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# Sample

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## Literature Teaching Unit

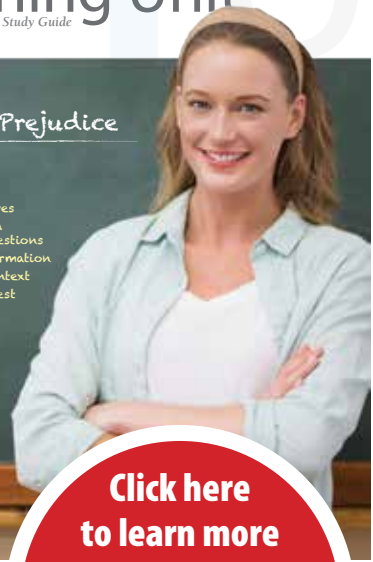
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



### Pride and Prejudice

by Jane Austen

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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## Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. support or refute this idea: a major theme in *Pride and Prejudice* is the importance of a young lady of this period to marry well; then cite specific incidents from the text to support your belief.
2. recognize the author's use of satire to comment on the following problems faced by women of the time:
  - financial security often depending on finding a wealthy husband;
  - the social pressures to marry a man of equal or greater social position;
  - the strict moral code women must uphold.
3. comment on the author's uses of comical characters who possess exaggerated bad social behavior and how this stresses the importance of good manners in society.
4. discuss the significance of the novel's title as it applies to the following:
  - how Darcy evolves once he recognizes the existence of his own pride and his subsequent social prejudices;
  - Elizabeth's ability to admit her own prejudice concerning Darcy
5. define irony and point out examples of it in the text.
6. cite incidents from the story which demonstrate the relationship between the position enjoyed and the responsibilities held by the upper class.
7. identify examples of happy and unhappy marriages in the story; discuss what qualities the author suggests are necessary for a happy marriage.
8. cite passages in the story that illustrate the author's use of dramatic dialogue to reveal the feelings of her characters.
9. recognize the following three sub-plots in the story and point out how they add interest:
  - Bingley and Jane's struggle to admit their love for each other;
  - Lydia's elopement with Wickham;
  - Charlotte's marriage to Mr. Collins.
10. compare and contrast Mr. Darcy and Mr. Collins, and discuss the extent to which each realizes his plans for marriage.
11. discuss which qualities in Jane Austen's novels have led critics to regard her as one of the best writers of English literature.
12. determine and discuss the reasons why some readers view this novel as an early feminist work.
13. comment on the author's style of writing, and illustrate your point with examples from the text.

### Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Write a character sketch of Wickham. Do you think he is an immoral character? Why?
2. What evidence is there that Elizabeth dislikes Darcy because of his pride? What happens that changes her opinion of him?
3. In what ways is Mrs. Bennet responsible for Lydia's elopement?
4. Why does Mr. Collins believe Elizabeth will eventually accept his marriage proposal? Why does Darcy also assume the same thing when he proposes to Elizabeth?
5. Do you think Mr. Bennet is a good father and husband? Why does Elizabeth disapprove of her father's behavior toward his wife?
6. List the reasons Charlotte marries Mr. Collins. Why does she believe she will be happy with him?
7. Which characters in the story can be considered "comical" characters? What do they add to the story?
8. What qualities does Darcy believe are necessary for a woman to be truly accomplished? Does Elizabeth measure up to his standards?
9. In what sense can Elizabeth be called an idealist?
10. What are Darcy's responsibilities to his tenants and his sister?
11. Define irony, and discuss how Miss Bingley ironically discredits herself in the following passage.  

“ ‘Eliza Bennet,’ said Miss Bingley, when the door was closed on her, ‘is one of those young ladies who seek to recommend themselves to the other sex by undervaluing their own...’ ” (Pg. 45)
12. Discuss whether or not the following marriages are happy or unhappy, and define the qualities in the relationships that contribute to the level of happiness for:
  - Jane and Bingley
  - Elizabeth and Darcy
  - Charlotte and Mr. Collins
  - Lydia and Mr. Wickham
  - Mr. and Mrs. Bennet

# Pride and Prejudice

## Chapter I

### VOCABULARY

**scrupulous** — careful  
**vexing** — bothering

1. The first sentence of this novel is considered by critics to be one of the most revealing first lines in English literature. What does this one sentence tell the reader about the overall theme of the story?

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2. Who is Mr. Bingley? Why does Mrs. Bennet want her husband to visit Mr. Bingley?

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3. According to Mrs. Bennet, what qualities do Jane and Lydia possess which make them better candidates for marriage than Lizzy? Why is Lizzy Mr. Bennet's favorite daughter?

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4. Compare the personalities of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet. Why do you think they married each other?

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## Chapter VIII

### VOCABULARY

**abominable** — horrid; frightening  
**decorum** — proper behavior  
**impertinence** — rudeness  
**solaced** — comforted

1. What does Miss Bingley say to diminish Mr. Darcy's opinion of Elizabeth? What does she say to flatter Mr. Darcy?

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2. Support or refute the following statement by citing incidents from the story: Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley continue their admiration for the Bennet girls despite Miss Bingley's negative comments.

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3. Briefly identify Miss Darcy.

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4. What is Mr. Darcy's definition of an "accomplished woman"? (Pg. 44)

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5. What is ironic about the following passage from this chapter?

"Eliza Bennet," said Miss Bingley, when the door was closed on her, "is one of those young ladies who seek to recommend themselves to the other sex, by undervaluing their own..."

"Undoubtedly," replied Darcy... "there is a meanness in all the arts which ladies sometimes condescend to employ for captivation." (Pg. 45)

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**Chapter XV**

## VOCABULARY

**amiable** — friendly

**atonement** — making up for something; balancing; compensation

**complaisant** — good-natured

**entreaties** — pleadings

**incumbent** — necessary

**obsequiousness** — menial; subservient; acting almost like a slave

**regimentals** — military uniforms

**veneration** — admiration; respect

1. Why does Mr. Collins decide to pursue Elizabeth for his wife, instead of Jane?

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2. Briefly describe Mr. Wickham. How does Darcy react when he sees Mr. Wickham along the road?

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3. What indications are there in this chapter that Elizabeth is interested in Mr. Darcy?

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**Chapter XXIV**

## VOCABULARY

**caprice** — a whim  
**circumspect** — careful  
**perplexity** — confusion  
**prudence** — wisdom; careful action or thought

1. After reading the following passage from this chapter, what do you think is Elizabeth's opinion of Mr. Bingley?

That he was really fond of Jane, she doubted no more than she had ever done; and much as she had always been disposed to like him, she could not think without anger, hardly without contempt, on that easiness of temper, that want of proper resolution, which now made him the slave of his designing friends... (Pg. 121)

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2. What two examples of the "inconsistency of human character" is Elizabeth referring to in the passage below?

The more I see of the world the more am I dissatisfied with it; and every day confirms my belief of the inconsistency of all human characters, and of the little dependence that can be placed on the appearance of either merit or sense. I have met with two instances lately... (Pg. 122)

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3. What do you think about Mr. Wickham making his problems with Darcy public, resulting in everybody disliking Darcy?

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