Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Study Guide

Section One
Chapters 1-12

Your Connection:

List five things that influence your first impressions of people you meet.

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

Vocabulary – define each word, supplying the pronunciation in the first set of brackets, and the part of speech in the second.

Archly – [ ] { } 
Censure - [ ] { } 
Disconcerted - [ ] { } 
Entail - [ ] { } 
Vexed - [ ] { } 

Respond to the Reading:

1. Do you think Elizabeth’s first impression of Darcy was justified? Be sure you base your answer on your answers to the Your Connection section above.
2. At the first ball, what facts does the narrator give about Darcy?
3. How do the guests perceive him?
4. What is Elizabeth’s first impression of Mr. Darcy? Why?
5. Who is Charlotte Lucas?
6. What comment does she make about Jane?
7. What do you think is the reason for such a comment?
8. At Sir William Lucas’s gathering, how does Darcy act around Elizabeth?
9. At Netherfield, what are their conversations like?
10. Why do you think Darcy is attracted to Elizabeth? What appealing qualities does she have?
11. Charlotte Lucas says, “Happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance.” What does this statement reveal about her?
12. Explain why you agree or disagree with her opinion.
**Mrs. Bennet**

Five adjectives that describe her character:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

One humorous comment she makes:

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How does she regard her daughters?

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**Mr. Bennet**

Five adjectives that describe his character:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 

One humorous comment he makes:

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Do you think this is a happy marriage? Support your opinion with details.

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Why do you think Austen begins the novel by showing their relationship?

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How does he regard his daughters?
Relationships – Write two descriptions for each character and then draw lines to show the relationships between them.

Charlotte
1.
2.

Miss Bingley
1.
2.

Elizabeth
1.
2.

Mr. Darcy
1.
2.

Jane
1.
2.

Bingley
1.
2.
Your Connection:
Describe a time when you received “hearsay” information about another person. How did you decide whether to believe the person who spread the information?

Vocabulary:
abominable
condescend
dissemble
imprudent
incredulous
lament
pompous

Respond to the Reading
1. Which scene or scenes did you understand/enjoy the most? Why?
2. When Elizabeth and Wickham first meet, what report does Wickham give Elizabeth about Darcy? What second impression does Wickham make on her? What is your impression of Wickham?
3. How does Elizabeth respond to Mr. Collins’s proposal? What does her response reveal about her character?
4. What event leaves Jane feeling downcast? Why is Elizabeth angry at Bingley, his sisters, and Darcy?
5. How does Wickham’s story deepen Elizabeth’s prejudice against Darcy?
6. Explain your reaction to Charlotte’s engagement to Mr. Collins.

Active Reading

Use the chart below to analyze why various characters think or act as they do. Keep in mind what the character says about himself or herself as well as what others have to say about him or her.

| Mr. Collins decides to propose to one of the Bennet daughters. |
| BECAUSE |
| Wickham does not have warm feelings for Darcy. |
Bingley’s sister, Caroline, disapproves of Wickham.

Jane believes Darcy could not have mistreated Wickham.

At the Netherfield Ball, Elizabeth is embarrassed by her family.

Mr. Collins does not accept Elizabeth’s rejection of his proposal.

Charlotte accepts Mr. Collins’s proposal.

Nearly everyone adopts a low opinion of Darcy.
Your Connection:
How might you react if another person misinterpreted your actions or intentions?
Describe a time when you felt that something you did was totally misunderstood by another person. Was the person’s reaction understandable? How did it make you feel? How did you handle the situation of being misjudged?

Vocabulary:
affability
ardently
composure
discernment
indignation
scruples
tumult

Respond to the Reading:
1. Review your answer to Your Connection. Why do you think it is hard for people to admit their mistakes in judging others?

2. Do you see any parallels (similarities) between your personal experiences and those of Elizabeth?

3. What news does Wickham have? What are the reasons behind this new interest? Does Elizabeth approve? Explain.

4. To whom is Lady Catherine de Bourgh related? How would you describe her treatment of Elizabeth?

5. What important information does Elizabeth learn about Darcy from Colonel Fitzwilliam? How does she react?

6. The novel reaches its first climax in this section. In what scene does this turn occur? What questions hang in your mind after this scene?

7. What effect does Darcy’s letter have on Elizabeth? What does she realize about herself, about her family?
**Active Reading:**
In Chapters 34-36, Elizabeth and Darcy speak frankly to one another and respond to each other’s criticism. The narrative in these chapters follows a cause and effect pattern as Austen presents Darcy’s proposal, Elizabeth’s reaction, Darcy’s letter of explanation, and Elizabeth’s reflections on this letter. Use the chart below to note the specific points each character makes as they explain or reflect on their actions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elizabeth rejects Darcy’s proposal</th>
<th>Darcy responds to Elizabeth’s objections</th>
<th>Elizabeth reflects of Darcy’s explanation</th>
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