

Pride and Prejudice

1. The title of Jane Austen's first draft of *Pride and Prejudice* was *First Impressions*. What is Elizabeth's first impression of Darcy? On what information does she base her impression? Do you think it is possible to meet someone new without prejudging him or her in some way? Have your own first impressions of others proven accurate?
2. When does Elizabeth begin to fall in love with Darcy? How is this shown in the novel? In the film?
3. The plot of *Pride and Prejudice* could perhaps be summed up as, "Two people who dislike each other at first go on to fall in love." What other books or films can you name in which that same theme drives the action? Why do you think this particular plot is so popular and satisfying?
4. In what ways is Elizabeth out of place in her own family? How do they limit what she can do with her "lively mind"? What do Darcy and Pemberly represent to Elizabeth? To what extent do you think family makes a person who he or she is? How does family influence the way others think of that person?
5. "...people themselves alter so much, that there is something new to be observed in them for ever," observes Elizabeth. Do you think this is true? Do any characters in this novel change substantially? What do Darcy and Elizabeth learn from each other about themselves?
6. Who in this novel is "proud"? How is this pride displayed? How does pride stand in the way of happiness for this character or characters?
7. What social, financial, and romantic functions does marriage serve in the world of this novel? How well do the various marriages that take place fulfill these functions? What benefits and disadvantages does marriage have in our society? What are some differences and similarities between Austen's era and contemporary times? How do you think our world compares to Austen's in this regard?
8. Do you think if Elizabeth were transported to our world today she would still be a remarkable woman? Why or why not?

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