Pride and Prejudice Analysis Discussion Questions

Volume I

Analysis questions chapters 1 & 2

1. The original title of this novel was *Frist Impressions*. What are your first impressions of the Bennet family?

2. Describe the personalities of the Bennet family. How can we predict these characteristics will affect the theme and plot?

3. What is to be the theme of the novel? How do we know this from the beginning?

4. What styles of writing will be used?

5. What is ironic in the emphasis of the first sentence?

6. How is the structure of this novel somewhat different from others? How does the focus on dialogue affect our reading of the text?

7. What examples of humor are found in these chapters?

Analysis questions chapters 3 & 4

1. How does Austen use her characters as dramatic foils?

2. What examples are in the text? What purpose does this have?

3. What can we gather about Mr. Bingley’s character by the fact that he doesn’t allow himself to like Jane until his he receives his sisters’ approval? What could this foreshadow about his character?

4. How do the four main characters’ attitudes and introductions foreshadow their coming romances?

5. How does austen do against the grain of the typical romance novel of her time?

Analysis questions chapter 5 & 6

1. What is Charlotte’s opinion of marriage and courtship? How is Austen commenting on her society in this opinion?

2. What is Elizabeth’s opinion of Marriage and courtship? How is Austen commenting on a new trend in her society?

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

4. What are the true barriers between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth?

Analysis questions chapter 7

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

Analysis questions chapters 8-12

1. What barrier reappears and is strongly emphasized throughout these chapters? How is this barrier illustrated?
2. Through their dialogue in chapter 11, what do we learn about the internal characteristics of Mr. Bingley, Elizabeth, and Mr. Darcy?
3. What is the distinction in class made throughout chapters 8-12?
4. What paradox is beginning to emerge in both Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy’s attitudes towards class and marriage with the Bennet sisters?
5. How are both Elizabeth & Mr. Darcy clouded by pride & prejudice?

Analysis questions chapters 13-14

1. Why has Mr. Collins come to Longbourne?
2. What is his character like, and to what does Austen attribute his personal characteristics? What figurative purpose will does this character serve?
3. How does Mr. Collins’ behavior toward Lady Catherine help to further illustrate his character?
4. 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?
5. 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?

Analysis questions chapter 15-17

1. What connection is foreshadowed in chapter 15?
2. 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?
3. Why does Mr. Wickham reveal his connection to Mr. Darcy to Elizabeth? How is this incongruent with societal customs of the day?
4. What are Elizabeth and Jane’s greatest foibles? How do these different shortcomings begin to affect the course of the plot?

Analysis chapter 18

1. How does Elizabeth’s prejudice against Mr. Darcy continue to affect the plot?
2. How does the Bennet family behave at the Netherfield ball? What effect will this have on Jane and Elizabeth’s marriage prospects?
3. How are the social interactions of the early 19th century different from today’s? Why is such importance placed on rank and wealth?

Analysis questions chapters 19-20

1. Summarize Mr. Collins’ proposal speech. What is ironic in its contents?
2. 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?
3. Given Charlotte’s earlier views on marriage, what could her munificence in offering to entertain Mr. Collins foreshadow?

Analysis questions chapter 21

1. How do Jane and Elizabeth’s opinions of Caroline Bingley’s letter differ? What is this contraposition serve?
2. What can the reader conjecture about the true cause of Mr. Bingley’s removal from Netherfield?
Analysis questions chapters 22-23

1. How does the following quote best summarize Charlotte’s decision to marry Mr. Collins: "Without thinking highly either of men or of matrimony, marriage had always been her object; it was the only honorable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune, and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservative from want."
2. How is Austen using Charlotte and her marriage as a foil for Elizabeth and her views of marriage?

Volume II

Chapter 1-4 Analysis

1. How does Austen continue to portray Mr. and Mrs. Bennet as inept parents?
2. How does Austen use Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner as foils for Mr. and Mrs. Bennet?
3. Why does Mrs. Gardiner caution Elizabeth about her romance with Mr. Wickham? Why does she provide this advice?
4. What important insight into Mr. Wickham’s character can be inferred based upon his shift in affections from Elizabeth to Miss King?
5. Why is Elizabeth able to exculpate Mr. Wickham’s wanting to marry for money but not Charlotte’s? What comment could Austen be making about the two sexes?

Analysis questions chapters 5-6

1. What comment on people with "the mere stateliness of money and rank" is Austen making in her portrayal of Lady Catherine?
2. How does Austen continue to expound on the ineptitude of the Bennets as parents? How could these portrayals be viewed as didactic?

Analysis questions chapters 7-10

1. What metaphor do Elizabeth and Darcy use to discuss their personal inadequacies and characteristics?
2. How does Austen use dramatic irony to illustrate the growing attraction between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth?
3. How does Austen show that societal marriage restrictions were not only placed on women?

Analysis questions chapter 11

1. How is Mr. Darcy’s marriage proposal similar and dissimilar to Mr. Collins’?
2. How does Austen use Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth’s personalities to fully illustrate this second marriage proposal? In what was is the scene similar or different to the first marriage proposal from Mr. Collins?

Analysis questions chapter 12

1. How has Austen foreshadowed the revelation about Mr. Wickham’s true nature and the true history between him and Mr. Darcy in previous chapters?

Analysis questions chapter 13

1. To what foible does Elizabeth attribute her previous animosity toward Mr. Darcy?
2. How are pride and prejudice a compound problem instead of two separate problems in the novel?

Analysis questions chapter 14-19

1. What does Mr. Bennet’s rationale about Lydia’s safety in Brighton reveal about his concern for all his daughters?
2. How is Mr. Bennet’s character further revealed through Elizabeth’s musings?
3. How can Lydia’s behavior and character begin to foreshadow what may come later in the novel?
4. How is Mr. Bennet’s negligence in allowing Lydia to go to Brighton more grievous than Mrs. Bennet’s?

Volume III

Analysis questions chapter 1

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

Analysis questions chapter 2

1. How does chapter two offer hope for a happy ending?

Analysis questions chapter 3

1. What distinction is Austen making between rank and breeding in this chapter? What is the difference between the superficial aspects of class and the quality of character?

Analysis questions chapter 4

1. Why is Lydia’s elopement such a disgrace for the family?
2. What is ironic in Elizabeth’s epiphany about her love for Mr. Darcy?

Analysis questions chapter 5

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

Analysis questions chapter 6-7

1. How does Mr. Bennet’s character change in the course of this and the previous chapters?
2. What comment is Austen making about societal conscience and opinion in this chapter?

Analysis questions chapter 8-9

1. How does Austen hint at causes for Lydia’s immoral behavior through Mrs. Bennet’s behavior?

Analysis questions chapter 10

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

Analysis questions chapters 11-13
1. What does Jane’s behavior at the mention of Mr. Bingley’s name suggest about her feelings toward him?
2. How does Austen foreshadow the impending happy ending?

**Analysis questions chapter 14-15**

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

**Analysis questions chapter 16-18**

1. To what do Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth attribute their manners and behaviors in the first proposal?
2. How do Mr. and Mrs. Bennet’s separate reactions to Elizabeth’s marriage both conform to their character.
3. What is ironic in Elizabeth and Jane’s refusal throughout the novel to treat marriage as merely a business transaction?
4. Which characters change the most throughout the novel? Which are static? Why does Austen chose to have so many static characters? What comment is she making?