and prejudice in these chapters?

Chapters 13-14

13. Why has Mr. Collins come to Longbourne?
14. What is his character like, and to what does Austen attribute his personal characteristics?
15. How does Mr. Collins' behaviour toward Lady Catherine help to further illustrate his character?
16. What does the Longbourne estate entailment mean for the Bennet sisters? How is Austen making a comment on her society with this inclusion? How does Austen's characterization of Mr. Collins further aid in establishing her views on English inheritance laws?
17. What can we begin to assume about Lady Catherine's personality and attitude based solely on Mr. Collins' description of her, her daughter, and her estate?

Chapter 15-17

18. What is Mr. Wickham's character like? How does Austen attempt to give the reader clues as to Wickham's character in her style of writing?
19. Why does Mr. Wickham reveal his connection to Mr. Darcy to Elizabeth?
20. What are Elizabeth and Jane's greatest weaknesses? How do these different shortcomings begin to affect the course of the plot?

Chapter 18

21. How does Elizabeth's prejudice against Mr. Darcy continue to affect the plot?
22. How does the Bennet family behave at the Netherfield ball? What effect will this have on Jane and Elizabeth's marriage prospects?

Chapters 19-20

23. Look at Mr. Collins' proposal speech. How does Austen comment on her society's utter triviality in the style in which Mr. Collins' marriage proposal and Elizabeth's subsequent refusal is written? What is Mr. Collins' attitude toward his own words and statements? What is Elizabeth's? How does this illustrate Austen's critique of her society?

Chapter 21

24. How do Jane and Elizabeth's opinions of Caroline Bingley's letter differ? What does this tell the reader about their characters?
25. What can the reader work out about the true cause of Mr. Bingley's removal from Netherfield?

Chapters 22-23

26. Why does Charlotte decide to marry Mr. Collins?
27. Why does Austen contrast the views of marriage held by Charlotte and Elizabeth?

Chapter 24-7

28. How does Austen continue to portray Mr. and Mrs. Bennet as inept parents?
29. In what ways does Austen contrast Mr and Mrs Gardiner with Mr and Mrs Bennet? Why does she do this?
30. Why does Mrs. Gardiner caution Elizabeth about her romance with Mr. Wickham? Why does she provide this advice?
31. What important insight into Mr. Wickham's character can be inferred based upon his shift in affections from Elizabeth to Miss King?

Chapters 28-9

32. What comment on people with "the mere stateliness of money and rank" is Austen making in her portrayal of Lady Catherine?

Chapters 30-33

33. How does Austen use dramatic irony to illustrate the growing attraction between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth?
34. How does Austen show that societal marriage restrictions were not only placed on women?

Chapter 34

35. In what ways is Mr Darcy's marriage proposal similar or different to the first marriage proposal by Mr. Collins?

Chapter 35

36. How does the reader's view of Mr Darcy change in this chapter?

Chapter 36

37. To what weakness does Elizabeth attribute her previous animosity toward Mr. Darcy?

38. Are pride and prejudice two separate problems in the novel – or are they linked?

Chapter 37-42

39. What does Mr. Bennet's rationale about Lydia's safety in Brighton reveal about his concern for all his daughters?

40. How does Lydia's behaviour and character foreshadow what comes later in the novel?

41. How is Mr. Bennet's negligence in allowing Lydia to go to Brighton more grievous than Mrs. Bennet's?

Chapter 43

42. Describe the change in manner and emotion in both Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy since his proposal at Rosings. What has caused these changes?

Chapter 44

43. How does this chapter offer hope for a happy ending?

Chapter 45

44. What distinction is Austen drawing in this chapter about the difference between class and quality of character?

Chapter 46

45. Why is Lydia's elopement such a disgrace for the family?

46. What is ironic in Elizabeth's realisation about her love for Mr. Darcy?

Chapter 47

47. How do the Bennet families' reactions to Lydia's elopement conform or not conform to their established characters?

Chapter 48-9

48. How does Mr. Bennet's character change in the course of this and the previous chapters?

Chapter 50-51

49. How does Austen hint at causes for Lydia's immoral behaviour through Mrs. Bennet's behaviour?

Chapter 52

50. How does Austen seek to educate the reader (and in turn her own society) in a moral lesson?

Chapters 53-55

51. What does Jane's behaviour at the mention of Mr. Bingley's name suggest about her feelings toward him?

Chapter 56-57

52. How is Lady Catherine's visit and intended interference ironic?
53. How is Austen preparing the reader for a second marriage proposal from Mr. Darcy?

Chapter 58-60

54. To what do Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth attribute their manners and behaviours in the first proposal?
55. How do Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's separate reactions to Elizabeth's marriage both conform to their character?
56. What is ironic in Elizabeth and Jane's refusal throughout the novel to treat marriage as merely a business transaction?
57. Which characters change the most throughout the novel? Which do not? Why does Austen choose to have so many characters that do not change? What comment is she making?

Make a list of key points/quotations about each of the main characters. (Tip: <http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html> is a good resource.)

Characters:

1. Is Mrs. Bennet a better parent than Mr Bennet? Why or why not? Consider the relationships between Mrs. Bennet and her children, especially Elizabeth and Lydia.
2. Charlotte doesn't marry Mr. Collins for love. Why does she marry him? Are her reasons valid? Are they fair to Mr. Collins? What do we learn from and about her? What effect does all this have on and for Elizabeth?
3. Who are the most materialistic characters in *Pride and Prejudice*?
4. Mrs. Bennet, Mr. Collins, and Lady Catherine de Bourgh are famously comic characters. What makes them so funny? How does Elizabeth's perception of them affect your trust in Elizabeth's views of other people in the book, particularly of Wickham and Darcy?
5. Are there any similarities in the roles of Lady Catherine de Bourgh and Mrs. Bennet?

Style:

1. How does the way *Pride and Prejudice* is written allow the reader to go on the same journey as Elizabeth?

Setting:

1. What is the importance of houses (and characters' relationships to them) in the novel?