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阶梯阅读

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Pride and Prejudice

傲慢与偏见



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These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities. 听力练习开始和结束的标记

INTRODUCTION



Biographical note

Jane Austen was born in 1775 at the parsonage of Steventon, a small town in Hampshire. Her father was rector there. When he retired the family moved to Bath, a famous holiday resort on the sea, and after his death to a town called Chawton. Although her family was upper class they were not very rich. She was the last of seven children and

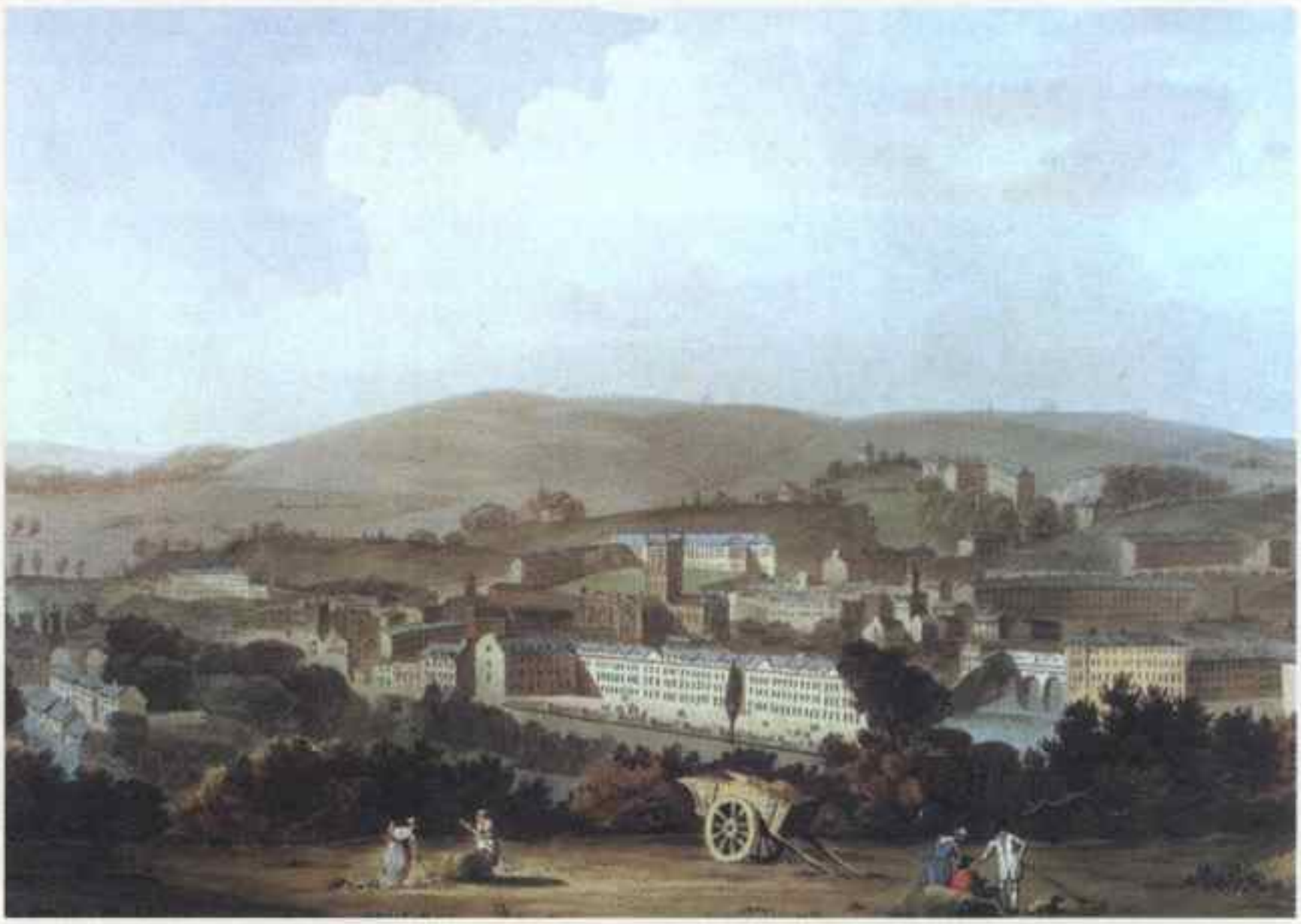


Jane Austen's house at Chawton.



her older sister Cassandra was her lifelong friend and confidante. [1] Jane Austen lived a quiet life, much like that described in her novels; except for the four years spent in Bath and Southampton and rare visits to London she lived entirely in the country. She and her family visited friends, went to parties, danced and loved reading. Jane began to write to amuse her family.

Pride and Prejudice was based on an early novel called *First Impressions* which hadn't been published. The author rewrote it and published it anonymously [2] in 1813 under its new title and the Prince Regent [3] sent her a message expressing his admiration for the novel. Altogether, four of Jane Austen's novels were published in her lifetime: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice*



Jane Austen enjoyed staying in Bath.

1. **confidante** : 密友。
2. **anonymously** : 匿名地。
3. **regent** : 摄政王。



(1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1816). Two other novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were published posthumously. [1] She was working on another when she died suddenly at the age of 42. She is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

Chawton House and Church, where Jane Austen's brother lived. Oil painting, 1809.

1. **posthumously**：（此处指）在作者死后。


Gretna Green
Lake District
Derbyshire
Pemberley
Birmingham
Hertfordshire
Meryton
Oxford
LONDON
Hunsford
Kent
Brighton


Pemberley
Longbourn
Netherfield
Parsonage
Rosings

Before you read

1 **Listen to the first part of Chapter 1 and say:**

a. who rented Netherfield Park

.....

b. where he is from

.....

c. what his financial situation is

.....

d. if he is married or single

.....

e. how many daughters there are in the Bennet family

.....

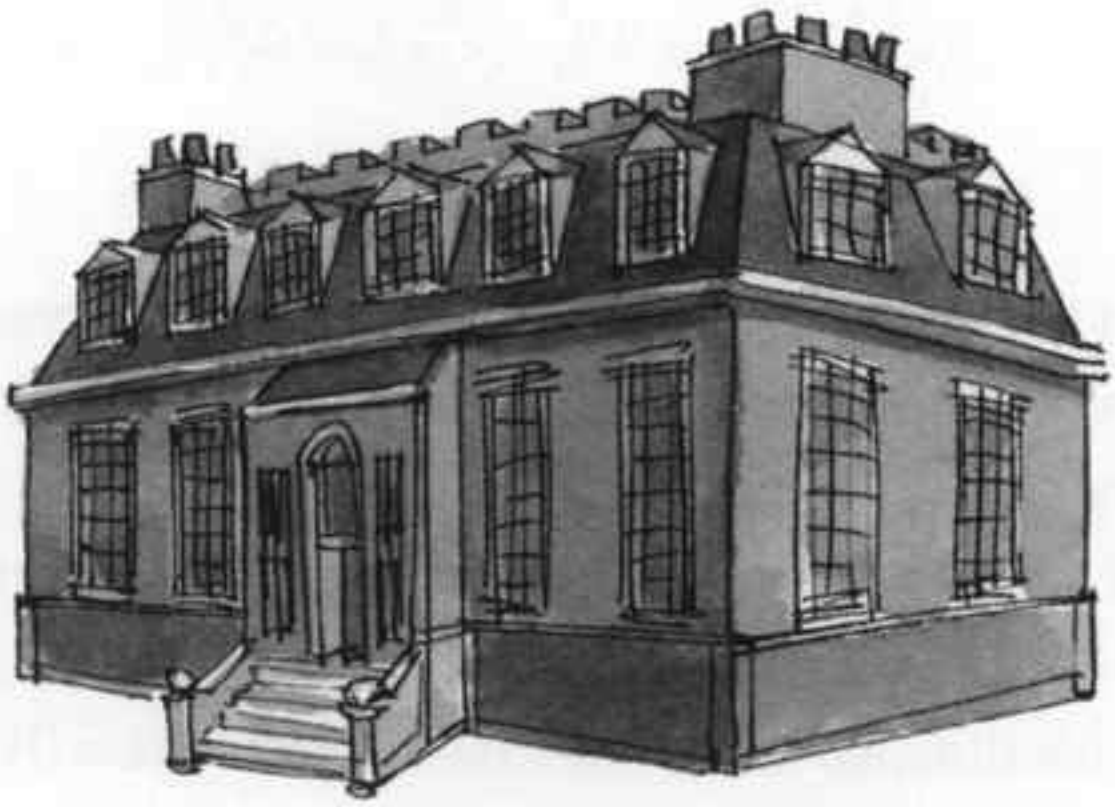
f. what Mrs Bennet hopes

.....

g. what she wants Mr Bennet to do

.....

Read the text to check your answers.



CHAPTER ONE

A Newcomer at Netherfield

Everyone knows that a single man with a fortune must want a wife. His feelings may be unknown, but when such a man first enters a neighbourhood,[1] all the families there immediately consider him the property of one of their daughters.

'My dear Mr Bennet,' said his lady one day, 'have you heard that Netherfield Park is let[2] at last?'

Mr Bennet answered that he had not.

'But it is,' she said. 'Mrs Long has just been there and she told me all about it.' Mr Bennet didn't answer.

'Do you not want to know who has taken it?' cried his wife.

1. **neighbourhood**：（邻近）地区。
2. **let**：租出。

'You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it.'

This was invitation enough.

'Why, my dear, you must know that Mrs Long says that Netherfield is taken by a rich young man from the north of England; that he came down on Monday to see the place, and was so happy with it he agreed to take it. His servants will be in the house by the end of next week.'

'What is his name?'

'Bingley.'

'Is he married or single?'

'Oh! single, my dear! A single man of large fortune. What a good thing for our girls!'

'How so?'

'My dear Mr Bennet,' answered his wife. 'You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them.'

'Is that why he is coming here?'

'Nonsense! But it is very probable that he will fall in love with one of them so you must visit him as soon as he comes.'

'Why me? You and the girls can go, or you can send them alone, which will be even better. You are as handsome as any of them. Mr Bingley might like you best.'

'My dear, you flatter[1] me. When a woman has five daughters she ought to stop thinking of her own beauty. But you must go and see Mr Bingley when he comes.'

'I cannot promise that.'

'But think of your daughters. Think of Jane and Elizabeth. Think of Mary, Catherine and Lydia. Think what a fortune it would be for one of them. That is why Sir William and Lady

1. **flatter** : 奉承。

Lucas are going. You must go, for it will be impossible for us to visit him if you do not.'

'I am sure Mr Bingley will be very glad to see you, and I will write to give him my permission to marry one of the girls, though I must say a good word for my little Lizzy.'

'I desire you will do no such thing. Lizzy is no better than the others. She is not half as handsome as Jane nor half as good-humoured as Lydia, but you always prefer *her*.'

'They are all silly like other girls, but Lizzy is more intelligent than her sisters.'

'Mr Bennet, how can you speak so of your own children? You have no compassion on my poor nerves.'

'You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. You have mentioned them with feeling for twenty years at least.'

'Ah! You do not know what I suffer.'

'I hope you will get over[1] it and see many rich young men come into the neighbourhood.'

'It will be no use since you will not visit them.'

'My dear, when there are twenty, I will visit them all.'

Mr Bennet was one of the first to visit Mr Bingley as he had always planned. The surprise of his family when they heard was just what he had wanted.

Not all the questions that Mrs Bennet and her five daughters asked could get a description of Mr Bingley from her husband. They had to hear the news from their neighbour Lady Lucas. Her report was very favourable. He was young, handsome, friendly,

1. **get over**：恢复健康。

and best of all he was coming to the next ball with a party of friends. Nothing could be better! To like dancing was a certain step to falling in love.

'If one of my daughters settles at Netherfield,' said Mrs Bennet to her husband, 'and the others are equally well married, I shall have no more to wish for.'

A few days later Mr Bingley returned Mr Bennet's visit. He had hoped to meet the young ladies, but he saw only Mr Bennet.



An invitation to dinner was sent, but an answer soon arrived that Mr Bingley had to go to town the next day. He was to return for the ball with his two sisters, the husband of the oldest, and another young man.

At the ball they discovered that Mr Bingley was a handsome gentleman with a simple, friendly manner and his sisters were elegant women. Mr Hurst, his brother-in-law, was just a gentleman, but his friend Mr Darcy was a tall, handsome man with a noble appearance. A report soon went round that he had a very large fortune. Everyone looked at him with great admiration for half the evening until he disgusted[1] them all with his proud, unfriendly manners. Not all his large estate in Derbyshire could save him then. He could not be compared with his friend.

Mr Bingley soon met most of the people in the room. He was lively and unreserved,[2] danced every dance, and talked about

1. **disgusted**：（此处指他的傲慢态度）使他们非常讨厌他。
2. **unreserved**：（此处指）为人直爽。

giving a ball at Netherfield. Mr Darcy danced once with Mrs Hurst and once with Miss Bingley, refused to meet other ladies and spoke only to his friends all evening. He was the proudest, most disagreeable [1] man in the world, and everybody hoped he would never come back. Mrs Bennet was particularly angry with him for offending one of her daughters.

Because there were few gentlemen, Elizabeth Bennet had been obliged to sit down for two dances. She had overheard a conversation between Mr Bingley and his friend.

'Come, Darcy,' said he, 'you must dance.'

'Certainly not. You know how much I despise it when I do not know my partner. Your sisters are not free and you are dancing with the only handsome girl here.' Mr Darcy looked at Jane Bennet.



1. **disagreeable**：难相处的。

'Jane is the most beautiful girl I ever saw, but one of her sisters is very pretty. I can ask my partner to introduce you.'

'Which one?' Darcy turned around and looked at Elizabeth.

'She is tolerable,[1] but not handsome enough for me.'

When Darcy walked off, Elizabeth told her friends the story. She had a playful[2] character and enjoyed anything ridiculous.

Later, when the sisters were alone, Jane told Elizabeth how much she liked Mr Bingley.

'He is just what a young man should be,' she said. 'Intelligent, agreeable, lively. I never saw such a happy manner.'

'He is also handsome,' said Elizabeth, 'which a young man should be if he possibly can.'

'I was surprised that he asked me to dance twice. I did not expect such a compliment.'[3]

'I did for you. It was natural. You were five times as pretty as every other woman in the room.'

'Dear Lizzy!'

'You know you like people in general too much. You never see a fault in anyone. And so, do you like this man's sisters too?'

'They are friendly women when you speak to them. I think they will be good neighbours.'

Elizabeth was not convinced. The Bingleys were from a good family. The sisters were handsome and well educated, but proud and conceited.[4] They liked to think well of themselves and badly of others.

1. **tolerable**：过得去。
2. **playful**：活泼的。
3. **compliment**：赞赏。
4. **conceited**：自负的。

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Why doesn't Mr Bennet tell his family that he intends to visit Mr Bingley?

b. What is Mrs Bennet's main concern?

c. What is Mr Bingley like?

d. Who does Mr Bingley return for the ball with?

e. What social class do they belong to?

f. What does Mr Darcy look like? What is the initial opinion about him?

g. Why do people change their minds about him?

h. What is Mr Darcy's opinion of Elizabeth Bennet?

i. What does Elizabeth think of the Bingley sisters?

Sentence transformation

2 Change the sentences from direct to indirect speech.

a. 'Mr Darcy is so proud!' people said scornfully.
People accused ..... .

b. 'Let's hope my daughters marry well!' Mrs Bennet dreamt.
Mrs Bennet dreamt ..... .

c. 'I don't want to visit Bingley!' Mr Bennet said.
Mr Bennet didn't feel ..... .

d. 'We want to go to the ball,' the girls said.
The girls insisted ..... .

e. 'I'd like to give a ball at Netherfield,' Mr Bingley said.
Mr Bingley himself was looking forward ..... .

Thinking and writing

3 **Look back at the opening paragraph of Chapter 1. Is the tone of the narration serious, dramatic, ironic, didactic [1] or humorous? What other parts of Chapter 1 have the same tone?**

4 **A. Find the synonyms of the following words in Chapter 1.**

a. unattached .....

b. possession .....

c. praise .....

d. authorisation .....

e. good .....

f. natural .....

g. aristocratic .....

h. rude .....

i. beautiful .....

j. defect .....

B. Now use some of the words to fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

a. Mrs Bennet considers Mr Bingley as the ..... of one of her daughters.

b. Mr Bennet says that he'll write to Bingley giving him ..... to marry one of his daughters.

c. Lady Lucas's report of Bingley is very ..... .

1. **didactic** : 说教的。

d. Mr Bingley is rich, and most importantly ..... .

e. Jane Bennet is a ..... young woman.

f. Jane never sees a ..... in anyone.

Summary

5 Fill in the gaps to complete a summary of Chapter 1.

When Mrs Bennet ..... that Netherfield Hall is ..... to a young, single man with a large ..... she is determined that one of her ..... will marry him.

Soon they meet Mr Bingley at a ball to which he comes with his two ....., his brother-in-law and a friend, Mr ..... . At first everyone admires Mr Darcy but soon his proud, unfriendly ..... disgust everyone. He also offends Elizabeth who overhears him saying to Bingley that he will not ..... with her as she is not ..... enough for him.



CHAPTER TWO

A Violent Cold

Near Longbourn, the Bennets' house, there lived a family they were particularly intimate[1] with: Sir William, Lady Lucas and their children, Charlotte and Maria. Charlotte, the eldest, an intelligent young woman of about twenty-seven, was Elizabeth's friend. The morning after the ball the Lucases visited.

'*You* began the evening well, Charlotte,' said Mrs Bennet. '*You* were Mr Bingley's first choice.'

'He liked his second better.'

'Oh! You mean Jane, because he danced with her twice?'

'When he was asked which woman he thought the prettiest he immediately answered – Oh! The eldest Miss Bennet of course.'

'Well that was very decided, but you never know how things end.'

1. **intimate**：关系亲密的。

A Violent Cold

'I overheard better things than you, Eliza,' said Charlotte. 'Mr Darcy is less gallant [1] than his friend. Poor Eliza! – to be only tolerable.'

'He is a disagreeable man. Mrs Long told me last night that he sat near her for half an hour without speaking once,' said Mrs Bennet.

'Miss Bingley told me that he never speaks much unless among friends,' said Jane. 'With them he is quite agreeable.'

'I do not mind his not talking to Mrs Long,' said Miss Lucas, 'but I wish he had danced with Eliza.'

'Another time, Lizzy,' said her mother, 'I would not dance with him.'

'I think I can promise you never to dance with him.'

'His pride,' said Miss Lucas, 'does not offend me so much, because there is an excuse for it. It is natural that a fine young man with family, fortune, everything in his favour will be proud.'

'That is very true,' said Elizabeth, 'and I could forgive his pride, if he had not mortified [2] mine.'

The ladies of Longbourn and Netherfield soon visited each other. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley liked Jane's pleasing manners. They considered her mother insupportable [3] and the younger sisters uninteresting, but wished to see the two oldest again. Jane was pleased to have this attention, but Elizabeth could not like them. It was evident to all that Mr Bingley admired Jane. To Elizabeth it was also evident that Jane was falling very much in love.

Elizabeth did not suspect that Mr Darcy was interested in her. At the ball he had not admired her. He had criticised her to his

1. **gallant**：对女士殷勤有礼的。
2. **mortified**：羞辱。
3. **insupportable**：难以忍受。

friends, but later discovered the beautiful expression of her dark eyes. He saw that her figure was light and pleasing and her manners playful. He began to want to know her better.

One evening, at a party held at his house, Sir William Lucas was speaking to Darcy when he saw Elizabeth. Gallantly he said to her,

'My dear Miss Eliza, why are you not dancing? – Mr Darcy, you must permit me to present this young lady to you as a partner.' He took her hand to give to Mr Darcy who looked surprised, but happy to take it, when she said to Sir William,

'Sir, I have no intention of dancing. Please do not believe that I came here for a partner.'

Mr Darcy asked her to dance in vain. [1] Elizabeth was determined. She left and he was thinking about her when Miss Bingley spoke to him.

'I can tell the subject of your thoughts.'

'I imagine not.'

'You are thinking how insupportable it is to spend evenings in this manner – in such a society, and I am of your opinion. The insipidity [2] of all these people!'



1. **in vain** : 徒劳地。
2. **insipidity** : 枯燥乏味。

A Violent Cold

'You are wrong. My mind was more agreeably occupied. I was thinking of the great pleasure a pair of fine eyes in the face of a pretty woman can give.'

Miss Bingley immediately asked which lady he was speaking about.

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet.'

'Miss Elizabeth Bennet!' repeated Miss Bingley. 'I am surprised. How long has she been such a favourite? And when can I wish you joy?' [1]

'I knew you would ask that. A lady's imagination is very rapid. It jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony [2] in a moment. I knew you would wish me joy.'

'You are so serious, I consider the matter certain. You will have a charming mother-in-law. Of course she will live at Pemberley with you.'

Mr Bennet's property consisted of little more than his estate. Unfortunately for his daughters, as there was no male heir, a distant relative would get this when their father died. Mr Bennet was a gentleman, but he had married an uneducated woman from a much simpler family. Mrs Bennet's fortune was not very large either. Her father had been in business in Meryton. She had a sister married to a Mr Philips who now worked in her father's business, and a brother in London.

Longbourn was only one mile from Meryton. Three or four times a week the young ladies went there to visit their aunt and go shopping. Catherine and Lydia went most frequently. An army

1. **wish you joy**：（向新婚者）道喜。
2. **matrimony**：婚姻。

regiment[1] had recently arrived for the winter and the girls were delighted. Mr Philips visited the officers and soon the girls got to know them too. From then on, they could talk of nothing but officers.

One morning they were doing so when a note came for Jane from Miss Bingley, inviting her to Netherfield.

'Can I have the carriage?' said Jane.

'No, my dear. Take your horse. I think it will rain and then you must stay all night,' her mother said.



Her hopes were answered. Soon after Jane left it began to rain hard. Her mother was delighted. It rained all evening without stopping. Jane certainly could not come back. After breakfast a servant from Netherfield brought a note for Elizabeth. Jane wrote that she was not very well because she had got wet in the rain, but that her friends had called the doctor to visit her.

'Well, my dear,' said Mr Bennet when Elizabeth read the note, 'if your daughter dies, it will be a comfort to know that it is all in pursuit of Mr Bingley and under your orders.'

'Oh! People do not die of little colds. If she stays there it is all very well.'

1. **regiment**：（军队）团。

A Violent Cold

Elizabeth was not satisfied and determined to go to her.

'The distance is nothing,' she said, 'only three miles. I shall be back by dinner.'

When she arrived at Netherfield everybody but Jane was in the breakfast parlour. [1] They were very surprised to see her and to hear that she had walked in the bad weather alone. Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley clearly disapproved, although they were polite. When Elizabeth heard that Jane was still not well she went to her immediately. Jane was delighted, but could not speak much.

After breakfast the sisters came in. Elizabeth began to like them when she saw how kind they were to Jane.

The doctor visited and said that Jane had caught a violent [2] cold and must stay in bed. Elizabeth did not leave her room for a moment, until at three o'clock, she unwillingly said she had to go. Jane was so unhappy to see her sister depart that Miss Bingley had to invite her to stay at Netherfield.

When Elizabeth came to dinner she had to answer Mr Bingley's questions about Jane unfavourably. The sisters said three or four times how shocking it was to have a bad cold and then thought no more about the matter. Only their brother was clearly anxious about Jane.

When dinner was over Elizabeth returned to Jane. Miss Bingley began abusing [3] her as soon as she left the room. She said that her manners were a mixture of pride and impertinence; [4] she had no conversation, no style, no beauty. Mrs Hurst agreed and added,

1. **parlour**：（此处指）厅。
2. **violent**：严重的。
3. **abusing**：辱骂。
4. **impertinence**：无礼。

'I shall never forget her appearance this morning. She looked almost wild.'

'I thought Miss Elizabeth Bennet looked very well when she came into the room this morning,' said Bingley.

'To walk three or four miles in the dirt and alone, quite alone! It shows a country town indifference to propriety.' [1]

'It shows an affection for her sister that is very pleasing.'

'I am afraid, Mr Darcy,' said Miss Bingley very quietly, 'that after this you have stopped admiring her fine eyes.'

'Not at all,' he answered, 'they were brilliant with exercise.'

'I like Miss Jane Bennet very much,' said Mrs Hurst. 'She is a sweet girl and I wish she were well married. But with such a father and mother, and such low connections, [2] I think there is no chance of it.'

Miss Bingley agreed with her and the sisters spent some time ridiculing their friend's vulgar [3] relations until Bingley said that their relatives did not make the Bennet sisters less agreeable.

'But it must very greatly lessen [4] their chances of marrying men of any importance in the world,' answered Darcy.

The ladies went to sit with Jane until coffee. She was still not well and Elizabeth would not leave her until she fell asleep. Late in the evening she went down to say that Jane was worse. Although Bingley wanted to call the doctor immediately, they decided to wait until the morning.

1. **propriety** : 行为得体。
2. **low connections** : 地位低微的亲戚。
3. **vulgar** : 粗俗的。
4. **lessen** : 减少。

1 **Tick the correct answers.**

a. Sir William and Lady Lucas have got:
- ☐ two daughters.
- ☐ a son and a daughter.
- ☐ five children.

b. Mr Bingley's first choice at the ball was:
- ☐ Mrs Bennet.
- ☐ Charlotte.
- ☐ Jane.

c. Mr Bingley's sisters like:
- ☐ all the Bennet family.
- ☐ only the younger sisters.
- ☐ only Jane and Elizabeth.

d. Mr Darcy begins to admire Elizabeth because:
- ☐ he has offended her.
- ☐ she has a good figure and beautiful eyes.
- ☐ she is interested in him.

e. When Mr Bennet dies:
- ☐ his daughters will inherit his estate.
- ☐ Mrs Bennet will inherit his estate.
- ☐ a relative will inherit his estate.

f. Catherine and Lydia like going to Meryton especially:
- ☐ to visit their aunt.
- ☐ to go shopping.
- ☐ to see the officers.

g. Mrs Bennet wants Jane to go to Netherfield by horse because:
- ☐ she needs the carriage.
- ☐ she thinks it's going to rain.
- ☐ the horse needs exercise.

h. Elizabeth goes to Netherfield
- ☐ to look after her sister.
- ☐ to see Mr Darcy.
- ☐ to get the horse.

2 **Answer the following questions.**

a. Who are the Lucases?

b. What do the ladies talk about?

c. Why does Elizabeth refuse to dance with Darcy at Sir Lucas's house?

d. Why and how does Darcy's opinion of Elizabeth change?

e. What is the Bennets' financial situation?

Reported speech

3 **When we change a sentence from direct to indirect speech we usually go one tense back. For example:**

Jane said, 'I have a bad cold.'

Jane said she had a bad cold.

Jane told Elizabeth, 'I fell in love with him the first time I saw him.'

Jane told Elizabeth that she had fallen in love with him the first time she had seen him.

Change the following sentences into reported speech.

a. Mrs Bennet said, 'I hope Jane will stay at Netherfield all night.'
Mrs Bennet hoped .....

b. Elizabeth said, 'I'm not going to leave until Jane is well.'
Elizabeth declared that .....

c. Mrs Bennet said to Charlotte, 'You began the evening well.'
Mrs Bennet .....

d. Mrs Hurst said, 'I don't think that Jane will ever marry with such relatives.'
Mrs Hurst .....

e. Jane said, 'I have been feeling ill all day.'
Jane said that .....

f. Miss Bingley said, 'I'm afraid that Darcy will marry Elizabeth.'
Miss Bingley feared Darcy .....

4 **Read the last part of Chapter 2 again and fill in the table.**

what the Bingley sisters say about Elizabeth's	
manners	
conversation	
style	
beauty	
appearance	
propriety	
what Charles Bingley said about Elizabeth	
Darcy's remarks about Elizabeth's eyes	

A difference of opinion

5 **Look back over the two chapters you have read and then complete the chart on the differing opinions about Elizabeth Bennet.**

	Their opinions of Elizabeth
Mr Bennet	
Mrs Bennet	
Mr Bingley	
Mr Darcy	
Mr Bingley's sisters	

- What is your opinion of Elizabeth?
- Do you think that the ladies at Netherfield really think that Elizabeth has no charm or appeal?

Before you read

1 **Fill in the gaps with the words from the box and then listen to the first part of Chapter 3 to check your answers.**

kindness	attention	depend	parlour
breakfast	mother	danger	home
better	invited	ill	coldly
night			
ridicule	daughters	thanking	

Elizabeth spent most of the ..... in her sister's room. In the morning Jane was ..... . She sent a note to her ..... asking her to visit and decide what to do. Mrs Bennet and her two youngest ..... arrived at Netherfield after ..... .

Although she was satisfied that Jane was in no ....., Mrs Bennet did not listen to her proposal of going ..... . The doctor agreed. Miss Bingley then ..... the mother and three daughters to the ..... . Bingley met them with hopes that Mrs Bennet had not found Jane worse than expected.

'Indeed I did, Sir,' she answered. 'She is much too ..... to be moved. We must ..... a little longer on your kindness.'

'You may depend on it, Madam,' said Miss Bingley .....,

'that Miss Bennet shall receive every possible ..... .'

Soon afterwards Mrs Bennet asked for her carriage, ... Mr Bingley again for his ..... . When they had left, Elizabeth went immediately to Jane, leaving the two ladies to ..... the behaviour of her relatives.



CHAPTER THREE

Mr Collins Pays a Visit

Elizabeth spent most of the night in her sister's room. In the morning Jane was better. She sent a note to her mother asking her to visit and decide what to do. Mrs Bennet and her two youngest daughters arrived at Netherfield after breakfast.

Although she was satisfied that Jane was in no danger, Mrs Bennet did not listen to her proposal of going home. The doctor agreed. Miss Bingley then invited the mother and three daughters to the parlour. Bingley met them with hopes that Mrs Bennet had not found Jane worse than expected.

'Indeed I did, Sir,' she answered. 'She is much too ill to be moved. We must depend a little longer on your kindness.'

'You may depend on it, Madam,' said Miss Bingley coldly, 'that Miss Bennet shall receive every possible attention.'

Mr Collins Pays a Visit

Soon afterwards Mrs Bennet asked for her carriage, thanking Mr Bingley again for his kindness. When they had left, Elizabeth went immediately to Jane, leaving the two ladies to ridicule the behaviour of her relatives.

The day passed much like the day before. Elizabeth spent the evening downstairs. She could not help noticing how frequently Mr Darcy looked at her. When Miss Bingley played a lively song on the piano he came to Elizabeth and said,

'Do you not want to dance when you hear such music?'



She smiled, but did not answer. He repeated the question.

'I heard you before,' she said, 'but I did not immediately know what to answer. I know you wanted me to say "Yes," to give you the pleasure of ridiculing my taste. So I have decided to tell you that I do not want to dance at all. Now ridicule me if you dare.' [1]

'Indeed I do not dare.'

Elizabeth, expecting him to be angry, was surprised at his gallantry, but there was a mixture of impertinence and sweetness in her manner which made it difficult for her to offend anybody. Darcy had never been as attracted by any woman as he was by

1. **dare** : 敢。

her. He thought that only the inferiority [1] of her connections saved him from the danger of falling in love.

Miss Bingley saw this. Her anxiety that Jane get better soon came from her wish to see her sister leave. She often tried to make Darcy dislike Elizabeth by planning his happiness in an imagined marriage with her.

'I hope,' she said as they were walking in the garden the next day, 'you will teach your mother-in-law the advantage of silence, and if you can tell the younger girls not to run after the officers...'

At that moment they met Mrs Hurst and Elizabeth.

'I did not know you wanted to walk,' said Miss Bingley, in some embarrassment, fearing she had been overheard.

'Why did you not tell us you were going to the garden?' asked Mrs Hurst, leaving Elizabeth and taking Darcy's free arm. The path was big enough only for three. Mr Darcy felt their rudeness and said,

'Let us move. This path is not wide enough.'

But Elizabeth answered laughingly, 'No, no. You make such a handsome picture; another person would spoil it.'

She ran off, happy in the thought of soon going home. Jane was so much better that she planned to leave her room for a few hours that evening.

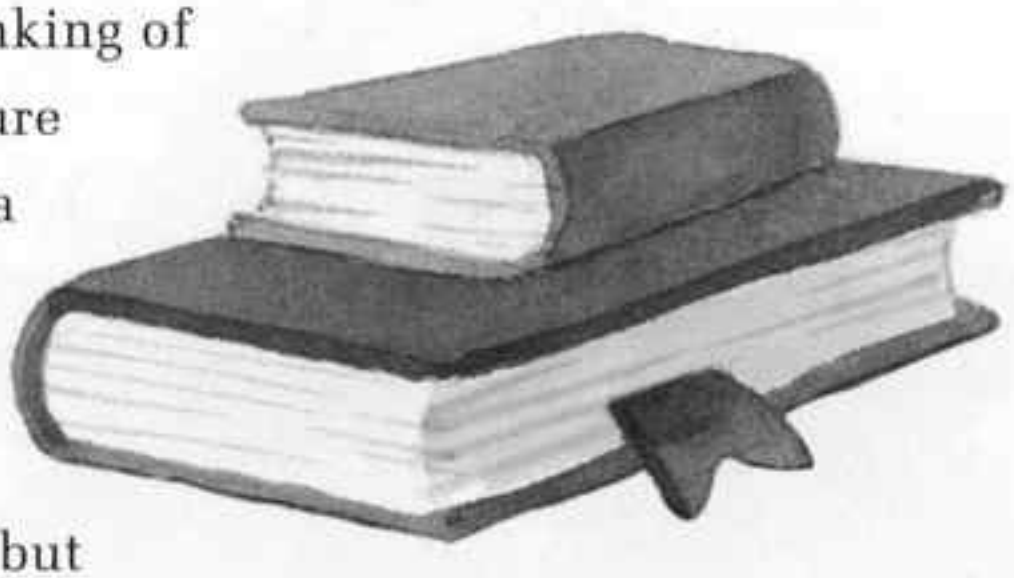
After dinner, Elizabeth helped her sister down to the drawing-room. [2] Her friends welcomed her warmly. Elizabeth had never seen them so agreeable, but when the gentlemen came in Jane was quickly forgotten. Miss Bingley immediately went to speak to Darcy. He greeted Jane politely, but it was Bingley who was

1. **inferiority** : 劣等。
2. **drawing-room** : 客厅。

happiest to see her. After seeing that she was in no danger of the cold he sat down by her and talked to nobody else.

They decided not to play cards that evening. Darcy and Miss Bingley began to read; Mr Hurst went to sleep and his wife spoke a little to Jane and her brother. Hearing her brother speak to Jane about a ball, Miss Bingley said,

'Charles, are you really thinking of a dance at Netherfield? I am sure there are some of us to whom a ball is no pleasure.'



'Are you speaking of Darcy?' cried her brother. 'He can go to bed before it begins, but the ball is a certain thing.'

Mr Darcy had been speaking to Elizabeth when Caroline Bingley, tired of listening to this conversation in which she had no part, asked Mrs Hurst to play some music. After a minute's thought Darcy was not unhappy for it. He was beginning to feel the danger of giving Elizabeth too much attention. She attracted him more than he liked. It was a good thing that the two sisters were to go home to Longbourn the following day.

'I hope, my dear,' said Mr Bennet to his wife the next morning, 'that you have a good dinner today, because I expect somebody to join us.'

'Who do you mean?'

'The person of whom I speak is a gentleman and a stranger.'

The ladies were surprised and questioned him.

'A month ago I received a letter from my cousin Mr Collins,

who will come to live in this house when I die.'

In some families it was agreed by law that property could only be left to men. If those families had only daughters, their houses and land would be left to any male relative after the father's death. Mr Collins was Mr Bennet's only male relative.



'He writes that his father died some time ago and that he wants us to forget the disagreement between our families,' Mr Bennet said. 'He is a man of the Church and has found an important patroness [1] in the Honourable Lady Catherine de Bourgh. He apologises for the injustice done to our daughters because of his getting Longbourn and would like to help them. This is the reason for his visit. We may expect the gentleman at four o'clock.'

Mr Collins was a tall, heavy-looking [2] young man of twenty-five. His manners were very formal and he soon complimented Mrs Bennet on having such fine, beautiful daughters. He was sure, he said, that soon she would see them all well married.

'You are very kind, sir, I am sure; and I hope it will be so; or indeed they will be very poor.'

1. **patroness**：女资助人。
2. **heavy-looking**：（此处指）笨拙的。

Mr Collins Pays a Visit

'I know, madam, of my dear cousins' misfortune. I could say much on the subject. At present I will not say more. But I can assure the young ladies that I come ready to admire them.'

At dinner, Mr Bennet observed that Mr Collins was very fortunate in his patroness, Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Mr Collins's manner was most serious as he explained that never in his life had he seen such kindness in a great lady. She had already asked him twice to dine at Rosings. She made no objection to his joining in the society of the neighbourhood or to his visiting his relatives. She had even told him to marry as soon as he could, providing[1] he chose the right wife, and had once visited him in his humble house.

'Does she live near you?' asked Mrs Bennet.

'The garden of my humble house is next to Rosings.'

'You said she is a widow, sir. Has she any family?'

'She has only one daughter who, one day, will have Rosings and a great fortune.'

'Ah!' cried Mrs Bennet, 'Is she handsome?'

'She is a most charming young lady indeed. I have more than once said to Lady Catherine that her daughter was born to be a duchess. Such little attentions please her ladyship.'[2]

'It is happy for you to possess the talent of flattery,' said Mr Bennet. 'May I ask if you think of these pleasing attentions at the moment, or are they the result of study?'

'I sometimes amuse myself with thinking of such little elegant compliments, but I always wish to give them in as natural a manner as possible.'

1. **providing**：只要。
2. **ladyship**：（对有爵位的女士的尊称）夫人。

Mr Bennet was satisfied. His cousin was as absurd as he had hoped.

Having a good house and a sufficient fortune Mr Collins now intended to marry. His first choice was Jane, but a conversation with Mrs Bennet the next day informed him of her hopes for Jane's marriage. He had only to change from her to Elizabeth.

That day Lydia planned to walk to Meryton to ask after a Mr Denny, an officer she was friendly with. All her sisters, with the exception of Mary, and Mr Collins decided to go with her. In pompous [1] nothings on his side and polite answers on that of his cousins, the time passed till they entered Meryton. From then on the younger sisters were busy looking for officers. The attention of every lady was soon attracted by a young stranger of most gentleman-like appearance. He was walking with Mr Denny who introduced him as a Mr Wickham, an officer in his regiment.

They were talking together when they saw Darcy and Bingley riding down the street. The two gentlemen came up. Bingley was just going to Longbourn, he told Jane, to ask after her. Suddenly Elizabeth saw Darcy look at the stranger in surprise. Both men changed colour. Mr Wickham touched his hat. In another minute Bingley took leave and rode on with his friend. Mr Denny and Mr Wickham walked with the young ladies to Mr Philips's house.

When Jane introduced Mr Collins to her aunt, she received him with her very best politeness. She could not answer her nieces' questions about Mr Wickham, but promised to invite him to dinner with some other officers the next day.

As they walked home, Elizabeth told Jane what she had seen pass between the two gentlemen. Jane was surprised as well.

1. **pompous**：自命不凡的。

A C T I V I T I E S

1 **Explain:**

a. why Mrs Bennet goes to Netherfield.
b. why Darcy believes that he can't fall in love with Elizabeth.
c. why Miss Bingley wants Jane to get better.
d. why Miss Bingley asks Mrs Hurst to play some music.
e. why Mr Darcy is not unhappy about this interruption.
f. who Mr Collins is.
g. what his reasons for visiting Longbourn are.
h. what sort of man Mr Collins is.
i. who Lady de Bourgh is.
j. what Lydia and Kitty are interested in.

Past Perfect versus Past Perfect Continuous

2 **If we are already talking about the past we use the Past Perfect to talk about things that had already happened at the time we are talking about.**
The Past Perfect Continuous is used to talk about longer actions or situations which had continued up to the past moment we are talking about, or shortly before it. For example:

Elizabeth told Jane what she ***had seen*** *pass between the two gentlemen. Mr Darcy* ***had been speaking*** *to Elizabeth when Mrs Hurst began playing the piano.*

Put the verbs in brackets in the Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous.

a. Mr Collins described how Lady de Bourgh ..... (to welcome) him to Rosings.
b. Kitty and Lydia ..... (to talk) to the officers when a newcomer attracted their attention.

c. Mr Bennet informed his wife that some time before he ..... (to receive) a letter from his cousin.

d. Mr Bennet explained to her that his cousin and Mr Bennet's father ..... (to be) in disagreement.

e. Jane ..... (to stay) at Netherfield when she wrote a letter to her mother asking her what to do.

f. Mr Bingley hoped Mrs Bennet ..... (not to find) her daughter too ill.

3 **Fill in the following table describing Mr Denny's friend.**

appearance	
name	
profession	
how he is looked at by Darcy	
his reaction at seeing Darcy	

Thinking and writing

4 **Why do you think Darcy and Wickham looked so surprised and embarrassed when they met? Suggest reasons for the coldness they showed each other.**



CHAPTER FOUR

The Netherfield Ball

On entering their uncle's drawing-room the next day, the girls heard that Mr Wickham was in the house. When he came in every woman looked at him, but Elizabeth was the one he came to sit by and, as they did not play cards, they soon fell into most agreeable conversation. Mr Wickham did not play. To Elizabeth's surprise he began to talk of Mr Darcy.

'His estate is a noble one. I can give you much information on that, as I have been connected with his family all my life.'

Elizabeth looked at him.

'You may well be surprised, Miss Bennet, after seeing the cold manner of our meeting yesterday. His father, Miss Bennet, was one of the best men that ever lived and my greatest friend, but Mr Darcy's behaviour to me has been most dishonourable.'

Elizabeth listened with great interest.

'I was meant [1] for a life in the Church, but it did not please the gentleman we were speaking of just now.'

'Indeed!'

'Yes – the late Mr Darcy left me the best living [2] he had to give, but in the end, it was given to another.'

'No!' cried Elizabeth, 'How could that be?'

'Through Mr Darcy's dislike of me. The late Mr Darcy liked me too much, however, and his son has always hated me for it.'

Soon afterwards the card party finished. Mrs Philips and Mr Collins joined them. Mr Collins had lost, but he assured the others seriously that the money was nothing to him. Thanks to the kindness of Lady Catherine de Bourgh, it was not necessary for him to think of such little matters.

Hearing this, Mr Wickham turned to Elizabeth and asked if her cousin was intimately connected with the family of de Bourgh.

'Lady Catherine de Bourgh has recently given him a living. I do not know how they met, but he has not known her long.'

'You know of course that Lady Catherine de Bourgh and Lady Anne Darcy were sisters. She is aunt to the present Mr Darcy.'

'Indeed I did not know.'

'Her daughter, Miss de Bourgh, will have a very large fortune and people believe that she and her cousin will marry.'

This information made Elizabeth smile as she thought of poor Miss Bingley. Useless indeed must be all her attentions, her affection for his sister and her praise of himself, if he were already determined for another woman.

1. **I was meant for**：（家人）原本打算把我培养成为…。
2. **living**：生计。

The Netherfield Ball

They continued talking till dinner. When Elizabeth went home she could think of nothing but Mr Wickham and of what he had told her.

The next day Elizabeth told her sister what had passed between Wickham and herself. Jane was surprised and shocked. She could not believe Mr Darcy to be so bad, nor was it in her character to question a young man of such agreeable appearance as Wickham.

'There must be some misunderstanding of which we can have no idea,' said she. 'No man of honour could behave in such a manner.'

The two young ladies were called from the garden where this conversation passed, by the arrival of some of the people of whom they were speaking. Mr Bingley and his sisters had come to give their personal invitation for the long expected ball at Netherfield. The two sisters were delighted to see their dear friend Jane again. They paid little attention to the others, avoiding Mrs Bennet as much as possible, saying not much to Elizabeth, and nothing to the others. They hurried off so quickly that their brother was taken by surprise.

The thought of the Netherfield ball was agreeable to all the ladies. Mrs Bennet thought it a compliment to her oldest daughter. Jane imagined a happy time in society with her two friends and the attentions of their brother, and Elizabeth thought with pleasure of dancing very much with Mr Wickham. Catherine and Lydia's happiness did not depend on any one person though they both, like Elizabeth, meant to dance half the evening with Mr Wickham. Even Mary, generally interested only in reading, didn't seem to dislike the idea.

Until Elizabeth entered the drawing-room at Netherfield, she had been sure to find Mr Wickham there. When she did not, she suspected that he had not received an invitation because of Mr Darcy. Lydia asked Mr Denny, who told them that Wickham had gone to town on business the day before. Later he told Elizabeth that the presence of a certain gentleman at the ball was the real reason for Mr Wickham's absence.

Elizabeth was sorry not to see Wickham and so disgusted with Darcy that it was difficult to answer politely when he spoke to her. But she was not made for ill-humour [1] and was soon laughing with Charlotte Lucas about the absurdities [2] of Mr Collins. She was mortified, however, by having to dance the first two dances with him. He danced badly, looked serious, apologised and did not pay attention.

Elizabeth was in conversation with Charlotte when Mr Darcy suddenly asked for her hand in the next dance. She was so surprised that she accepted. When the music began they stood for some time without speaking. Though first determined not to say a word, she presently thought she could punish her partner more by obliging him to talk. She made some observation on the dance. He answered and was again silent. After some minutes she spoke again.

'Now you must say something, Mr Darcy. I talked about the dance. You should speak about the room or the people.'

He smiled and assured her that he would say what she wished.

'Very well. Now we can be silent.'

1. **ill-humour** : 坏脾气。
2. **absurdities** : 荒唐的行为。



'Do you have to talk in a certain manner then, while you are dancing?'

'Sometimes. One must speak a little, you know.'

They were again silent till he asked her if she and her sisters did not very often walk to Meryton.

'Yes,' she answered, and could not help continuing, 'When you met us there the other day we had just met someone new.'

Immediately Darcy looked serious, but said not a word. Elizabeth could not go on. At length [1] he said,

'Mr Wickham is fortunate in such happy manners that he *makes* friends with ease. If they *remain* friends is less certain.'

'He has been so unfortunate as to lose your friendship,' answered Elizabeth warmly, 'and in a manner which may make him suffer all his life.'

Darcy made no answer. At that moment Sir William Lucas appeared near them and, seeing Mr Darcy, stopped to compliment him on his dancing and his partner. He hoped to have the pleasure of other dances soon, especially when a certain desirable event took place, he said, glancing at Jane and Mr Bingley.

Mr Darcy looked at his friend and Jane, who were dancing together, with a very serious expression for some moments until he said,

'Sir William has made me forget what we were talking of.'

'I do not think we were speaking at all. There cannot be any two people in the room with less to say for themselves. We have tried two or three subjects already with few results, and what we can talk of next I cannot imagine.'

1. **at length**：过了很久。

The Netherfield Ball

Soon after the dance finished Miss Bingley came up to Elizabeth and said, 'So, Miss Eliza, I hear you are delighted with George Wickham! Your sister has been asking me a thousand questions. I hear that the young man forgot to tell you that he was the son of old Mr Darcy's steward. [1] As a friend I must tell you not to believe him. His stories about Mr Darcy are untrue, though George Wickham's behaviour has been shocking. I am sorry Miss Eliza for this discovery of your favourite's true character, but considering that he is not a gentleman, one cannot expect much better.'

'The only thing he has done wrong is to be the son of Mr Darcy's steward,' said Elizabeth angrily, 'and that, I assure you, he told me himself.'

She left to look for Jane who had promised to ask Bingley about Wickham, but when she found them together Jane looked so happy that she forgot the matter. When she imagined her sister living in that house with Bingley, in a marriage of true affection, she even believed it possible to try and like his sisters.

Unfortunately, when they sat down to dinner, Elizabeth was placed near her mother and Mr Darcy. Clearly Mrs Bennet's thoughts were also on matrimony and she spoke freely to Lady Lucas of nothing else but her expectation that Jane would soon be married to Mr Bingley. Elizabeth saw that Mr Darcy could overhear the conversation and tried to tell her mother, but Mrs Bennet did not tire of talking about the advantages of the marriage. Mr Bingley was such a charming young man, so rich, living so near. His sisters liked Jane so much and wished for the

1. **steward** : 管家。

marriage as much as she did. And it was such a good thing for her other daughters. If Jane married so greatly, they would meet other rich men. She finished with many good wishes that Lady Lucas might soon be as fortunate with her daughters.

When at last they got up to go, Mrs Bennet invited the whole family to Longbourn, telling Mr Bingley how happy he would make them by eating a family dinner with them at any time. Bingley promised to visit after a short trip to London he was planning. Mrs Bennet left the house sure that she would see her daughter married at Netherfield in a few months. She was just as sure of having another daughter married to Mr Collins. Elizabeth was the least dear to her of all her daughters, and she thought the man and the marriage quite good enough for her.

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F) and then correct the false ones.

	T	F
a. Elizabeth goes to sit by Wickham.	☐	☐
b. Wickham was treated badly by Darcy's father.	☐	☐
c. Wickham should have gone into the Church.	☐	☐
d. Mr Collins wins the card game.	☐	☐
e. Elizabeth is very upset when she learns that Mr Darcy is probably going to marry Miss de Bourgh.	☐	☐
f. Jane doesn't believe that either Darcy or Wickham could be so bad.	☐	☐
g. Wickham doesn't go to the ball because Mr Darcy will be there.	☐	☐
h. Miss Bingley defends Wickham.	☐	☐
i. Mrs Bennet is sure that Jane and Bingley will be married.	☐	☐

2 Thinking about the following questions.

a. What is Elizabeth's opinion of Wickham? What is her reaction when he tells her about Mr Darcy's behaviour to him?

b. Mr Darcy seems particularly serious when Sir Lucas 'glances' at Bingley and Jane dancing together. What do you think he might have been thinking about?

c. Why was Elizabeth so unhappy about Mr Darcy sitting next to her mother at dinner?

Conjunctions and prepositions

3 **Fill in the following sentences with the conjunctions and prepositions from the box below. Some words can be used more than once.**

while	by	on	without	at

a. Mr Collins complimented Mrs Bennet ..... having such fine, beautiful daughters.

b. Mrs Bennet told Mr Bingley how happy he would make them ..... eating a family dinner with them.

c. ..... entering Netherfield, Elizabeth looked around to see where Mr Wickham was.

d. ..... hearing Mr Collins's words, Mr Wickham asked Elizabeth if he was intimately connected with Lady de Bourgh.

e. ..... walking in the garden, Jane and Elizabeth were interrupted ..... the arrival of Mr Bingley's sisters.

f. ..... saying a word to Mrs Bennet, Mr Bingley's sisters left Longbourn.

g. Elizabeth was mortified ..... having to dance the first two dances with Mr Collins.

Bored or boring?

4 **Many adjectives have two endings -ed or -ing.**
Look at the examples below.

Jane was **shocked** to hear about Darcy's behaviour.
Darcy's behaviour to Wickham was **shocking**.

Adjective + -ed describes a reaction to someone/something

Adjective + -ing describes the cause of a reaction

A. Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct adjectives.

a. The thought of the Netherfield ball was *exciting / excited* for everyone.

b. Elizabeth was *surprised / surprising* when Wickham began talking about Darcy.

c. Elizabeth was very *interesting / interested* in what Wickham had to say.

d. Elizabeth was *amusing / amused* when she thought of Miss Bingley.

e. It was *embarrassed / embarrassing* for Elizabeth to have to listen to her mother at dinner.

B. Now, try and think of other adjectives which have two endings. Make a list.

Thinking and writing

5 **How would you define the word 'prejudice'? How can prejudice damage relations between people?**
Have you ever been prejudiced against somebody and then realised that you were wrong?

Before you read

1 **Listen to the first part of Chapter 5 and circle the correct words.**

The next *month / week / day* at Longbourn, Mr Collins proposed marriage to Elizabeth. On finding Mrs Bennet and Elizabeth together he asked the mother for her permission to *speak / talk/ chat* to her daughter alone.

Elizabeth was too *shocked / surprised / amazed* to answer, but her mother *straight away / immediately / at once* went away.

Elizabeth sat down to listen and tried not to show her *feelings / emotions / thoughts* which were divided between *diversion / enjoyment / amusement* and dislike.

'Almost as soon as I came into this *home / house / abode*,' Mr Collins began, 'I chose you for the *partner / companion / associate* of my life, but before my feelings get too strong for me I must explain my *reasons / motives / purpose* for marrying and for coming here, to Longbourn to look for a wife.'

The idea of the *serious / solemn / humourless* Mr Collins's strong feelings made Elizabeth so near to laughing that she could not *prevent / impede / stop* him.



CHAPTER FIVE

Mr Collins Proposes - Twice!

The next day at Longbourn, Mr Collins proposed marriage to Elizabeth. On finding Mrs Bennet and Elizabeth together he asked the mother for her permission to speak to her daughter alone.

Elizabeth was too surprised to answer, but her mother immediately went away.

Elizabeth sat down to listen and tried not to show her feelings which were divided between amusement and dislike.

'Almost as soon as I came into this house,' Mr Collins began, 'I chose you for the partner of my life, but before my feelings get too strong for me I must explain my motives for marrying and for coming here to Longbourn to look for a wife.'

The idea of the serious Mr Collins's strong feelings made Elizabeth so near to laughing that she could not stop him.

'My motives for marrying are first, that I think it right for every man of the Church. Second, that I am sure it will make me very happy, and third – which perhaps I should have said first, that it was asked of me by the very noble lady whom I have the honour of calling patroness. Let me observe, my dear cousin, that the kindness of Lady Catherine de Bourgh is not the least of the advantages I have to give. It remains to tell why I looked in Longbourn instead of my own neighbourhood where, I assure you, there are many agreeable young women. But as I am to get this estate after the death of your honoured father (who, however, may



live many years longer), I could not be happy without deciding to choose a wife from among his daughters, that the loss be as little as possible when the unhappy day comes – which, however, as I have already said, may not be for some years. This has been my motive, my dear cousin, and I flatter myself it will not make you think less kindly of me. And now nothing remains for me but to assure you of the violence of my affections. To fortune I am indifferent. I shall ask nothing of your father and shall, indeed, say nothing ungenerous on that subject when we are married.'

It was necessary to stop him now.

'You move too quickly, Sir,' she cried. 'You forget that I have made no answer. Let me do it without more loss of time. I thank you for the compliment, and feel the honour of your proposals, but I cannot do otherwise than answer no.'

'It is not new to me,' said Mr Collins, 'that young ladies often refuse the proposals of the men they mean to accept.'

'Sir!' cried Elizabeth, 'I do assure you that I am not one of those young ladies. I am serious in my refusal. You could not make me happy, and I am sure that I am the last woman in the world to make you so.' But Mr Collins would not believe her, though Elizabeth continued to refuse him.

'You are completely charming!' he cried gallantly. 'I am convinced that when you see my proposals are agreeable to your parents they must be acceptable to you.'

To this Elizabeth could give no answer, and left the room.

When Mrs Bennet returned to the breakfast room she was surprised to see Mr Collins alone and to hear his story. She immediately hurried to her husband crying out,

'Oh! Mr Bennet, you must come and make Lizzy marry Mr Collins for she says she will not have him, and if you do not hurry he will change his mind and not have *her*.'

'I do not understand you,' said he when she had finished talking. 'Of what are you talking?'

'Of Mr Collins and Lizzy.'

'And what can I do? It seems a hopeless business.'

'Speak to Lizzy. Tell her that she must marry him.'

'Let her be called. She shall hear my opinion.'

Elizabeth was called to her father's room.

'Come here, my dear,' cried her father as she appeared. 'I understand that Mr Collins has made you an offer of marriage. Is it true?' Elizabeth said that it was. 'Very well – and this offer of marriage you have refused.'

'I have, Sir.'

'Very well. Your mother says you must accept it. Is it not so, Mrs Bennet?'

'Yes, or I will never see her again.'

'An unhappy choice is before you, Elizabeth. From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents. Your mother will never see you again if you do *not* marry Mr Collins, and I will never see you again if you *do*.'

Elizabeth had to smile, but Mrs Bennet was very angry. She talked to Elizabeth again and again. Elizabeth answered sometimes seriously, sometimes laughing, but though her manner varied,[1] her determination never did.

As for the gentleman, his feelings were mostly expressed by a

1. **varied** : 変換。

severe manner and silence. He did not speak to Elizabeth. Later that day Miss Lucas came to visit, and then his attentions were given to her. Her politeness in listening to him was a great help to Elizabeth.



The next day Mrs Bennet's ill humour had not abated, [1] nor had Mr Collins's angry pride. Elizabeth had hoped he might soon leave, but it seemed he meant to stay.

Later that day Jane received a letter from Netherfield. Elizabeth saw her sister's face change as she read it. She tried to appear as always and soon joined in the general conversation, but Elizabeth felt a great anxiety on the subject. When the two sisters were alone Jane took out the letter and said,

'This is from Caroline Bingley; it has surprised me very much. The whole party have left Netherfield and are going to London with no intention of returning. She says she is not sorry to leave anything except for my society, [2] but hopes to enjoy that again sometime. She asks me to write to her.' Elizabeth did not believe Miss Bingley's words. She was surprised they had gone so quickly, but did not think this would prevent Mr Bingley from returning alone. This she said, but Jane continued,

'Caroline says that none of the party will return this winter.

1. **abated**：减弱。
2. **society**：（此处指）陪伴。

When Charles is in London, she writes, he will be in no hurry to leave again. This is why they have joined him there. It is clear that he will not return.'

'It is only clear that Miss Bingley does not want him to return,' said Elizabeth.

'You do not know all,' objected Jane. 'Miss Bingley writes that Mr Darcy wants to see his sister. Miss Georgiana Darcy is the most beautiful girl, she says, and she hopes that one day she will be their sister. Charles admires her greatly. If he married her they would all be very happy. Is that not clear enough, my dear Lizzy? Can there be any other opinion on the subject?'

'Yes, because mine is different. Will you hear it?'

'Most gladly.'

'It is this. Miss Bingley sees that her brother is in love with you and wants him to marry Miss Darcy. She goes to town in the hope of keeping him there and tries to make you think he feels nothing for you.'

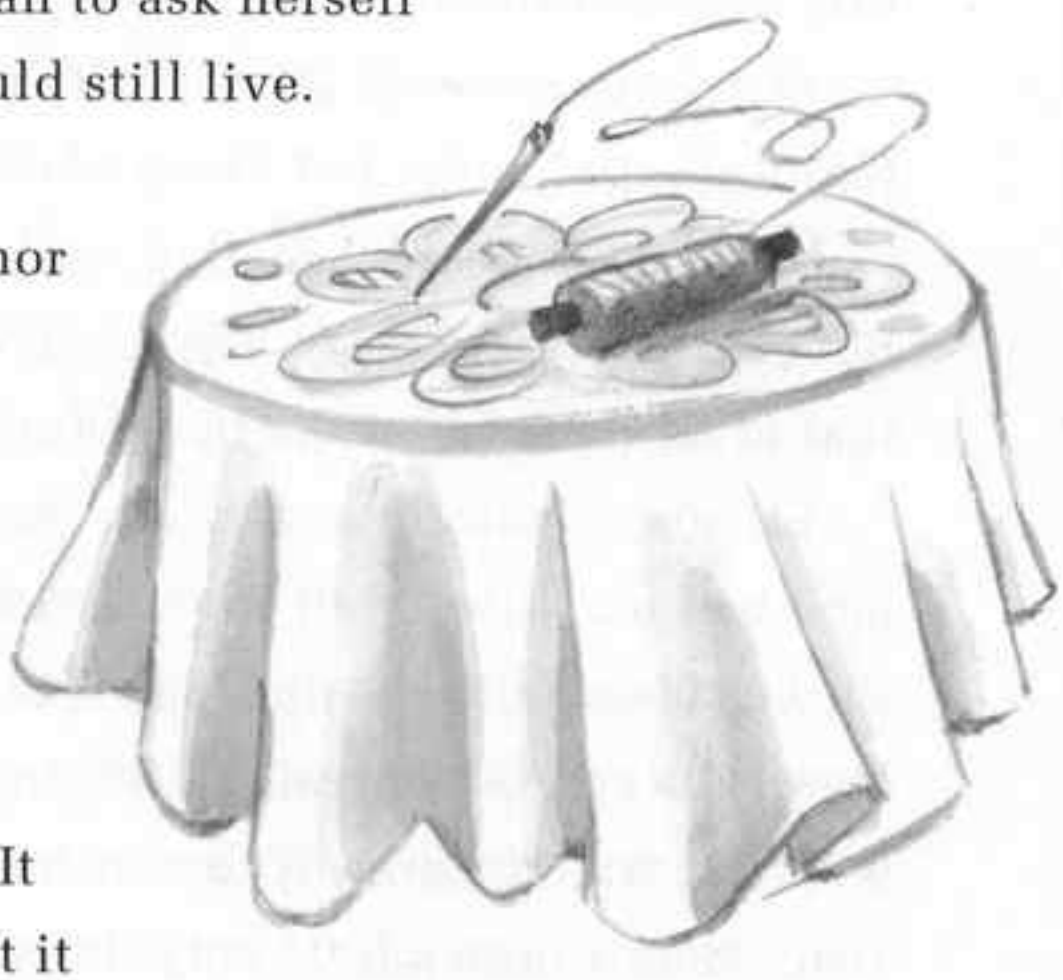
'No...'

'Indeed, Jane, believe me. No one who has seen you together can question his affection. Could Miss Bingley have seen half as much love in Mr Darcy for herself, she would have been planning her own marriage.' Elizabeth soon had the pleasure of seeing Jane look happier at the thought that Bingley would return to Netherfield.

The Bennets were invited to dine with the Lucases. Miss Lucas listened to Mr Collins most of the day. Elizabeth could not know that her friend planned to save her from any further proposals from Mr Collins by marrying him herself.

Mr Collins Proposes - Twice!

Early the next morning Mr Collins left Longbourn House quietly and hurried to Lucas Lodge to throw himself at Charlotte's feet. His reception was very flattering; his proposals were immediately accepted. Sir William and Lady Lucas gave their permission and Lady Lucas began to ask herself how many years Mr Bennet would still live.



Charlotte was satisfied. Mr Collins was neither intelligent nor was his society agreeable. Still, he would be her husband. She did not think highly of men or matrimony, but marriage was the only honourable possibility for well-educated young women of small fortune. It might not make them happy, but it would save them from being poor. She had never been beautiful and now, at twenty-seven, she felt fortunate. The worst thing was the surprise it would cause Elizabeth. She decided to give her the information herself, and asked Mr Collins not to tell the family his news.

As he was to set out early the next morning, Mr Collins took his leave[1] of the ladies at Longbourn that night. Mrs Bennet with great politeness said how happy they would be if he visited them again. They were all most surprised when he immediately accepted this invitation, and said he would be coming back very soon.

The next morning Charlotte came and told Elizabeth who

1. **took his leave** : 告辞。

could not help crying out,

'Marry Mr Collins! My dear Charlotte, – impossible!'

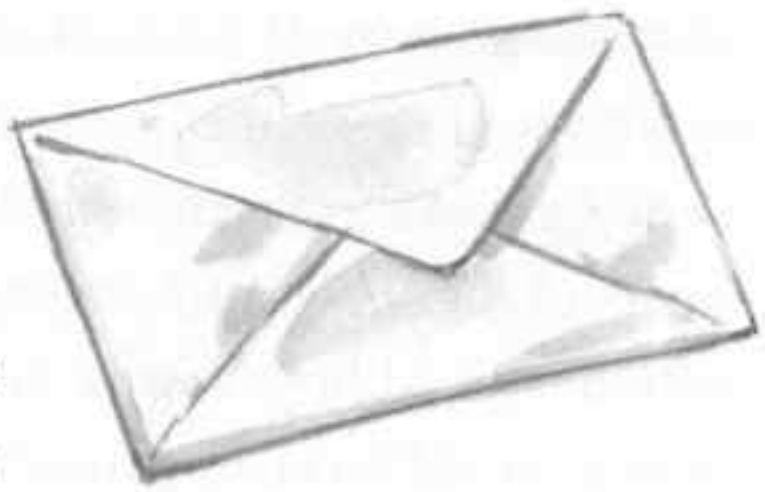
'Why are you surprised, my dear Eliza?' Miss Lucas asked. 'Do you think it impossible that another woman might want to marry *him because you did not?*'

Elizabeth assured her that she wished her all imaginable happiness.

'I see what you are feeling,' answered Charlotte, – 'But I am not romantic you know. I ask only a good home, and I am sure that I can be as happy with Mr Collins as most married people.'

Elizabeth quietly answered 'Surely.' Later she told her sister. Jane was surprised, but she did not think it impossible that Charlotte could be happy. Elizabeth and Charlotte spoke no more about the subject. Elizabeth felt that she could never speak openly with her friend again. As a result she became even closer to her sister than in the past. Every day she was more anxious for Jane's happiness. Bingley had now been gone a week and nothing was heard of his return. Jane had written to Caroline and was expecting to hear from her again.

On Tuesday a letter of thanks from Mr Collins arrived, informing them that he hoped to accept their kind invitation to return to Longbourn in two weeks as Lady Catherine wished him to marry soon.



The days passed without news of Mr Bingley. Even Elizabeth began to be anxious, not that Bingley did not love Jane, but that

his sisters could keep him from returning. Their determination, together with the attractions of Miss Darcy and the amusements of London, might be stronger than his feelings for Jane.

Miss Bingley's letter arrived and settled the matter. They planned to spend the winter in London, she began, and ended that her brother was sorry there had been no time to take his leave of them. Hope was over, completely over, and when Jane finished reading the letter, only the affection the writer expressed could make her feel better. Caroline wrote about the beautiful Miss Darcy and her hopes that she would marry Charles. He was now an intimate of Mr Darcy's house.

Elizabeth, to whom Jane soon told this, heard it in silent anger. She did not think Bingley's feelings for her sister had changed, but that his easy character had permitted his friends to interfere with his happiness and that of her sister. She was not sure if he knew of Jane's feelings for him or not, but in the end, it made no difference. Jane's peace was disturbed.

A day or two passed before Jane had the courage to speak of her feelings to Elizabeth.

'He has done nothing wrong,' she said. 'At least I have not that unhappiness. A little time. – I shall certainly try to get better. At least it has not been more than a mistake on my part.'

'My dear Jane!' cried Elizabeth, 'you are too good. I feel as if I never really knew you or loved you enough. There are few people I really love and still fewer of whom I think well. The more I see of the world, the more I am dissatisfied with it.'

'Dear Lizzy, do not let yourself feel like this or you will never be happy. Please do not think badly of Mr Bingley. We must not

expect a lively young man to be always cautious. [1] It is often nothing but our own vanity [2] that makes us think admiration means more than it does.'

'To men's advantage.'

'I cannot believe that people try to do wrong, or to make others unhappy.'

'Not try, but not thinking of other people's feelings, not being decisive, this may be enough to cause unhappiness.'

'You still think his sisters keep him away?'

'Yes, and his friend.'

'I cannot believe it. They can only wish for his happiness, and if he loves me, no other woman can give him that.'

'You are mistaken. They may wish many things other than his happiness; they may wish him a great fortune, they may wish him to marry a girl with all the importance of money and connections.'

'I am sure they do wish him to marry Miss Darcy,' answered Jane, 'They have known her much longer than me. But it is very unlikely they should have gone against their brother's wishes. Please let us not speak of it again.'

1. **cautious** : 谨慎的。
2. **vanity** : 虚荣心。

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Do the crossword by filling in the gaps in the summary of Chapter 5.

Mr Collins proposes [1]..... to [2]..... . He explains that there are three reasons for his wanting to marry. Firstly because it's suitable for a man of the [3]....., secondly because it will make him [4]....., and thirdly because his patron Lady de [5]..... wants him to get married.

Elizabeth [6]..... him much to her mother's [7]..... and her [8]..... delight.

Jane receives a [9]..... from [10]..... Bingley who tells her that they are all going to [11]..... and have no [12]..... of returning. Jane believes that Bingley wants to marry Georgiana [13]....., while Elizabeth thinks that Bingley's sisters want to keep him away from her.

Mr Collins proposes marriage to Elizabeth's friend Charlotte [14]....., and she accepts although she does not [15].....him.

2 **Answer the following questions.**

a. Think about Mr Collins's proposal to Elizabeth. Do you think he sounds sincere, spontaneous, passionate, sensitive or what? Support your opinions from the text.

b. Consider Mr Collins's reasons for marrying. Do you think they are right, wrong, ridiculous or what?

c. Do you think Mr Collins feels sincere love and appreciation for Elizabeth?

d. If you had been Elizabeth, how would you have felt at such a proposal (honoured, offended, amused or indifferent)?

3 **The episodes of Mr Collins's proposals to Elizabeth and to Charlotte help to define some characters of the novel better. Write down how you would describe the following characters and support your answers with quotes from the text.**

Mr Collins	
Elizabeth	
Mr Bennet	
Mrs Bennet	

Ask, make, let

4 **Remember the following structures:**

ask + object + to infinitive	*e.g.*	She asked him to help her.
make + object + infinitive	*e.g.*	The presence of the officers made Lydia and Kitty want to go to Meryton more often.
let + object + infinitive	*e.g.*	Mrs Bennet didn't let Jane take the carriage.

Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of *ask*, *make*, *let* and the verbs from the box with *to* if necessary.

think tell decide laugh write back
marry call believe

a. Mr Collins's pompous manner in proposing to Elizabeth almost ..... her ..... .

b. When Elizabeth refused Mr Collins, Mrs Bennet ..... her husband ..... their daughter to accept him.

c. Mr and Mrs Bennet ..... the maid ..... Elizabeth.

d. Mr Bennet ..... Elizabeth ..... for herself whether to marry Mr Collins or not.

e. Jane received a letter from Caroline Bingley which ..... her ..... that Bingley was not interested in her.

f. In the letter, however, Caroline ..... Jane ..... .

g. Mr Collins wrote that Lady de Bourgh ..... him ..... soon.

h. Jane thought that it was often nothing more than vanity that ..... girls ..... that admiration means more than it does.



THE SOCIAL CONTEXT IN JANE AUSTEN'S TIME

In the England of Jane Austen's time the social classes were far more rigidly [1] defined than today.

At the top there was the aristocracy whose members possessed huge incomes and owned large estates which were passed down to the eldest male heir of the family. In *Pride and Prejudice* they are represented by Lady de Bourgh and Fitzwilliam Darcy. The aristocracy obviously tended to maintain their privileges, keep to themselves and not mix with the classes below, considered definitively inferior not only in wealth but in 'gentleness' as well.

Immediately below the aristocracy there was the lesser gentry, the class from which most of Jane Austen's characters come. It was made up of people who did not work for a living since they inherited their wealth generally in the form of land. The gentry tended desperately to compete with their betters, the aristocrats. They kept servants and cooks and also governesses for their children. Their life was made up of a fixed code of accepted rules for behaving, dressing, courting and travelling. Not to respect these rules was to gain society's disapproval and be exposed to [2] criticism, as happens to Elizabeth who is too nonconformist [3] to be judged well-mannered by Bingley's sisters at Netherfield.

The lesser gentry was still considered superior to the emerging class of professional people, made up of doctors, lawyers, businessmen and industrialists, which explains how much the possession of land meant to the people of the time.

1. **rigidly** : 严格地。
2. **exposed to** : 面临（某种困境）。
3. **nonconformist** : 不遵守社会规范的。

Below them there were the farmers represented by Mr Martin, a character who is snobbishly [1] slighted [2] by Emma, the heroine of another of Jane Austen's novels.

The lowest social class was represented by the great army of domestic servants and country and town workers, whose life and problems Jane Austen does not deal with in her novels.

1 Answer the following questions.

a. What were the main social classes in the Regency period?

b. What did they live on?

c. What were gentlemen and gentlewomen supposed to respect?



Dancing at the Clifton Assembly Rooms, Bristol.

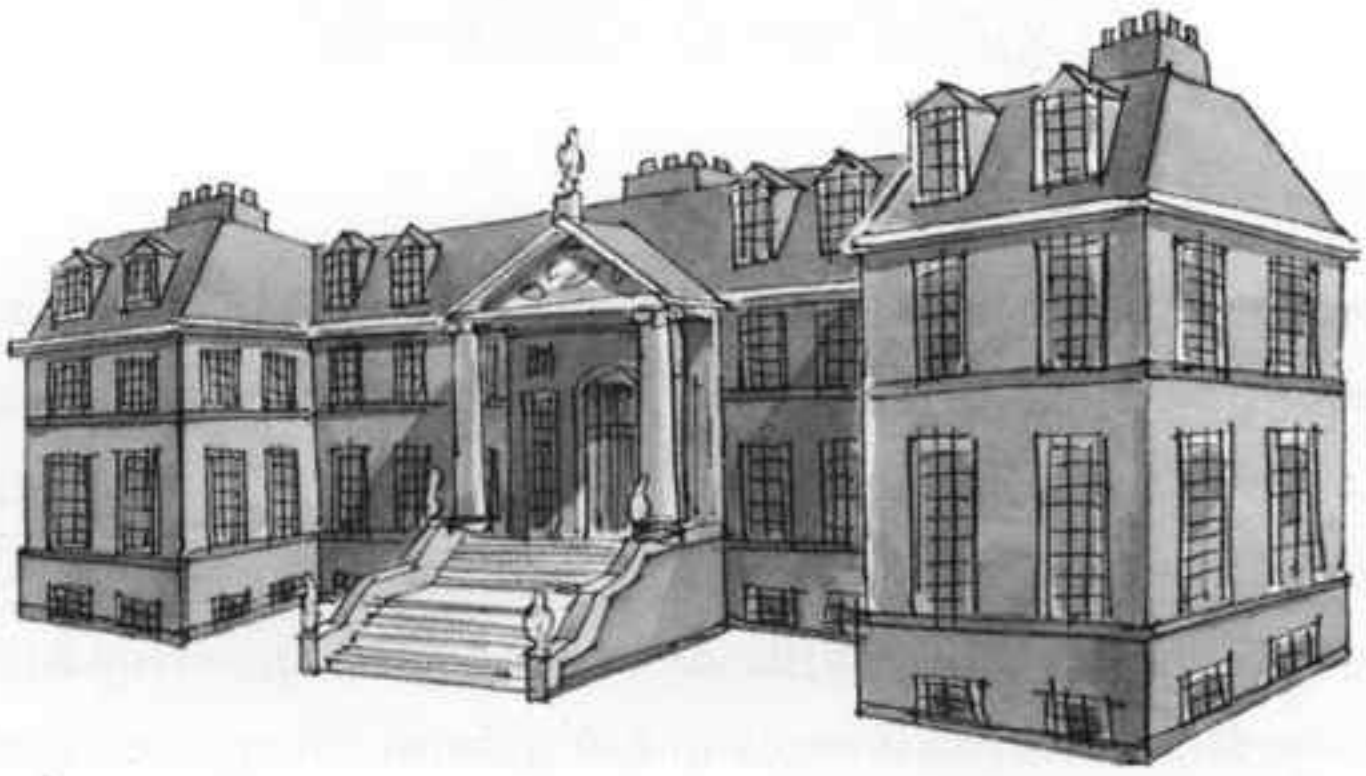
1. **snobbishly** : 势利地。

2. **slighted** : 受到轻视。

Before you read

1 **Read the first part of Chapter 6 and fill in the following table.**

Who the Gardiners are	
What Mr Gardiner is like	
What Mrs Gardiner is like	
What Mrs Gardiner gives her nieces	
How long the Gardiners stay at Longbourn	
What Mrs Gardiner warns Elizabeth about	



CHAPTER SIX

A Visit to Rosings

The following week the Gardiners, Mrs Bennet's brother and his wife, came to stay at Longbourn. Mr Gardiner was an intelligent, gentleman-like man, more educated and with a better character than his sister. Mrs Gardiner was an agreeable, intelligent, elegant woman, and a great favourite with all her nieces. Her first business on her arrival, was to give out her presents and tell them about the newest fashions. When this was done she had to listen to Mrs Bennet who said that life had been most unkind to them all since she last saw her. Two of her girls had almost been married, but it had all come to nothing. It was not Jane's fault, she said, but Lizzy could have been Mr Collins's wife by this time. It was very hard that Lady Lucas would have a daughter married before she did.

When alone with Elizabeth afterwards, Mrs Gardiner asked if she thought Jane would like to come back with them to London. Jane accepted her aunt's invitation with pleasure. Her only thought of the Bingleys was to hope that, as Caroline did not live with her brother, she might see her without any danger of meeting him.

The Gardiners stayed a week at Longbourn. Every day they dined with the Philipses, the Lucases or the officers. Mr Wickham was always invited. Elizabeth spoke so warmly about him that Mrs Gardiner was suspicious and observed them both. From what she saw she did not think them much in love, but their attraction to each other was clear enough to make her caution [1] Elizabeth.

'You are an intelligent girl, Lizzy. I am not afraid of speaking openly,' she began. 'Do not continue or let him continue in an affection which could not make you happy. I have nothing to say against him. He is a most interesting young man, and if he had a fortune I think you could not do better. But as it is, you must be cautious.'

'I am not in love with Mr Wickham,' Elizabeth answered, 'but he is the most agreeable man I ever saw – if he does fall in love with me – Better that he does not. It would not be wise. – Oh that detestable [2] Mr Darcy! My dear aunt, I would be sorry to make any of you unhappy, but we see every day that where there is affection, young people do get married without fortune. How can I promise to be wiser than so many others? All I can promise you is not to be in a hurry. I will try to do what I think wisest. I hope you are satisfied.'

Soon after the Gardiners and Jane had left, Mr Collins returned

1. **caution** : 告诫。
2. **detestable** : 可恶的。

for the wedding. Charlotte came to Longbourn before leaving and asked Elizabeth to write and to come and visit with Charlotte's father and sister Maria in March.

Elizabeth soon heard from her friend in Kent. She was happy with the house and neighbourhood, and Lady Catherine's behaviour was most friendly. Jane too, soon wrote to her sister. She had been a week in London, without seeing or hearing from Caroline. She thought perhaps her last letter had got lost. She was going to visit her the next day. In her next letter she wrote that Caroline had been very glad to see her. She had asked after her brother. He was well, but always with Mr Darcy. They never saw him. Miss Darcy was expected to dinner.

Elizabeth did not believe that Mr Bingley's sisters would ever tell him that Jane was in London. Four weeks passed and Jane saw nothing of him. After Jane had waited at home every morning for two weeks, Miss Bingley did at last appear, but her visit was so short and her manner so changed that Jane at last understood.

'Caroline did not return my visit till yesterday,' she wrote. 'When she came it was clear that she had no pleasure in it. She said not a word of wishing to see me again and had changed so much that when she went away I decided not to see her again. I am sorry for her, because she must feel that she has been doing wrong, and I am sure that anxiety for her brother is the cause.'

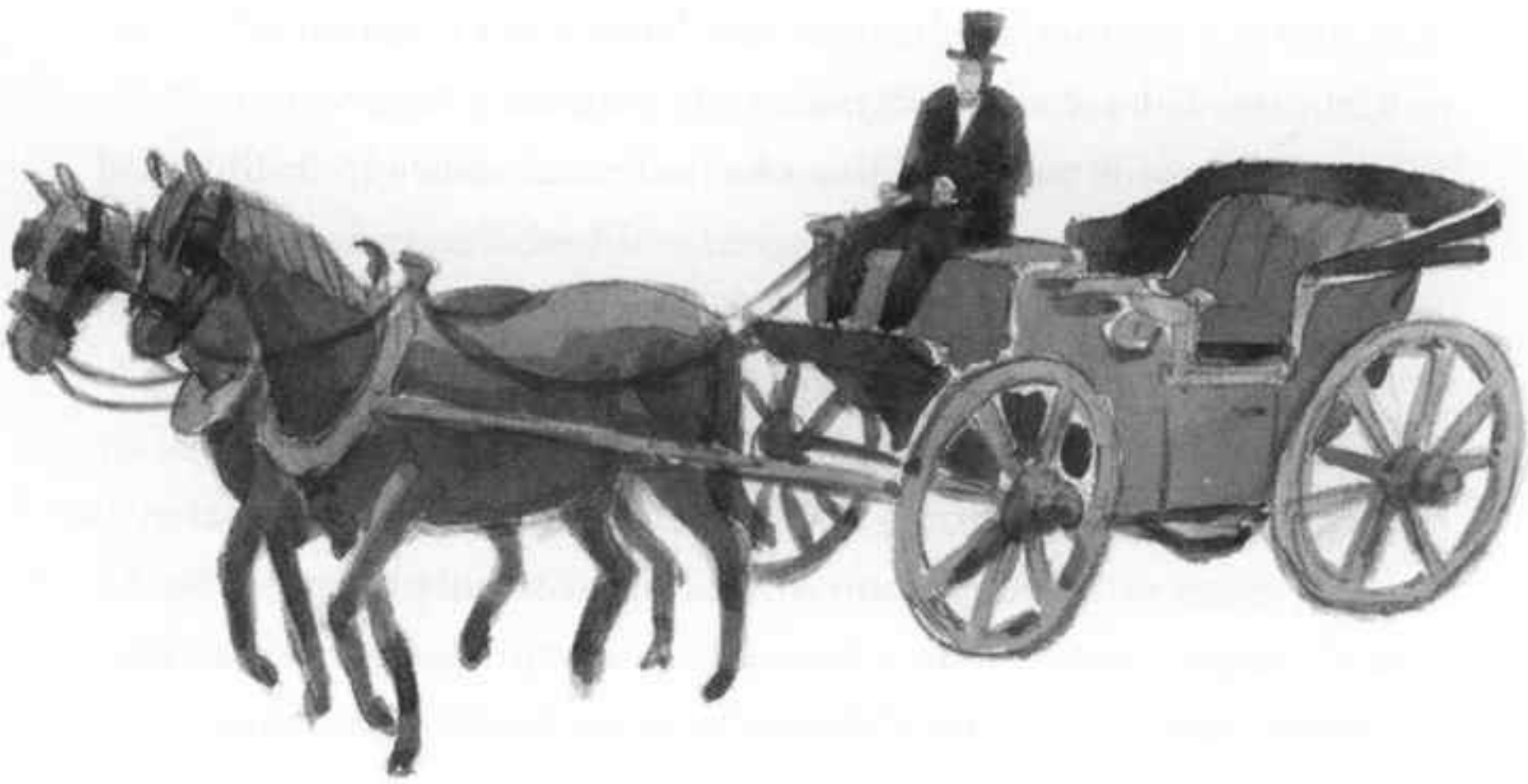
Elizabeth was unhappy to read this, but thought it good that at least her sister now understood Miss Bingley's real character. She wished Bingley would marry Miss Darcy. From what Mr Wickham said about that lady, he would soon be sorry he had lost Jane.

Mrs Gardiner wrote to ask about her promise about Mr Wickham. Her answer gave more pleasure to her aunt than herself.

Mr Wickham was now the admirer of another lady. Elizabeth could see it and write of it without much unhappiness. She had not been *really in love. Her vanity was satisfied with believing that if she* had had a fortune, she would have been his choice.

March neared and with it Elizabeth's visit to Charlotte. The change was not unwelcome. Elizabeth, Sir William and Maria Lucas stopped in London one night with the Gardiners where Elizabeth could see Jane. When they arrived, Elizabeth was pleased to see Jane looking well, though her aunt told her that she was not always happy. Before they left, Mrs Gardiner invited Elizabeth, to her great pleasure, on a journey that summer with herself and her uncle to the Lakes. [1]

Everything was new and interesting on the next day's journey. Mr Collins and Charlotte welcomed them with pleasure. After they



1. **Lakes**：位于英国坎布里亚郡的湖区。

had seen the house, Mr Collins invited them to walk in the garden where he showed them all the views. But the most beautiful view of all from his garden, no, from England, was the view of Rosings.

At dinner Mr Collins said, 'Miss Elizabeth, you will have the honour of seeing Lady Catherine in church on Sunday. You will be most pleased with her. She is all kindness. I am sure she will not forget you in her invitations to us. We dine at Rosings twice a week.'

The next day Elizabeth was in her room when she heard someone running and calling her loudly. She opened the door and met Maria who cried out,

'Oh my dear Eliza! Please hurry and come down this moment. There is such a sight to be seen!'

When she came down all Elizabeth could see was two ladies in a carriage. 'And this is all?' she asked. 'I don't know what I expected, and here is nothing but Lady Catherine and her daughter.'

'But my dear.' Maria was shocked. 'Only look at Miss de Bourgh. Who would have thought she could be such a little thing!'

'She is most impolite to keep Charlotte out in this cold. Why does she not come in?'

'Oh! Charlotte says it is the greatest honour when Miss de Bourgh comes in.'

'I like her appearance,' said Elizabeth. 'She looks sickly [1] and nervous. – Yes, she will make Darcy a very good wife.'

Mr Collins had no sooner returned into the house than he began to compliment the two girls on their good fortune. The whole party was asked to dine at Rosings the next day.

1. **sickly** : 病弱的。

'Who could have expected such an attention,' said he, 'so soon after your arrival!'

The whole next day he told them what they could expect at Rosings, so that the sight of such rooms, so many servants, so large a dinner would not be too much for them.

At Rosings they followed the servants to the drawing-room. Her Ladyship got up to receive them. Lady Catherine was a tall, large woman. She was very proud and spoke a great deal. Miss de Bourgh was little and sickly and quiet.

The dinner was handsome and there were all the servants Mr Collins had promised. There was not much conversation. Charlotte listened to Lady Catherine. Maria thought speaking out of the



question and the gentlemen did nothing but eat and admire. Lady Catherine seemed to enjoy this flattery and smiled at them all.

When the ladies returned to the drawing-room there was little to do but to hear Lady Catherine talk, which she did without stopping till coffee came in, giving her opinion on every subject in so decisive a manner it was clear she did not often meet with disagreement. She asked Elizabeth how many sisters she had, how old they were, if they were likely to be married, if they were handsome, what carriage her father kept and what had been her mother's name before marriage. Elizabeth felt all the impoliteness of her questions, but answered them quietly.

When the gentlemen joined them they played cards until Lady Catherine and her daughter decided to stop. Then the carriage was immediately ordered.

The pleasure of dining at Rosings was repeated twice a week. There was little other society, but Elizabeth spent her time agreeably enough in conversation with Charlotte or walking in the garden. The first week soon passed. The next was to bring a visitor to Rosings. Mr Darcy was expected. It would be amusing, Elizabeth thought, to see how hopeless Miss Bingley's plans to marry him were and to observe his behaviour to his cousin. Lady Catherine talked of his coming with the greatest satisfaction and clearly had her own plans for his future.

On the day after Mr Darcy's arrival, Mr Collins hurried to pay his respects at Rosings where he met a Colonel Fitzwilliam, cousin of Mr Darcy's. To everybody's surprise he returned with both men. Colonel Fitzwilliam was about thirty, not handsome, but a gentleman. He started a conversation immediately and talked very

pleasantly, but after paying his compliments to the ladies, his cousin sat without speaking. At last he asked Elizabeth about her family. She answered that they were well, and then said,

'My oldest sister has been in town these three months. Have you never seen her there?' She thought he looked a little embarrassed as he answered that he had never been so fortunate.

After the gentlemen had left, the ladies admired Colonel Fitzwilliam's manners. His presence at Rosings must make it more pleasant to visit there, they felt. It was some days, however, before they received an invitation. While there were visitors in the house, they could not be necessary.



At Rosings, Colonel Fitzwilliam seemed really glad to see them. He talked so agreeably of Kent, of journeys, of new books and music, that Elizabeth had never spent an evening so pleasantly in that room. Their conversation was so lively they attracted the attention of Lady Catherine as well as that of Mr Darcy. He looked at them repeatedly.

After coffee, Colonel Fitzwilliam asked Elizabeth to play. Lady Catherine listened to half a song, and then said to Darcy,

'Miss Bennet would not play badly, if she played more often and could have the advantage of a London teacher. Anne would have played better if she could have learned, but she was such a sickly girl.'

Elizabeth looked at Darcy to see how warmly he looked at hearing his cousin's name, but she could see no love in his expression.

A Visit to Rosings

Elizabeth was home alone the next morning when she heard someone at the door. To her very great surprise Mr Darcy entered alone.

He apologised, saying that he had understood all the ladies to be at home. Then he sat down and was silent. It was necessary to think of something to say.

'How very suddenly you all left Netherfield, Mr Darcy,' Elizabeth observed. 'It must have been a surprise to Mr Bingley to see you all after him so soon. If I remember he went only the day before. He and his sisters were well, I hope, when you left London?'

'Very well. I thank you.'

'I think that Mr Bingley has little idea of returning to Netherfield?'

'I would not be surprised if he gave it up.'

A short conversation on the subject of the country followed and was soon ended by the return of the others.

'What can this mean?' asked Charlotte as soon as he was gone. 'My dear Eliza, he must be in love with you.' But when Elizabeth told of his silence it did not seem even to Charlotte to be probable.

The two cousins visited almost every day, sometimes together, sometimes alone. It was clear that Colonel Fitzwilliam had pleasure in their society. Why Mr Darcy visited was more difficult to understand as he frequently sat there without speaking. When he did speak, it seemed to be from necessity, not pleasure. Mrs Collins would have liked him to be in love with her friend, but though she observed him, she could see little admiration in his look.

More than once Elizabeth met Mr Darcy walking in the gardens. She had told him the first time that this was a favourite walk of hers. How he could be there a second time, she could not

understand, but he was, and a third time too. He never said much, but always thought it necessary to walk back with her.

She was walking one day reading again Jane's last letter and thinking that she did not sound happy, when she looked up to see Colonel Fitzwilliam. She put away the letter and tried to smile.

'Do you leave Kent on Saturday?' Elizabeth asked.

'Yes, if Darcy does not change his plans again. But he does as he pleases.'

'I do not know anybody who seems more to enjoy doing what he likes than Mr Darcy.'

'It is only that he can do so better because he is rich and others are poor,' answered Colonel Fitzwilliam. 'I know. I am a younger son and have no fortune. In matters of importance I suffer from this. Younger sons cannot marry where they like.'

'Unless they like women of fortune, which I think they very often do,' Elizabeth said, asking herself if this was meant for her. To change the subject she asked him about Miss Darcy. 'She is a favourite with some ladies I know, Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley. Do you know them?'

'A little. Their brother is a pleasant, gentleman-like man; he is a great friend of Darcy.'

'Oh yes,' said Elizabeth coldly. 'Mr Darcy is most kind to Mr Bingley and takes great care of him.'

'Yes, I really believe he does. From something that Darcy told me on our journey, I believe Bingley must be very thankful to him. But I may be wrong. Bingley may not be the person meant.'

'What do you mean?'

'Darcy would not wish it to be generally known. If the lady's family were to hear of it, that would be unpleasant.'

'I shall not speak of it.'

'He told me that he had recently saved a friend from making a very unfortunate marriage. He did not name the friend.'

'What were his reasons?'

'I understood that there were some very strong objections against the lady.'

Elizabeth walked on silently. After watching her a little, Fitzwilliam asked what she was thinking.

'That I do not like your cousin's behaviour.'

'You think it was not his business?'

'How could Mr Darcy decide if his friend's affection was mistaken, or in what manner he should be happy? But I expect that there was not much feeling.'

'That is possible, but it is lessening the honour of my cousin's triumph.'

Fitzwilliam was smiling, but this seemed to Elizabeth so true a picture of Darcy that she could not speak and talked on other matters till they got back. There, in her own room, she could think of all that she had heard. She was sure Darcy had spoken of Bingley. She had always believed Miss Bingley to be at fault[1] for Jane's unhappiness. Now it seemed Darcy was the cause of all that Jane had suffered. He had taken every hope of happiness from the most affectionate, generous heart in the world, no one could say for how long. At that Elizabeth cried until she felt quite ill.

1. **at fault**：有过错。

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Where is Jane invited to by the Gardiners?

b. Why does Mrs Gardiner seem worried about Elizabeth?

c. Where does Elizabeth go on a visit?

d. How impressed is Elizabeth by Lady de Bourgh? Does she behave like the other guests at the dinner?

e. What important information does Elizabeth get from Colonel Fitzwilliam?

f. How does she feel about this information?

The third conditional

2 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

a. If Wickham ..... (have) a fortune, it ..... (be not) a problem for Elizabeth to marry him.

b. If Charlotte Bingley ..... (tell) her brother that Jane was in town, he ..... (go) to visit her.

c. Darcy ..... (not be surprised) if Bingley ..... (give) Netherfield up.

d. Fitzwilliam ..... (leave) Kent the following week, if Darcy ..... (not change) his plans.

e. If Jane ..... (know) there were strong objections about her family, she ..... (suffer).

f. If Fitzwilliam ..... (not be) a younger son, he ..... (not lack) money.

Thinking and writing

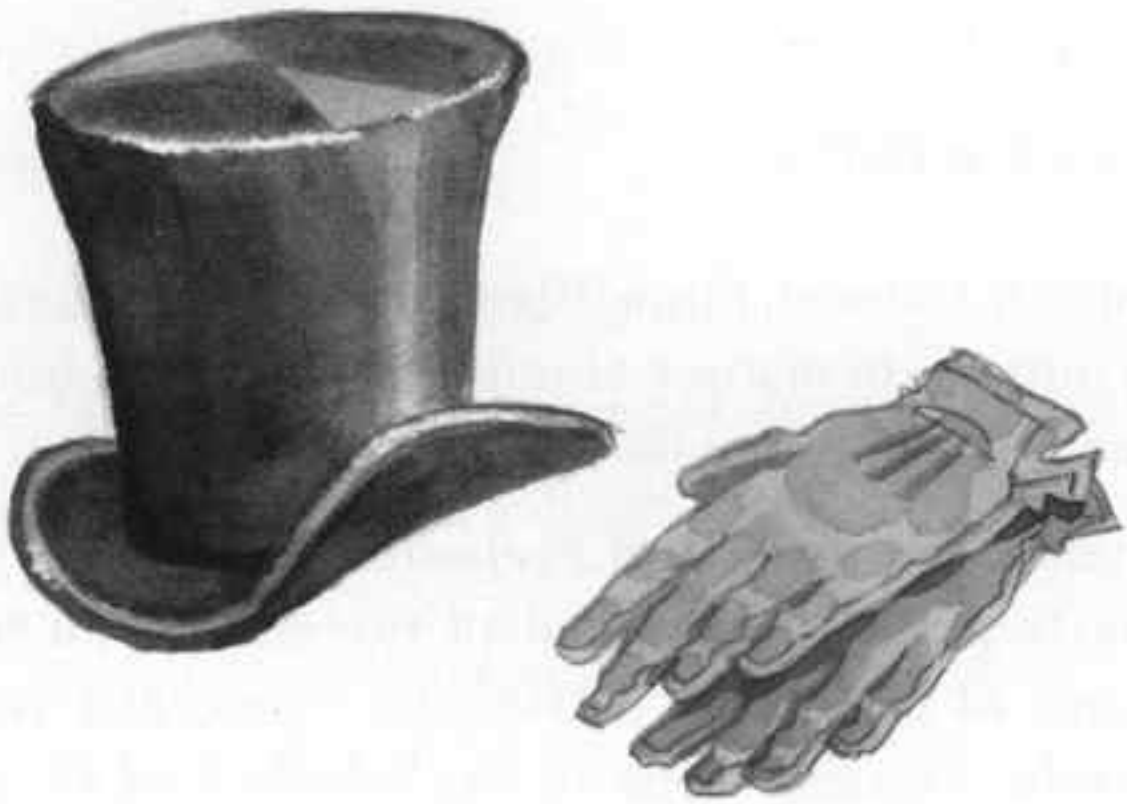
3 **In Chapter 6 Colonel Fitzwilliam says,** 'I am a younger son and I have no fortune. In matters of importance I suffer from this. Younger sons cannot marry where they like.'

At the time when *Pride and Prejudice* was written the fortune of a rich family passed undivided to the eldest son to preserve the consistency of the family patrimony, [1] generally represented by a large estate. Younger sons in the family had to find fortune by themselves, very often in the Army.

Think if this custom is right or wrong. Compare it with what happens nowadays and find the reasons for the change.

- What is Mrs Gardiner's relationship with her nieces based upon? Where can you infer that from?
- Do you see the same intimacy between the girls and their mother?

1. **patrimony**：祖传财产。



CHAPTER SEVEN

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal

That evening Elizabeth decided not to go to Rosings. The agitation [1] and tears had made her feel ill. When the others were gone she sat down to reread Jane's letters. They did not speak of the past or of present sufferings. But all Jane's peace of mind and happiness were gone. That Mr Darcy could be proud of the suffering he had caused made it worse. She was glad to think that his visit was soon to end and that in a few weeks she would be with Jane again.

There was a noise at the door and to her complete surprise Mr Darcy walked into the room. In a hurried manner he asked if she was better. She answered him with cold politeness. After a

1. **agitation** : 焦虑。

silence of several minutes he came up to her and began,

'In vain have I tried, but I cannot. My feelings are too strong. You must permit me to tell you how much I admire and love you.'

Too surprised to speak, Elizabeth looked at him in silence. He continued, telling her all that he felt and had long felt for her. He spoke well, but not only about his feelings of the heart. He spoke as much of his pride, of her inferiority, of the objections to her and her family. To marry her would be a degradation. [1]

Elizabeth disliked Darcy, but she felt the compliment of such a man's affection. At first she was sorry for the unhappiness she must cause him. Darcy finished his proposal by telling her of the strength of his attachment [2] which he was unable to resist, and of



1. **degradation** : 降低身份。
2. **attachment** : 依恋。

his hope that she would accept his proposal. As he said this, she could see that he was sure of a favourable answer. When he was silent, she said,

'It is, I believe, usual to express one's obligation, even where feelings are not returned. If I could feel thankful, I would now thank you. But I cannot. I am sorry to cause suffering to anyone. It has not been done intentionally, however, and I am sure it will not last long.'

Mr Darcy heard her words with anger and surprise. After a long silence he said,

'And this is all the answer I have the honour to expect! I could, perhaps, ask why, with so little politeness, I am refused like this. But it is not important.'

'I could as well ask,' answered she, 'why, with the clear intention of offending me, you chose to tell me that you liked me against your will, against your reason and even against your character. Was not this some excuse for impoliteness, if I *was* impolite? But I have other reasons. You know I have. Had my feelings been indifferent or even favourable, do you think I could ever have accepted the man who has ruined the happiness of a most beloved sister? I have every reason to think ill of[1] you. Nothing can excuse what you did there.'

She stopped, and saw that he was listening with a manner which showed him unmoved, a smile of disbelief on his face.

'Can you say it is not true?' she asked.

'I will not say that I did not do everything I could to separate my friend from your sister, or that I was not pleased at my success.'

'But it is not only this,' she continued. 'Long ago, your

1. **think ill of**: 对…的印象很差。

character was shown in the things I heard from Mr Wickham. On this subject, what can you have to say?'

'You take a great interest in that gentleman,' said Darcy.

'All those who know what his misfortunes have been must feel an interest in him.'

'His misfortunes!' repeated Darcy disgustedly. 'Yes, his misfortunes have been great indeed.'

'And all your fault,' cried Elizabeth. 'You caused him to be poor. You kept from him the advantages meant[1] for him, and yet you can speak of him with ridicule.'

'And this,' cried Darcy, as he walked with quick steps across the room, 'is your opinion of me! I thank you for explaining it so completely. My faults are great indeed! But perhaps,' he said, stopping in his walk and turning towards her, 'you would have considered them less if your pride had not suffered, if I had flattered you more. But I despise hypocrisy.[2] I cannot apologise for my feelings. They were natural. Could you expect me to be happy about the inferiority of your connections?'

Elizabeth could feel her anger growing, but she tried to speak quietly when she said,

'You are mistaken, Mr Darcy, if you think that the manner of your proposal has made me feel anything but glad. Now I shall not feel sorry about refusing you. I would have, if you had behaved in a more gentleman-like manner.'

She saw him look up at this, but he said nothing, and she continued.

'You could not have made me the offer of your hand in any

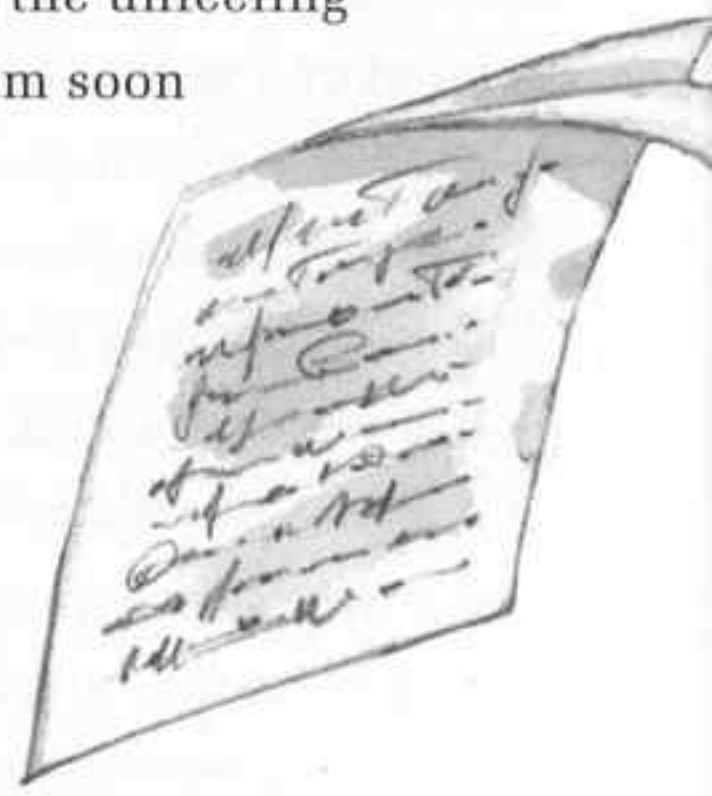
1. **meant**：原来打算。
2. **hypocrisy**：虚伪。

possible way that would have made me want to accept it.'

Again his surprise was clear as he looked at her with an expression of mortification.[1]

'You have said enough, madam. I completely understand your feelings. I apologise for having taken up so much of your time. Please accept my best wishes for your health and happiness.'

With these words he left. Elizabeth did not know what to think. From weakness she sat down and cried for half an hour. Her surprise was greater every time she thought about what had passed. That she had received an offer of marriage from Mr Darcy! That he had been in love with her for so many months, so much in love as to wish to marry her for all the objections against her. She could not believe it. It was gratifying[2] to have caused so strong an affection. But his pride, his despicable[3] pride, his shocking story of what he had done to Jane, the unfeeling manner in which he had mentioned Wickham soon stopped the pity she had felt for a moment.



Elizabeth woke the next morning to the same thoughts and feelings. It was impossible to think of anything else. After breakfast she decided to take a walk.

She was at the end of the garden when Mr Darcy came up and gave her a letter which he asked her to do him the honour of reading.

When he had gone Elizabeth opened it and read,

1. **mortification** : 羞愧。
2. **gratifying** : 令人满意。
3. **despicable** : 卑鄙的。

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal

Do not fear, Madam, a repetition of those sentiments or offers which were last night so disgusting to you. I shall not speak of wishes, which, for the happiness of both of us, cannot be too soon forgotten. It was, however, necessary for me to write this letter and I must ask you to read it.

Last night you told me of two reasons for your dislike of me. The first was, that without thought for the feelings of either, I had separated Mr Bingley from your sister; the other, that I had, against the wishes of my father, ruined the future of Mr Wickham. To have abandoned the friend of my youth, a young man with no fortune who had been taught to expect our help would be scandalous. It cannot be compared to the separation of two young people whose affection was only a few weeks old. I hope that you will understand both situations when I explain. I had not been long at Netherfield, before I saw that Bingley liked your eldest sister. On the evening of the dance I saw that his feelings were serious. I had often seen him in love before. At that ball I first understood that Bingley's attentions to your sister had caused a general expectation of their marriage. I watched your sister. Her look and manners were open, but I did not believe her to be in love. If I was mistaken, your anger is understandable. But there were other reasons against such a marriage. Not only because of your mother's family, but also because of her

behaviour, that of your three younger sisters, and even of your father. I am sorry if I offend you.

My friend left Netherfield the following day with the plan of soon returning. His sisters and I had spoken of the matter; they felt as I did. So we decided to join him in London, where I told my friend of the objections to his choice. But I could not have stopped the marriage if I had not convinced him of your sister's indifference. On this subject I have nothing more to say. If I have made your sister suffer it was not done intentionally.

As for Mr Wickham, it is best if I tell you the whole story. Mr Wickham is the son of a very honourable man, who for many years was the steward of all the Pemberley estates. My father, wanting to help the son, gave him a good education. He hoped George Wickham would go into the Church. I long ago began to see his true character as my father could not. My father died five years ago. He asked me to help Mr Wickham as best I could, and to give him a family living as soon as possible. Half a year later Mr Wickham wrote to inform me that he had decided not to go into the Church, but wanted to study law. He hoped I could help him. The business was soon settled. He gave up the Church and I gave him the money to study. All connection between us seemed now finished. He lived in London for three years, but he did not study. Then he

wrote again telling me he had decided against law and asking for the living my father had promised him. You will understand that I refused. After this the last connections stopped. Until last summer. I must now mention a matter I would like to forget myself, one I have not told any other person as I am sure you will not. My sister, who is ten years younger than me, finished school last year and went to live in London with a lady in whose character we were unhappily mistaken. In the summer they went to Ramsgate, and so did Mr Wickham. With the lady's help he met my sister who had not forgotten his kindness to her as a girl. She believed she was in love with him and agreed to an elopement.[1] *She was only fifteen. I am happy to say that she told me the story herself when I joined them a few days before the event. You can imagine how I felt. Mr Wickham was clearly interested mostly in my sister's fortune, but I think he would have been glad to make me suffer. This, madam, is the true story of the matters we have spoken of. If you do not believe me you can ask Colonel Fitzwilliam who knows everything. I shall try to give you this letter in the morning. I will only say, God bless you.*

Fitzwilliam Darcy.

1. **elopement** : 私奔。

With a strong prejudice against everything he might say, Elizabeth read Mr Darcy's letter. She had to read it many times before she could begin to understand it. That it was true she had to believe, although her feelings were shocked and her pride suffered. She was completely ashamed of herself. Of neither Darcy nor Wickham could she think, without feeling that she had been blind and prejudiced.

'How despicable I have been!' she cried. 'I who was proud of my understanding. How mortifying is this discovery! If I had been in love, I could not have been more blind. But vanity, not love has been my weakness. Pleased with the preference of one, and offended by the opinions of the other, from the beginning I understood nothing. Till this moment, I never knew myself.'

Darcy wrote that he had no suspicion of Jane's feelings. Elizabeth remembered what Charlotte's opinion had always been. Neither could she deny the justice of his description of her sister. It was true. While Jane's feelings were strong, she showed them little.

When she read that part of the letter in which her family was mentioned in such a mortifying manner, her feelings of shame were strong. What he wrote was true. It was hard to think that Jane's present unhappiness was the work of her nearest relations, to feel how both she and Jane must suffer in the eyes of society because of her family's improper behaviour.

Elizabeth returned home to hear that the two gentlemen from Rosings had visited to take their leave. Colonel Fitzwilliam had sat with them an hour hoping for her return. Though she said she was sorry, Elizabeth was not unhappy. Colonel Fitzwilliam was no longer interesting to her. She could think only of her letter.

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Who pays Elizabeth a visit?

b. What is the purpose of his visit?

c. What does he say about Elizabeth's family?

d. What are Elizabeth's reasons for refusing?

e. What is Darcy's reaction?

f. What does Darcy give Elizabeth the following day?

g. What are Darcy's reasons for his behaviour towards Wickham?

h. What are his reasons for separating Jane and Bingley?

i. How does Elizabeth feel after reading the letter?

2 Taking into consideration what has already happened in the story, complete the following sentences using the verbs in the box and the first, second or third conditional. Some verbs can be used more than once.

	see	**be**	**express**	**make**	
seem	**live**	**want**	**help**	**come**	**treat**

a. 'If Georgiana ..... less timid, she ..... so proud,' said Elizabeth.

b. If Darcy ..... his feelings more during his proposal, Elizabeth ..... persuaded of his love.

c. If Jane ..... her love for Charles Bingley more obvious, Darcy ..... able to dissuade Bingley.

d. If Elizabeth ..... Mr Darcy in the future, she ..... embarrassed.

e. If more rich young men ..... near Longbourn, Mrs Bennet ..... happy.

f. If Mr Wickham ..... really ..... to enter the Church, Darcy ..... him.

g. If Mr Wickham ..... tomorrow, Elizabeth ..... him differently.

3 Below is a list of phrasal verbs which all contain the verb 'take'. Match them with their definitions and then use them to fill in the gaps in the sentences.

A.

a. take after
b. take someone in
c. take along
d. take someone down a peg or two
e. take someone's breath away
f. take someone into one's confidence
g. take to someone or something

1. to surprise or amaze someone
2. to have the same characteristics of a family member
3. to deceive someone
4. to start to like someone or something
5. to bring someone or something along with one
6. to put someone in their place
7. to tell someone something that must remain a secret

B.

a. Lydia and Kitty ..... their mother.
b. Darcy's proposal ..... Elizabeth's ..... .
c. Elizabeth had been completely ..... by Wickham.
d. When Darcy told Elizabeth about his sister and Wickham he ..... her ..... .
e. Darcy ..... Elizabeth the second time he saw her.
f. The Lucases ..... Elizabeth ..... with them to visit Charlotte at Rosings.
g. Elizabeth's refusal to Darcy ..... him ..... .

4 Write a short summary of Chapter 7.

Before you read

1 **Listen to the first part of Chapter 8 and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.**

	T	F
a. Elizabeth and Jane returned to Longbourn in March.	☐	☐
b. Her mother was happy to have them both at home.	☐	☐
c. Elizabeth objected to her younger sisters running after the officers in Meryton.	☐	☐
d. Jane was not surprised when Elizabeth told her of Darcy's proposal.	☐	☐
e. Jane was calm and happy because she did not love Bingley any more.	☐	☐
f. Elizabeth met Wickham and told him everything that had happened during her stay in Kent.	☐	☐

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CHAPTER EIGHT

Embarrassment at Pemberley



It was May when Elizabeth and Jane returned to Longbourn. Their reception at home was most kind. Mrs Bennet was happy to see Jane as beautiful as always and more than once during dinner Mr Bennet told Elizabeth that he was glad she was back.

On their first day home Lydia wanted to walk to Meryton, but Elizabeth objected strongly. People should not say that the Miss Bennets could not be home for half a day before they ran after the officers. She did not want to meet Wickham and hoped to avoid him as long as possible.

Only the next morning could Elizabeth speak to Jane about her meeting with Mr Darcy and the letter. She had decided not to mention Mr Bingley. Jane was surprised at Darcy's proposal. She was sorry he had expressed his feelings in a manner so little

pleasing to her sister, but still more for the unhappiness her refusal must have given him. When she heard of George Wickham, however, Jane's feelings were more serious.

'I do not know when I have been more shocked,' she said. 'Wickham so very bad! It is past belief. [1] And poor Mr Darcy! Dear Lizzy, only think what he must have suffered with the knowledge of your ill opinion too and having to tell such a thing of his sister! It is really too bad. Lizzy, when you first read that letter, you must have felt it so.'

'I was very uncomfortable. I may say unhappy. And with no one to speak to, of what I felt, no Jane to make me feel better and say that I had not been so very weak and vain and nonsensical [2] as I knew I had! Oh! how I wanted you!'

The sisters decided against telling people about Wickham. His regiment was soon to move to Brighton for the summer. It did not seem important.

At home, Elizabeth could now observe her sister's real feelings. Jane was not happy. She still felt a very strong affection for Bingley. She had never thought herself in love before so her feelings had all the warmth of first attraction, and were, from her age and character, longer lasting.

The second week after their return began. It was the last week of the regiment's stay in Meryton, and all the young ladies in the neighbourhood were in despair. Only Jane and Elizabeth were still able to eat, drink and sleep. Kitty and Lydia could not understand them.

1. **past belief** : 难以置信。
2. **nonsensical** : 荒谬。

'What, oh what shall we do!' they often cried desperately. 'How can you smile so, Lizzy?'

Their affectionate mother joined them in their feelings. She remembered what she herself had suffered at such a time, twenty-five years ago.

'I am sure,' said she, 'I cried for two whole days when Colonel Millar's regiment went away. I thought I would die.'

'I am sure I shall die,' said Lydia.

'If only we could go to Brighton!' observed Mrs Bennet.

'Oh yes! If only we could go, but papa is so disagreeable.'

Lydia's happiness soon returned, for she received an invitation to Brighton from her friend Mrs Forster. This was a very young woman, just married to the Colonel of the regiment. But where Lydia was happy, Kitty was mortified. In vain did Elizabeth and Jane speak to her. She refused to be comforted.

Before the regiment departed Elizabeth saw Mr Wickham for the last time. He was invited to Longbourn with some other officers. On her return from Kent, she had learned that the rich young lady who had taken her place in his affections had moved. Over dinner Mr Wickham spoke to her with a gallantry which caused her much displeasure. When he asked about her stay in Kent, she told him she had seen Mr Darcy and that she found him more agreeable now that she knew him better. Wickham looked anxious and said,

'I am happy that he is wise enough to try and appear a good man. But I imagine that he was only cautious to seem so at the house of his aunt because of his wish of marrying Miss de Bourgh.' Elizabeth had to smile, but did not answer.

Embarrassment at Pemberley

A month before her planned journey to the Lakes, Elizabeth received a letter from her aunt, informing her that instead of the Lakes they had decided to go to Derbyshire, to the little town of Lambton, where Mrs Gardiner had friends. Lambton was, Mrs Gardiner wrote, five miles from Pemberley, the estate of Mr Darcy and old home of George Wickham. Elizabeth's feelings were mixed, but she consoled herself that there was small probability of meeting Darcy.

Four weeks passed, and Mr and Mrs Gardiner appeared at Longbourn. They stayed the night, and left the next morning with Elizabeth. The evening before their arrival in Lambton, while talking over their travel plans, they saw that Pemberley was not more than two miles out of their way. Mrs Gardiner expressed a wish to see the place and asked Elizabeth if she wouldn't like to see a place to which so many of her friends were connected.

Elizabeth knew not what to say. She felt that she had no business at Pemberley. She was tired of great houses, she told her aunt, but Mrs Gardiner was determined.

'It is not only a great house,' said she, 'but the gardens are some of the finest in England.'

Elizabeth said no more, but she was uneasy. The possibility of meeting Darcy while visiting the place immediately came to mind. That night she asked the servant about Pemberley and if the family was there. The answer was no.

Pemberley, a large, handsome house, delighted Elizabeth when she saw it. She had never seen a place of such natural beauty, and felt that to be mistress of Pemberley might be something. The housekeeper, a respectable-looking, older woman, showed them the house. The rooms were both simple and elegant.

'And of this place,' she thought, 'I might have been mistress![1] I might have enjoyed it as my own and welcomed as visitors my uncle and aunt. But no, that could never be. They would have been lost to me. He would not have permitted me to invite them.' This fortunate thought saved her from feeling almost sorry.

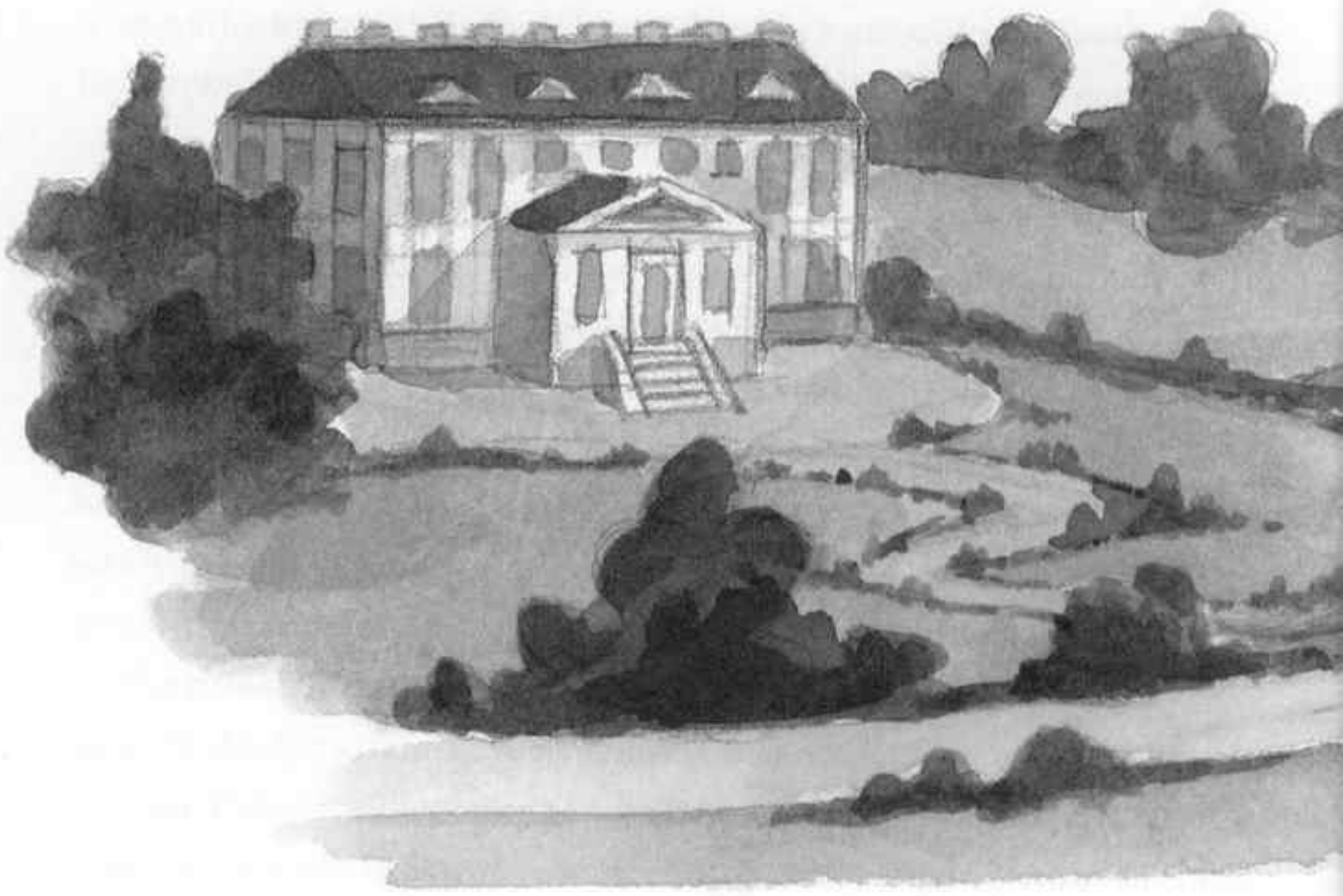
When her aunt called her to look at a picture, the housekeeper came forward and said,

'That is my master, and very like him.'

'I have heard of your master,' said Mrs Gardiner. 'Lizzy, you can tell us if it is like or not.'

The housekeeper asked if she knew Mr Darcy.

'A little,' said Elizabeth.



1. **mistress** : 女主人。

Embarrassment at Pemberley

'Do you not think him a very handsome gentleman, Ma'am?'

'Yes, very handsome.'

The housekeeper, either from pride or affection, clearly had great pleasure in talking about him. Mr Gardiner asked her about him. Elizabeth listened with surprise as she said, 'I never had an unkind word from him in my life and I have known him since he was four years old. There is not one of his servants who does not speak well of him. Some people call him proud, but I am sure I never saw that.'

As they walked through the rooms Elizabeth was stopped by



the sight of a large portrait. It was of Mr Darcy, with such a smile on his face as she remembered to have seen sometimes when he looked at her. There was at this moment in Elizabeth's mind, a warmer feeling towards the man than she had ever felt before. The picture of his character given by his housekeeper was a compliment indeed.

When they had seen what was open of the house, they took their leave. As they walked through the garden, Elizabeth turned back to look again when suddenly she saw Darcy himself. They were so near that it was impossible to avoid his sight. Their eyes met, and they both blushed deeply. He looked and for a moment could not move for surprise, but then came up and spoke to Elizabeth politely, explaining that he had come a day early.

She had turned away, but stopping, received his compliments with mortification. The thought of the impropriety [1] of her being there made those moments some of the most uncomfortable of her life. He too was not at ease. After standing a few moments without saying a word, he suddenly took his leave.

The others then joined her and expressed their admiration, but Elizabeth heard not a word. She was so ashamed. Her coming there was the most unfortunate thing in the world! Oh! Why did he come a day before he was expected? And his behaviour, so changed, what could it mean? She was surprised that he should even speak to her, but to speak so politely, to ask after her family! Never in her life had she seen his manners so little formal, never had he spoken so kindly as on this unexpected meeting.

They were walking on when Mr Darcy came up again and

1. **impropriety**：不恰当的举止。



asked if Elizabeth would do him the honour of introducing him to her friends. She almost smiled when she remembered what he had once said of her connections. 'What will be his surprise,' thought she, 'when he knows who they are! He now thinks they are people of fashion.'

The introduction was made. Mr Darcy turned back with them and started a conversation with Mr Gardiner. Elizabeth was very pleased that he should know she had some relatives to be proud of. She listened and triumphed [1] at every word of her uncle's that showed his intelligence or his good manners.

They began to speak of fishing, and she heard Mr Darcy invite him to fish there as often as he liked while in the neighbourhood. Mrs Gardiner gave Elizabeth a look of surprise. Elizabeth said nothing, but was very gratified. The compliment must be for herself, but she kept thinking, 'Why is he so changed? It cannot be for me that his manners are so softened. It is impossible that he should still love me.'

After some time Mrs Gardiner, tired from the walk, asked for her husband's arm, and Mr Darcy took her place by her niece. Elizabeth spoke first. She wanted him to know that she had been assured he was away from home before she came to the place. He had come early on business he explained. The party who travelled with him was joining him the next day.

'There are some of them who you know, Mr Bingley and his sisters.' Elizabeth did not answer. 'There is one other person in the party who wished to be known to you. Will you permit me, or do I ask too much, to introduce my sister to you during your stay at Lambton?'

1. **triumphed**：（因成功）感到得意。

They walked on in silence. Elizabeth was not comfortable, but she was flattered and pleased. His wish of introducing his sister to her was a compliment of the highest kind. At the house Mr Darcy invited them to tea, but they refused and took their leave.

The observations of her aunt and uncle now began. Both thought him much better than anything they had expected.

'There is something a little formal in him, but only in his manner,' said her aunt.

'I was never more surprised than by his behaviour to us. It was more than polite. It was really attentive, and there was no necessity. He does not know Elizabeth so well,' her uncle added.

'Indeed Lizzy,' said her aunt, 'he is not as handsome as Wickham, but how could you tell us that he was disagreeable? It is hard to believe he can have behaved so badly to poor Wickham.'

Elizabeth explained that his character was not so bad nor Wickham's as good as they had thought. The Gardiners were shocked, but as they were now nearing Lambton, there was no time to say more.

On the morning after their arrival at Lambton, they heard the sound of a carriage. It was Darcy. When Elizabeth told her uncle and aunt they were most surprised, and the embarrassment of her manner as she spoke opened to them a new idea on the business.

Miss Darcy and her brother appeared and the introduction took place. Elizabeth saw that the young lady was as much embarrassed as she. She had heard that Miss Darcy was proud, but the observation of a few minutes showed her that she was only timid.

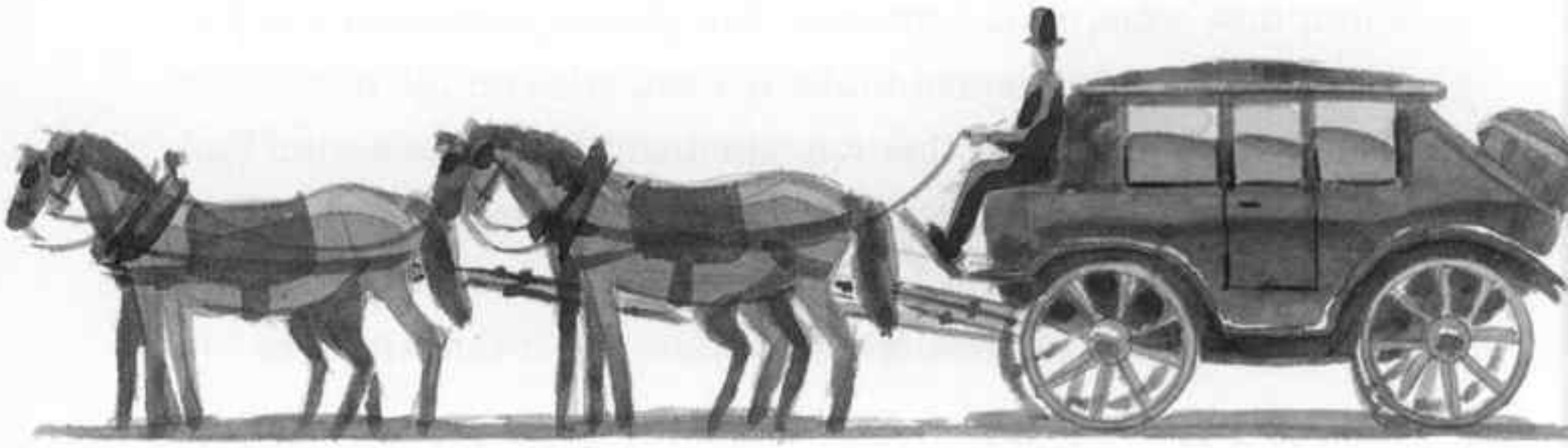
They had not been long together before Darcy told her that

Bingley also was coming. A moment later he entered the room and greeted her warmly. He asked in a friendly, though general way after her family.

To Mr and Mrs Gardiner, Bingley was a most interesting person. They observed the whole party with attention. Their suspicions of Mr Darcy and their niece made them watch each closely and they soon saw that one of them, at least, knew what it was to love. The lady's feelings they did not quite understand, but the gentleman was clearly full of admiration.

In seeing Bingley, Elizabeth immediately thought of Jane. She watched his behaviour to Miss Darcy, but saw nothing that spoke of affection in his manner to her. At one point he observed to Elizabeth that it was a very long time since he had had the pleasure of seeing her, and then asked if *all* her sisters were at Longbourn, with a look and a manner that gave the words meaning.

When their visitors got up to depart, Mr Darcy asked his sister to join him in inviting the Gardiners and Miss Bennet to dinner at Pemberley. They accepted and a day was decided.



A C T I V I T I E S

1 **Answer the following questions.**

a. Why do the Gardiners decide to go and stay in Lambton?
b. What is Pemberley and why do they go to visit it?
c. Why is Elizabeth surprised at what the housekeeper says?
d. Who does Elizabeth happen to meet there?
e. How do they both feel at meeting each other?
f. How does he behave towards Elizabeth and her relatives?
g. Who does he want to introduce Elizabeth to?
h. What does Elizabeth realise about Miss Darcy?

Inversion after negative and restrictive expressions

2 **Look at the following sentences.**

Elizabeth knew the truth about Wickham only then.
Only then did Elizabeth learn the truth about Wickham.

If a negative adverb or adverbial expression is put at the beginning of a clause for emphasis, it is usually followed by *auxiliary verb + subject*. These structures are mainly found in formal use.

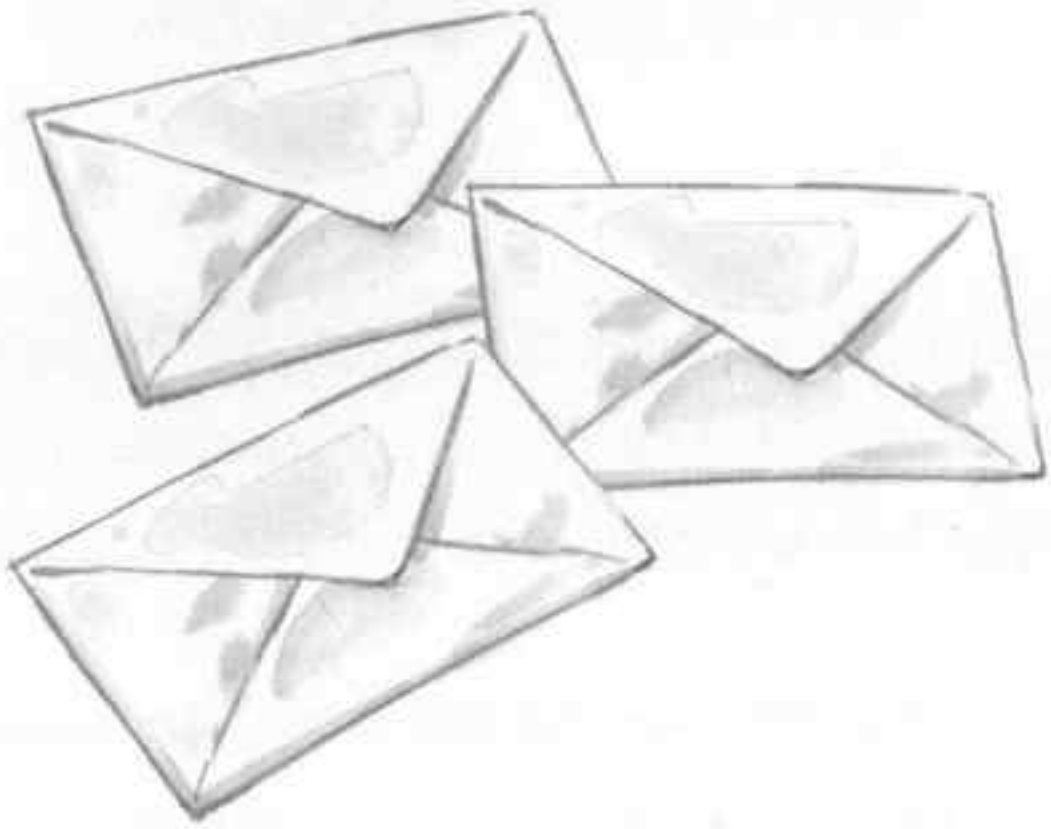
Turn the following sentences from non-inverted to the inverted form.

a. People should never say that the Miss Bennets ran after the officers.
b. Elizabeth and Jane spoke to Kitty in vain.
c. A month had scarcely passed when Elizabeth received a letter from her aunt.
d. She had never in her life seen his manners so little formal.
e. Darcy said nothing but compliments.
f. Darcy would have permitted her under no circumstances to invite her relatives if he had married her.

Thinking and writing

3 **In your opinion how much has Darcy changed?**
Do you think he is still in love with Elizabeth?
Does Elizabeth regret having refused his proposal?
Have you ever regretted something you did or didn't do?





CHAPTER NINE

Bad News!

Elizabeth had been sorry not to find a letter from Jane on their arrival at Lambton. On the third day two letters arrived together. They had just been going to go for a walk, so her aunt and uncle left her and went ahead by themselves.

Elizabeth opened the first letter. It was five days old.

Dearest Lizzy, something most serious has happened. It is about poor Lydia. An express letter came at twelve last night from Colonel Forster to inform us that she had gone off to Scotland with one of his officers, to tell the truth with Wickham! Imagine our surprise. Only Kitty knew something of this. I am very, very sorry. Such an unfortunate marriage

for both! At least he has not chosen her for her fortune. He must know my father can give her nothing. Our poor mother is most unhappy. I must finish as I cannot leave her long.

Elizabeth immediately opened the other letter and read,

By this time you will have received my hurried letter. Dearest Lizzy, I have bad news for you. Unfortunate as a marriage between Mr Wickham and our poor Lydia would be, we are now anxious to hear it has happened. It seems that they were not going to Scotland. Colonel Forster came yesterday. Though Lydia's letter to Mrs Forster made them think they were going to Gretna Green,[1] *Denny told a friend that W. never planned to go there or to marry Lydia at all. As soon as Colonel Forster heard of this he left to go after them, but could follow them only to Clapham, where they changed carriage. All that is known after this is that they were seen to continue towards London.*

My father and mother believe the worst, but I cannot think so ill of him. My poor mother is really ill and remains in her room. As for my father, I never saw him so. He is going to London with Colonel Forster to try to find her. What he

1. **Gretna Green**：苏格兰一地名。在此处很容易获取结婚证书，所以那些想秘密结婚的人常来这里。

means to do, I do not know. At such a moment my uncle's advice and help would be everything in the world. I must ask you, dearest Lizzy, to come here as soon as possible.

'Oh! Where, where is my uncle?' cried Elizabeth. At that moment the door was opened by a servant and Mr Darcy appeared. Her face and manner shocked him. Before he could speak, she cried,

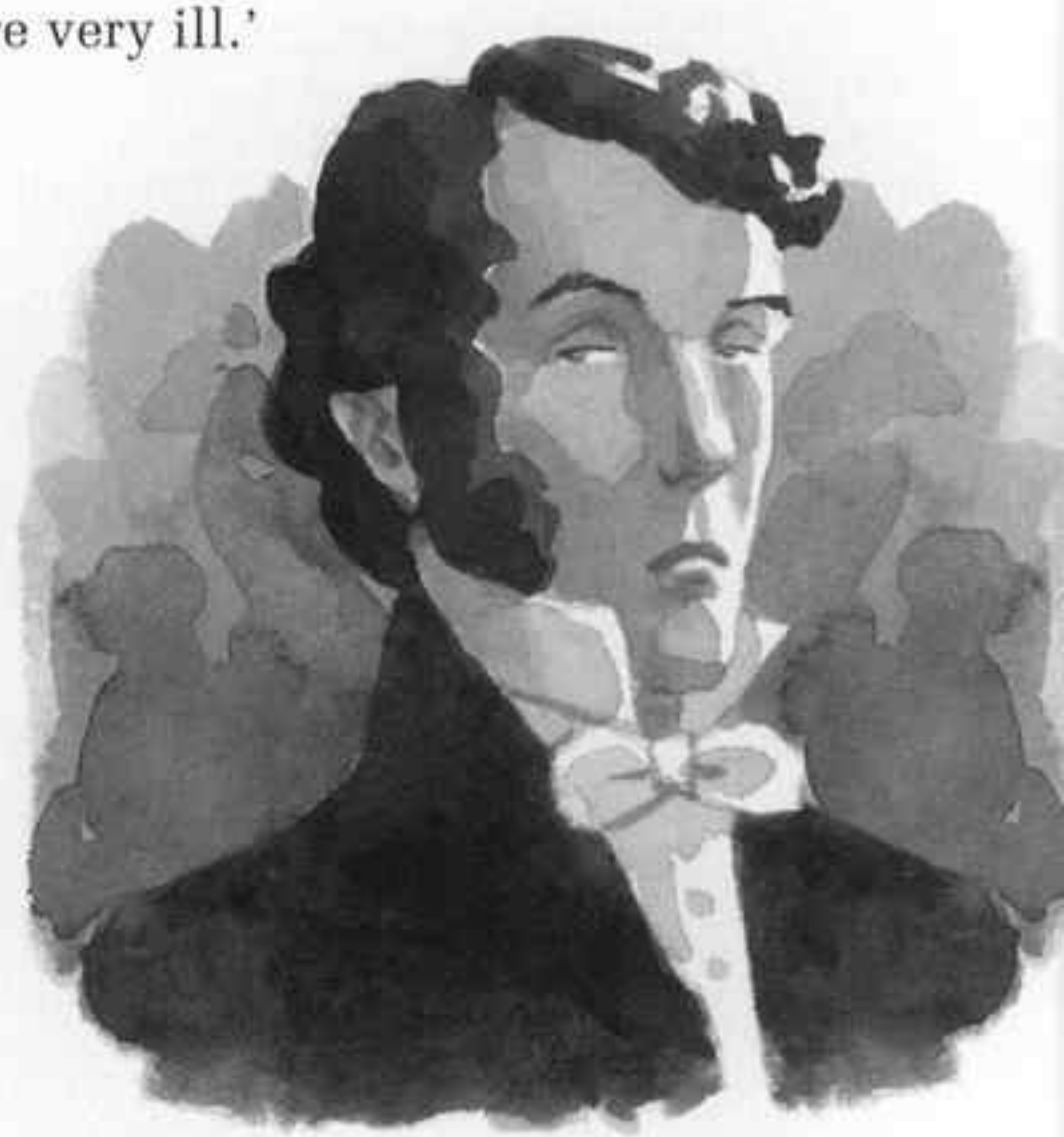
'I am sorry, but I must leave you. I must find Mr Gardiner this minute on business that cannot wait.'



'Good God, what is the matter?' cried he with more feeling than politeness. 'I will not stop you, but let me go, or the servant. You are not well enough.'

Knowing she could do nothing, she called the servant and asked him to find her aunt and uncle. When he left the room she sat down and looked so ill that it was impossible for Darcy to leave her.

'Is there nothing you could take?' he asked in the kindest manner. 'You are very ill.'



'No, I thank you,' she answered. 'I am quite well. I have only had some bad news.' She began to cry and for a few minutes could not say another word. When she could, she told Darcy the story.

'When I think,' she said, 'that it might not have happened if I had told my family about him! But it is all, all too late now.'

'I am shocked and sorry indeed!' cried Darcy. He walked up and down the room, deep in thought, his manner severe. Elizabeth understood. He could no longer feel for her[1] after such an example of the complete impropriety of her family. Never had she felt so sure that she could have loved him as

1. **feel for her** : 爱她。

now, when all love must be in vain.

At length Darcy turned to her and said,

'You must be wishing me to leave. I fear my sister will not now have the pleasure of seeing you at Pemberley.'

'Be so kind as to apologise for us to Miss Darcy. Say that important business calls us home immediately.'

Darcy left his compliments for her relatives and, with only one serious look, left the room. She was sorry to see him go and, with despair, saw it as an example of the shame Lydia's behaviour must give all her family.

Mr and Mrs Gardiner soon came back, and as soon as Elizabeth had told her story and read them Jane's letters, got ready to leave for Longbourn.

On their arrival Jane came running to meet them and tell them there was no further news.

'Now that my dear uncle has come,' she said, 'I hope everything will be well.'

'Is my mother well?'

'She is not too ill, and will be very satisfied to see you all.'

'But how are you?' cried Elizabeth. 'You look pale. Oh! that I had been with you. You have had every care[1] and anxiety alone.'

The whole party were in hopes of a letter from Mr Bennet the next morning, but nothing came. Mr Gardiner had only waited for that before he left, promising to send Mr Bennet back to Longbourn.

When Mrs Bennet heard this she cried,

'What! Is he coming home without poor Lydia! Surely he will not leave London before he has found them. Who is to make

1. **care**：烦恼。

Wickham marry her, if he comes away?'

When Mr Bennet arrived he looked as always. It was not till the afternoon that Elizabeth introduced the subject, saying how sorry she was for his suffering.

'Say nothing of that,' he answered. 'Who should suffer but me? It has been my own fault and I should feel it.'

'You must not be too severe on yourself,' said Elizabeth.

'No Lizzy. Let me for once in my life feel how much I have been in the wrong.'

Two days later a letter came by express from Mr Gardiner, reading

My dear brother,

At last I am able to send you news of my niece, and such as I hope will give you satisfaction. I was fortunate enough to find out in what part of London they were. I have seen them both. They are not married, nor can I find they planned to be, but if you will do what I have promised, I hope it will not be long before they are. All that you have to do is to assure your daughter the thousand pounds she would get when you and my sister die, and to give her, while you live, one hundred pounds a year. I am sure you will agree to do this. Answer me as soon as you can. Do not return to London. I will do everything necessary. We thought it best that Lydia be married from this house. I hope you agree. Yours,

Edw. Gardiner

'Is it possible!' cried Elizabeth, 'Can it be possible that he will marry her?'

'Wickham is not as bad then as we have thought him,' said her sister. 'My dear father, I congratulate you.'

'There are two things that I want very much to know. One is, how much money your uncle has given Wickham, and the other, how can I ever give it back.'

'Money, my uncle!' cried Jane. 'What do you mean, Sir?'

'That no man would marry Lydia for only one hundred a year.'

'That is true,' said Elizabeth. 'It must be my uncle's doing. Generous, good man.'

The sisters quickly went to give their mother the good news and read her Mr Gardiner's letter. As soon as she had understood, her happiness was as violent as her despair before.

'My dear, dear Lydia!' she cried. 'This is delightful indeed. She will be married! I shall see her again! She will be married at sixteen! Oh how I want to see her and dear Wickham! How happy will we be together.'

That day she came down for the first time to dinner. No sense of shame lessened her triumph. She talked of fashions and carriages and servants and was busy thinking of a house good enough for the Wickhams. The marriage of a daughter had been her greatest wish since Jane was sixteen. Her husband let her talk on while the servants remained, but then said to her,

'Mrs Bennet, let us understand each other. In one house in this neighbourhood, they shall not come. I will not receive them at Longbourn.'

Elizabeth was sorry that she had told Mr Darcy of their fears now that her sister would be married. This was not from any

hopes for her own happiness. Even had Lydia's marriage been proper and honourable, Mr Darcy would not connect himself with a family related to Mr Wickham, a man he despised. Elizabeth wanted to hear from Darcy now that it seemed impossible. She was sure that she could have been happy with him when it was no longer probable that they should meet.

What a triumph for him, she thought, if he knew that the proposal she had proudly rejected only four months ago, would now have been gladly received.

Mr Gardiner soon wrote again to inform them that Wickham had decided to leave his regiment and join another in the north of England. Before they left, he continued, Lydia wanted to see her family.

Jane and Elizabeth agreed in wishing their parents to receive Lydia as soon as she was married. At last Mr Bennet agreed, and Mrs Bennet was satisfied that she could show her married daughter in the neighbourhood.

They came. The family were all together in the breakfast-room to receive them, Mrs Bennet all smiles, her husband severe, her daughters uneasy. Lydia's voice was heard, the door opened and she ran into the room. Her mother welcomed her with delight, gave her hand to Wickham and wished them happiness. Lydia turned from sister to sister, asking for their congratulations. Elizabeth was disgusted and even Jane was shocked. Lydia was Lydia still.

At dinner she walked up to sit by her mother, saying,

'Oh! Jane, I shall sit here now and you must go lower, because I am a married woman.' She could not wait to see Mrs Philips, the Lucases and all their other neighbours, and to hear herself called

Mrs Wickham. After dinner she said to her mother,

'Well, mama, and what do you think of my husband? Is he not a charming man? I hope my sisters will be as lucky. They must go to Brighton. That is the place to get husbands.' She invited them all to visit her that winter.

'I am sure there will be balls,' she said. 'I shall get husbands for them before the winter is over.'

'I thank you,' said Elizabeth, 'but I do not like your way of getting husbands.'

One morning Lydia said to Elizabeth,



'Lizzy, I never told *you* of my wedding. You were not there when I told mama. Do you not want to hear?'

'No really,' answered Elizabeth. 'I do not think there can be too little said on the subject.'

That did not stop Lydia who started once more to tell the story of her wedding day, and how it had almost not happened. Her uncle was to give her away, [1] but had to see a man about business shortly before, and was almost late.

'Luckily he came back in time. I remembered later that if he had not come, the wedding could have taken place the same, for Mr Darcy would have been as good.'

'Mr Darcy!' repeated Elizabeth.

'Oh yes! He came there with Wickham, you know. But oh dear! I quite forgot I should not have said. I promised I would not. What will Wickham say?'

'If you promised, I will ask you no questions.'

'Thank you,' said Lydia, 'because if you did I would tell you all, and then Wickham would be angry.'

Elizabeth had to leave to think it over. Mr Darcy had been at her sister's wedding. What could it mean? She could find no explanation. Quickly taking some paper, she wrote a short letter to her aunt, asking for an explanation if it was possible. If not, she decided, she must find some other way of finding out the truth.

1. **give her away**：（在婚礼上）把她（新娘）正式交给新郎。

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. What important news is Elizabeth told in the letters she receives from Jane?

b. Who does Elizabeth speak to about the news? What is his reaction?

c. What do Elizabeth and the Gardiners do?

d. How does Mr Bennet feel? Who does he confess his feelings to and find consolation in?

e. Has Mrs Bennet grown more sensible and responsible after the latest events?

f. Have Lydia and Wickham changed at all?

g. Do all the Bennets welcome Lydia back home in the same way?

2 Look at the following sentences.

I wish Mr Darcy didn't know about Lydia and Wickham.

We use *wish + the past* to talk about something in the present or future that we regret or are sorry about.

The Bennets would rather Lydia didn't marry Wickham.

***would rather = would prefer* and is followed by the past simple even though we are talking about a present or future situation.**

Complete the following sentences.

a. 'Mr Collins isn't very intelligent,' thought Charlotte.
I wish .....

b. Mr Darcy knows all about Lydia's elopement with Wickham.
Elizabeth wishes .....

c. Lydia wants to tell Elizabeth all about her marriage.
Elizabeth would rather .....

d. Mr Gardiner doesn't want Mr Bennet to stay in London.
He'd rather .....

e. Mr Darcy is in love with Elizabeth.
He wishes .....

Thinking and writing

3 What do you think Lydia and Wickham's life will be like in the future? Do you think they will be really happy or not?

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE REGENCY PERIOD

The position of women in the Regency period was very different from that of today. While women of the lower classes worked either in the fields, at home, or were starting to work in the factories, middle or upper-class women were not supposed to work. It was a point of social pride that 'young ladies' should be taught by a governess, do a little drawing and as little domestic [1] work as possible. As we can see in Jane Austen's novels the ladies representing the lower gentry and the upper bourgeoisie spend their time in reading poetry, gossiping, [2] paying visits to each other, writing letters, doing a little painting, or playing the piano and singing at the most. They were not encouraged to do any sport but only a little walking and dancing. In extreme cases they could become governesses or companions as we can see in *Emma*, but this was very often an unrewarding [3]



Two Young Ladies in Calico taking an airing in a Phaeton by Humphry Repton.

1. **domestic** : 家庭的。
2. **gossiping** : 说长道短。
3. **unrewarding** : 不值得的。

experience since they occupied a middle ground between the family and the servants and were badly treated by both.

The only way a woman could get her place in society was to marry and have her own household to manage. This explains why, although Mrs Bennet is often absurd and vulgar, it is clear that with five daughters who would be left without a home and with very little money after their father's death, this was indeed a serious business. Jane Austen and her sister Cassandra never got married, although it has been said that they were attractive women who both fell in love. The Austen women were fortunate in having a home, enough money to keep up a pleasant life style and a liberal family to support them. For less fortunate women, a 'good' marriage was the only honourable way of life.

In *Pride and Prejudice* Elizabeth disapproves of her friend Charlotte's marriage to Mr Collins, because it is not a marriage of love and respect.



Watercolour by Cassandra Austen of Fanny Knight, Jane Austen's niece.

Charlotte, however, feels that 'marriage... was the only honourable provision for well educated young women of small fortune, and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservation [1] from want.' [2] Her attitude is supported by that of many other characters in the novel.

In Jane Austen's day, people usually married someone more or less from their own social class. To marry into a different class and educational background could create problems, such as, for example, those between Mr and Mrs Bennet. Mr Bennet was a gentleman who married an uneducated woman from a lower social background who could never be a suitable companion for him. As a result he withdrew [3] from his family, leaving the education of his daughters to his wife. This explains the superficial and silly behaviour of Kitty and Lydia. Only Elizabeth and Jane's great moral propriety [4] enables them to marry the men they love despite the disadvantages of their connections.

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Was the position of women in the Regency period the same as that of today? Why/why not?

b. In what way could women keep or improve their position in society?

c. Who did people generally get married to?

d. Do people who marry today still pay the same attention to their partner's social class? What else do they consider?

1. **preservation** : 庇护。
2. **want** : 贫困。
3. **withdrew** : (此处指) 他变得对家庭不关心。
4. **propriety** : 恰当得体。



CHAPTER TEN

Elizabeth Learns the Truth

Elizabeth had the satisfaction of an answer soon. It read,

My dear niece,

I have just received your letter and must say that I was surprised at it. I did not think it necessary for you to ask for information. Your uncle also believed that you knew what was happening at the time. But let me explain. On the day I came home from Longbourn your uncle had an unexpected visit from Mr Darcy. He came to say that he had found your sister and Mr Wickham and had talked to them. The reason he gave was that it was his fault alone that Wickham's true character had been unknown. If he had been more open in the past, no young woman could have fallen in love with Wickham. Mr Darcy generously felt his mistaken pride was the

cause of all our unhappiness, and so he had to help us now. If he had another motive, I am sure it was a good one. When Mr Darcy spoke to Lydia, he offered to help her leave Wickham and come home, but she would not do so. She wanted no help, and would not hear of leaving Wickham. She was sure they would get married some day. Then he spoke to Wickham, and found he had no intention of marrying Lydia. Wickham told him he had to leave his regiment because of problems with money. Mr Darcy asked him why he had not married your sister. Mr Bennet was not very rich, but he and your uncle would have helped Wickham as much as they could. But Wickham, it seemed, still hoped to marry some young lady with a great fortune, perhaps in another part of England. Mr Darcy saw how desperate Wickham's situation was and understood that he would marry Lydia, if offered enough money. When Mr Darcy came to us, your uncle wanted to give him back the money he had paid Wickham, but he refused. They talked for a long time, but your uncle could do nothing. But, Lizzy, nobody must know of this. Only you, or perhaps Jane. That is all. I hope the story will cause you no displeasure. We saw Mr Darcy at the wedding and the next day he dined with us. Will you be angry with me, my dear Lizzy, if I now say how much I like him. His behaviour to us has been as pleasing as when we were in Derbyshire. His understanding and opinions all please me. He needs nothing but a little more liveliness and that his wife may teach him. But I must write no more. Yours,

M. Gardiner

Elizabeth did not know if she felt more pain or pleasure. Mr Darcy had done all this. He had had to meet the man he most wished to avoid, to talk to him and give him money. He had done this for her sister. Her heart said he had done it for her. But this hope lasted only a moment. He could not have, for a woman who had already refused him once, had become a relative of Wickham's! Oh, how she suffered to remember all the impudent [1] things she had said in the past. She was mortified, but she was proud of him.

The day of Wickham and Lydia's journey North came. Mrs Bennet was quite unhappy for several days until she heard that the housekeeper at Netherfield had received word her master was coming in a day or two.

'Well, well and so Mr Bingley is coming,' she said. 'So much the better. He is nothing to us, and I am sure I never want to see him again. But he is very welcome to come to Netherfield if he likes. And who knows what may happen?'

Jane had not been able to hear of his coming without blushing. When they were alone she assured Elizabeth that the news did not cause her pleasure or suffering. She was only glad he came alone because they would see less of him.

Over the next days Mrs Bennet talked of nothing else till Jane told Elizabeth she was beginning to be sorry that he was coming at all. She would be happy when his stay at Netherfield was over.

On the third morning after Mr Bingley's arrival he came to visit.

'There is a gentleman with him, mamma,' said Kitty. 'Who can it be? Oh! It looks just like the man who was with him before, Mr... What's his name? That tall, proud man.'

'Mr Darcy! and so it does.'

1. **impudent**：无礼的，放肆的。

Elizabeth Learns the Truth

Jane looked at Elizabeth with surprise. Both sisters were uncomfortable. Each felt for the other. Their mother talked on of her dislike for Mr Darcy and her decision to be polite to him only as Mr Bingley's friend.

When the gentlemen came in Elizabeth said as little to either as politeness would allow. She only looked once at Darcy who seemed as serious as usual. Bingley, she had seen for a moment, looking both pleased and embarrassed. He was received by Mrs Bennet with a politeness which made her daughters ashamed, especially when contrasted with the cold politeness to Mr Darcy, who after asking her how Mr and Mrs Gardiner were, said almost nothing. He seemed more thoughtful and less anxious to please than when they had last met. She asked after his sister, but could do no more.

'It is a long time, Mr Bingley, since you went away,' said Mrs Bennet.

He agreed.

'I began to be afraid you would never come back. A great many changes have happened since you went away. Miss Lucas is married. And one of my own daughters. Have you heard of it?' Bingley gave her his compliments. 'It is a delightful thing to have a daughter well married,' she continued.

Elizabeth was so ashamed she could not look up. How Mr Darcy looked she could not tell. She only felt better when she saw Bingley, attracted again by Jane's beauty, speak to her more and more. He found her as beautiful as last year and as agreeable, if more silent.

When the gentlemen got up to go, Mrs Bennet invited them to dinner a few days later.

Elizabeth was left to think about Mr Darcy's behaviour.

'Why, if he came only to be severe and silent and indifferent, did he come at all?' she thought. 'If he could still be pleasing to my uncle and aunt, why not to me?' Jane soon joined her with a happy look.

'Now,' said she, 'that this first meeting is over, I feel easy. I shall never be embarrassed again by his coming. I am glad he dines here. It will then be seen that we meet only in a friendly manner.'

At the dinner at Longbourn, Elizabeth observed Bingley's behaviour to her sister. He showed an admiration which made her think that Jane's happiness and his own would soon be settled, if he could decide alone. She looked at Mr Darcy, but he did not show his feelings. He was seated far from her, next to her mother. She could not hear any of their conversation, but she could see how little they spoke to each other, and how formal and cold was their manner. Her mother's impoliteness made the thought of what he had done for them even harder. She would have given anything to tell him that his kindness was known and felt by her and hoped the evening would bring them together.

After dinner she waited only for the men to return.

'If he does not come to me then,' said she, 'I shall forget him.'

The gentlemen came and she thought he looked as if he would have answered her hopes, but there was no place around the table where she and Jane were making tea and coffee. Darcy walked away. She followed him with her eyes, angry with herself for her feelings. A man who had once been refused! How could she expect a renewal [1] of his love? When he came up to her later she

1. **renewal** : 重新开始。

took the chance of saying,

'Is your sister at Pemberley still?'

'Yes. She will remain for some time.'

She could think of nothing more to say, and had no chance to speak to him alone that evening.

A few days later, Mr Bingley visited again, alone because his friend had left for London that morning for ten days. Mrs Bennet invited him to dine, and although it was not possible that day, he accepted the invitation immediately for the following day.

Over the next days Mr Bingley visited often. One day, Elizabeth walked into the drawing-room and saw her sister and Bingley standing close together speaking seriously. They quickly turned around and their faces told it all. They did not speak, till Bingley said a few words to Jane and hurriedly left the room. Jane immediately kissed her sister and told her she was the happiest woman in the world.

'It is too much!' she said. 'Far too much. Oh! Why is not everybody as happy? But I must go this minute to my mother. He has gone to my father already. Oh! Lizzy. How is it possible to be so happy?'

When Bingley returned he came up to her and asked her for the good wishes and affection of a sister. Elizabeth warmly expressed her delight.

When she could speak, Mrs Bennet said to her daughter,

'Oh! my dear, dear Jane, I am so happy! I am sure I shall not sleep all night. I always said it must be so. I was sure you could not be so beautiful for nothing.'

Wickham and Lydia were all forgotten. Jane was her favourite.

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Then correct the false ones.

	T	F
a. Elizabeth received a letter from her uncle.	☐	☐
b. Darcy took the blame for what happened to Lydia.	☐	☐
c. Mrs Gardiner thought that Darcy had another motive for helping Lydia.	☐	☐
d. Wickham didn't really want to marry Lydia.	☐	☐
e. Elizabeth considered the possibility that Darcy was still in love with her.	☐	☐
f. When Bingley and Darcy visited Longbourn Mrs Bennet was very rude to both of them.	☐	☐
g. Mrs Bennet knew that Darcy helped her daughter Lydia.	☐	☐
h. Bingley proposed to Jane.	☐	☐

2 A. Look back over Chapter 10 and find the antonyms to the following words.

a. humility .....

b. deterrent .....

c. agreed .....

d. sorrow .....

e. polite .....

f. elated .....

g. humble .....

h. rudeness .....

i. horrible .....

j. ugliness .....

B. Now use some of the words to fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

a. Mrs Gardiner believed that Darcy had another ..... for helping Lydia.

b. Darcy ..... to take back the money.

c. Elizabeth was ..... when she thought of what she had said to Darcy in the past.

d. Mrs Bennet received Darcy with a cold ..... which embarrassed her daughters.

e. Mrs Bennet said it was ..... to have a daughter well married.

3 Use *who / which / where / whose* to join up the following sentences.

a. At the ball Darcy made some unpleasant remarks about Elizabeth. His remarks were overheard by her.

.....

b. Mr Collins proposed to Elizabeth. Elizabeth's first reaction was to laugh.

.....

c. Elizabeth and the Gardiners went to Pemberley. They met Darcy there.

.....

d. Elizabeth talked about Darcy to the housekeeper of Pemberley. Her opinion of him was very good.

.....

e. When Elizabeth received the bad news about Lydia she told Darcy. He took the news very seriously.

.....

f. Mr Gardiner went to London. He found Lydia and Wickham there.

.....

g. Elizabeth read the letter. The letter was from her aunt.

.....



CHAPTER ELEVEN

Triumph over Pride and Prejudice

One morning, about a week later, the family were sitting in the dining room, when a carriage came up to the door. It was Lady Catherine de Bourgh. She entered the room with a manner more than usually unfriendly and sat down. After a moment she turned to Elizabeth and said,

'I hope you are well, Miss Bennet. That lady I expect is your mother.'

Elizabeth answered that it was.

'And that I expect is one of your sisters.'

Mrs Bennet said that it was. 'May I ask your ladyship if you left Mr and Mrs Collins well?' she asked.

'Yes, very well. I saw them last night.'

At *that* Lady Catherine got up and asked Elizabeth to walk with her in the garden where she said,

'You must understand, Miss Bennet, the motive for my journey.'

Elizabeth looked surprised and assured her that she was mistaken.

'Miss Bennet,' answered her Ladyship in an angry tone, 'you must know that it is in my character always to say what I think. I shall not change now. I was told a most scandalous [1] story two days ago. That you, that Miss Elizabeth Bennet, would probably soon marry Mr Darcy. I knew of course that it was not true, that he would never do such a thing. I decided to come here immediately to tell you of my feelings on the matter.'

'If you did not believe it true,' said Elizabeth, 'why did you come?'

'I came to hear you say it is not true. Has Mr Darcy made you an offer of marriage?'

'Your Ladyship has said that is impossible.'

'It should be so. But you may have made him forget how he should behave.'

'If I had, I would be the last person to say so.'

'Miss Bennet! Nobody speaks to me like this. You must understand me. This marriage can never take place. Mr Darcy is to marry my daughter. Now what have you to say?'

'If that is so, you can have no reason to imagine he will make an offer to me.'

Lady Catherine was silent for a moment and then said,

1. **scandalous** : 可耻的。

'From the beginning they were meant for each other.[1] It was the favourite wish of his mother and mine. Are they not to be married because of a young woman of no importance in the world?'

'Is there no other objection to my marrying Mr Darcy, but an agreement between his mother and you? Has Mr Darcy no choice in the matter? And if I am that choice, why may I not accept him?'

'I am ashamed of you. Is this your thanks for my attentions to you, you a young woman without family, connections or fortune.'

'Mr Darcy is a gentleman. I am a gentleman's daughter.'



1. **meant for each other** : 天生一对。

'You are a gentleman's daughter. But who was your mother? Who are your uncles and aunts?'

'Whatever my connections may be,' said Elizabeth, 'if Mr Darcy does not object, they can be nothing to you.'

'Tell me now. Are you to marry him?'

'I am not.'

'And will you promise me never to marry him?'

'I will make no promise of the kind.'

'Miss Bennet. I know the story of your sister's marriage to Mr Wickham. Is such a girl to be Mr Darcy's sister?'

'You have now said everything possible to offend me. I have nothing more to say.' Elizabeth got up and they walked back to the house.

For many hours after Lady Catherine's departure, Elizabeth could not think clearly. She had said she would prevent their marriage. Would she now speak to Mr Darcy? With his idea of family pride, he might feel his aunt was not wrong. If in the next few days he wrote to Bingley saying that he could not return to Netherfield, she would understand. She would then stop thinking of him.

No letter came from Mr Darcy, but a few days later he came to Longbourn himself. Bingley, who wanted to be alone with Jane, had the idea of walking out together. They walked slowly behind while Elizabeth and Mr Darcy walked ahead. Now was the moment to speak.

'Mr Darcy,' Elizabeth began, 'I must thank you for your great kindness to my poor sister. Ever since I have known it, I have been anxious to tell you how grateful I am.'

'I am very sorry that you were informed of it. I did not

think Mrs Gardiner would tell you.'

'It was Lydia who spoke thoughtlessly.[1] Let me thank you again and again in the name of all my family.'

'If you will thank me,' he answered, 'thank me for yourself. Much as I respect your family, I thought only of you.'

Elizabeth was too much embarrassed to say a word. After a moment he said,

'You are too generous to play with my feelings. My affections and wishes are unchanged. If you feel the same as you did last April, tell me so immediately and I will be silent.'

Elizabeth, feeling all the anxiety of his situation, told him that her feelings had changed so much that she would now receive his proposal with gratitude and pleasure. The happiness this caused him was greater than any he had ever known. He spoke as intelligently and warmly as a man violently in love can do. Elizabeth could not look at him. She could only listen in delight as he told of his feelings for her.

They walked on, not knowing where. There was too much to be thought and felt and said. She soon heard that they could thank his aunt for their present happiness. She had visited him and told him of her conversation with Elizabeth.

'It taught me to hope,' said he, 'as I had never hoped before. I knew your character well enough to be certain that if you had decided against me, you would have told Lady Catherine so.'

Elizabeth blushed and laughed. 'Yes. After saying the worst things to your face, I could say them to your relatives too.'

'What did you say that was untrue? My behaviour to you was despicable.'

1. **thoughtlessly**：轻率地。

'We shall not disagree on who was more at fault,' said Elizabeth. 'Since then I hope we are both changed for the better.'

'I cannot so easily forget the things I said... my manners to you... your words when you said to me, "...had you behaved in a more gentleman-like manner..." You do not know how those words have made me suffer.'

'I had no idea you would feel them like that.'

'I can believe it. You thought me without any proper feeling, I am sure you did. I shall never forget your face when you said that I could not propose to you in any way that would make you accept me.'



'Oh! do not repeat what I said then. I have long been so ashamed of it.'

Darcy mentioned his letter. 'Did it,' said he, 'soon make you think better of me?'

She explained how she had felt and how, slowly, all her prejudices had disappeared.

They spoke about their meeting at Pemberley.

'I only wanted to show you that I was not angry about the past,' Darcy said. 'I hoped for your forgiveness. How soon I felt other wishes I cannot say, but I believe about half an hour after I had seen you.'

After walking a long way they found at last that it was time to be at home. Where could Bingley and Jane be? Darcy expressed his delight at the news his friend had given him. In picturing[1] Bingley's happiness, which would only be less than his own, he continued the conversation till they got home.

That night Elizabeth opened her heart to her sister who could not believe the news.

'You are not serious, Lizzy. This cannot be, to marry Mr Darcy! I know it is not true.'

'This is a bad beginning indeed! I am sure nobody else will believe me if you do not. But I am speaking the truth. He still loves me and we are to be married.'

'Oh Lizzy! It cannot be. I know how much you dislike him.'

'You know nothing of the matter. Perhaps I did not always love him as well as I do now. But that must all be forgotten.'

'I must believe you,' cried Jane. 'My dear, dear Lizzy, forgive the question, but are you quite sure that you can be happy with him?'

1. **picturing** : 想像。

'Quite. It is settled between us already that we shall be the happiest people in the world.'

'And do you really love him well enough? Oh Lizzy, do anything, but do not marry without affection. Are you quite sure that you feel what you should?'

When Jane was satisfied about the strength of Elizabeth's affection for Darcy she said, 'Now I am quite happy, for you will be as happy as myself.'

'Oh no!' cried Mrs Bennet the next morning. 'That disagreeable Mr Darcy is here again with our dear Bingley. What shall we do with him? Lizzy, you must walk out with him again.'

That evening when Mr Bennet left the drawing-room, Darcy got up and followed him. When he appeared again he smiled at Elizabeth and sent her to her father.

When Elizabeth came into the room, her father was walking around looking anxious.

'Lizzy,' said he, 'what are you doing? Have you not always hated this man?'

How she wished then that she had not expressed her former opinions so strongly! She tried to assure her father of her affection for Darcy.

'Lizzy,' said he, 'I know that you could never be happy unless you truly loved and respected your husband.'

Elizabeth explained the slow change of her feelings. She assured her father that Darcy had loved her for many months and that he was not the proud, disagreeable man she had thought. At last she told him what he had done for Lydia.

'Well, my dear,' he said, 'if this is true, then he is indeed the man for you.'

Later that night Elizabeth told her mother. On hearing the news, Mrs Bennet could not say a word. It was many, many minutes before she could understand. Finally she said,

'Dear me! Mr Darcy! Who would have thought it! And is it really true? Oh! My sweetest Lizzy! How rich and great you will be! Jane is nothing to it. I am so happy – such a charming man! So handsome! So tall! Oh my dear Lizzy, please apologise for my having disliked him so much before. I hope he will forget it. Dear, dear Lizzy. Three daughters married!'

Happy for all her maternal [1] feelings was the day on which Mrs Bennet saw her two oldest daughters married. How she delighted in visiting Mrs Bingley and talking of Mrs Darcy.

Mr Bennet missed his second daughter greatly. His affection for her often brought him to Pemberley.

Mr Bingley and Jane stayed at Netherfield only a year. To the satisfaction of the two sisters Mr Bingley then bought an estate only thirty miles from Pemberley.

Pemberley was Georgiana's home now and the attachment of the two sisters was just what Darcy had hoped. They learned to love each other very much.

Lady Catherine sent Darcy such an angry letter on hearing about the marriage that, for a time, all contact stopped.

With the Gardiners they were intimate. Darcy as well as Elizabeth really loved them and they were always grateful to the people who, by bringing her into Derbyshire, had united them.

1. **maternal** : 母性的。

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Who comes to visit the Bennets?

b. What are her manners like?

c. Who does she ask to speak to?

d. Why does she come to Longbourn?

e. Who is Darcy supposed to marry?

f. What are Lady de Bourgh's objections to Elizabeth?

g. What is Elizabeth's reaction?

h. What is the direct outcome of Lady de Bourgh's visit?

i. How does the family react to Elizabeth's news?

2 Fill in the gaps to complete the summary and then put the paragraphs in the right order.

☐ Elizabeth realises that her [1]..... for Darcy have changed. Bingley and Darcy return to Netherfield. Bingley soon proposes to Jane who happily [2]..... and a few days later Darcy proposes to Elizabeth who accepts. At first her family are against the marriage as they believe that she doesn't like Darcy, but once they realise that this is not so, they are all very happy about the [3]..... .

☐ She dislikes him even more when she learns that it was Darcy who [4]..... Bingley to leave Netherfield because he didn't think that [5]..... with her inferior family connections was good enough for his [6]..... .

☐ The Bennets meet Mr [7]....., a dashing, young officer in the regiment stationed at Meryton. He flirts with Elizabeth and tells her that Mr Darcy's [8]..... promised him a living in the Church but that after his death the present Mr Darcy cut him off without a penny. Elizabeth is [9]..... by this news and her dislike of Darcy increases.

A C T I V I T I E S

- ☐ To her surprise Darcy [10]..... to her, telling her that he loves her despite her family. Elizabeth refuses him explaining her motives. The next day Darcy gives her a [11]..... which explains that he didn't mean to cause her sister any suffering. He tells Elizabeth that Wickham's story isn't true and that Wickham in fact tried to [12]..... with Darcy's fifteen-year-old sister, to get his hands on her fortune. Luckily Darcy found out in time.
- ☐ Mr Gardiner goes to [13]....., finds the couple, and after settling a sum of [14]..... on them they marry. Only some time later does Elizabeth learn that it is thanks to Mr [15]....., who gave a substantial amount of money to Wickham, that her sister is married.
- ☐ When Mr Bingley comes to [16]..... Hall with his sisters and his proud, disagreeable [17]....., Mr Darcy, it is apparent to everyone that he has fallen in love with [18]....., the eldest of the Bennets' five daughters. However the group soon move back to [19]..... much to Jane's dismay.
- ☐ Elizabeth begins to realise that she has misjudged [20]..... . With her aunt and uncle she goes on a visit to the north of England and they visit [21]....., Darcy's estate. Much to Elizabeth's [22]..... they meet Darcy there, who although embarrassed himself, treats them with great kindness and consideration.
- ☐ The following day Elizabeth receives news that [23]..... has run off with Wickham but that they don't seem to have any intention of [24]..... . At that moment Darcy arrives and Elizabeth tells him the whole [25]..... .

Questions on the whole novel

3 **Answer the following questions.**

a. Which characters in the novel display the traits of pride and prejudice the title is based on? Are these traits more strongly present in some moments than others? If so, how and why do you think they change?

b. When Darcy first meets Elizabeth Bennet he says of her, 'she is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me...' Over time he changes his mind and falls in love with her. What qualities do you think attract him to her?

c. Elizabeth Bennet also changes her feelings both about Mr Darcy and Mr Wickham. Why? How does she explain her first reactions to them?

d. Can you trace the misunderstandings between Elizabeth Bennet and Darcy that keep them apart until the end of the novel?

e. The original title of the first version of *Pride and Prejudice* was *First Impressions*. Which title do you think better describes the novel? Give your reasons.

f. Elizabeth Bennet and her sister Jane are good friends, although they are very different. Describe the differences in their characters. Do they have basic similarities?

g. When Elizabeth hears of her friend Charlotte's marriage she feels that the intimacy between them has been destroyed. Why do you think that is so?

h. Many of the minor characters in the novel do not undergo any change. Mrs Bennet is as foolish at the end as she was at the beginning. Which characters change and come to understand things they did not understand in the beginning? Explain how.

i. How are the comic characters in the novel different from characters like Elizabeth or Darcy?

j. Do you find *Pride and Prejudice* a novel with a moral? If so what is it? Is it still relevant to your life in these times?

k. The values, morals and traditions of Jane Austen's society form the background of this novel. How are they different from those of today? How are they similar?

JANE AUSTEN AND THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

Although Jane Austen lived at the height of the Romantic movement, she has been called a neo-classicist and a traditionalist for the balance she maintains between reason and feelings, her realistic description of people and her great sense of irony.

Her belief in the importance of reason and sense is clearly seen in all her novels. Those characters who lack these qualities, like Mrs Bennet and her daughter Lydia are ridiculed.

However, Jane Austen also criticises those characters in whom reason dominates over feeling, like Mr Bennet.

Moderation [1] and control are important to Jane Austen. It is important to have feelings, but also to be able to control them. Jane Bennet almost loses Mr Bingley because she does not show her feelings enough. Mr Darcy is described as cold and proud until he begins to change. In the end when Elizabeth tells her sister she is to marry Darcy, Jane says, 'And do you really love him quite well enough? Oh, Lizzy! do any thing rather than marry without affection.' When this is contrasted with Charlotte Lucas telling Elizabeth that she is not romantic, it can be seen that Jane Austen does not disapprove of the concept of romantic love, but only of its extremes.

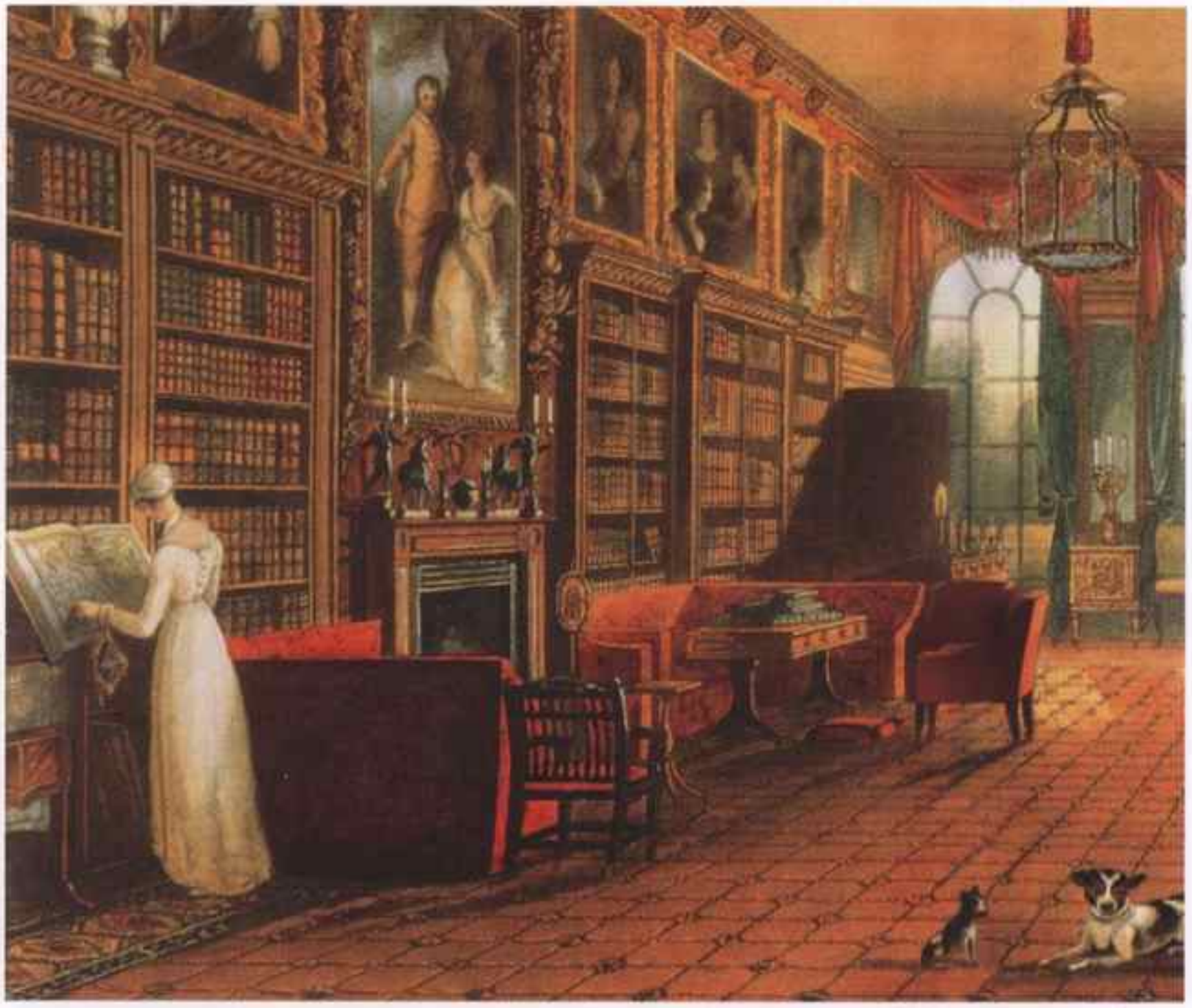
Jane Austen's style, too, is an example of elegance, clarity and precision. [2]

The plots of her novels exploit the intricacies [3] of character

1. **moderation** : 节制。
2. **precision** : 精确。
3. **intricacies** : 错综复杂。

interaction. She seems to observe people with amused and good-humoured detachment [1] and her work is often satirical [2] but never too harsh in judgement.

The use of different registers [3] for the different characters helps the reader understand their psychology as we can see, for instance, in the pedantic [4] monologue of Mr Collins's proposal to Elizabeth



The library at Cassiobury Park, Hertfordshire.

1. **detachment** : 超脱。
2. **satirical** : 讽刺的。
3. **registers** : 某特定行业或场合使用的语言。
4. **pedantic** : 迂腐的。

which sounds more a sermon [1] than a courtship. [2]
Jane Austen's care for details have made critics compare her to a miniaturist. [3]
Today she is considered one of the great masters of the English novel.

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Which elements make Jane Austen be considered a neo-classicist and a traditionalist in literature in spite of the period she lived in?

b. What are the characteristics of her style?

c. What are her plots based on?

d. What does the use of different registers contribute to?

e. How is Jane Austen considered today?

1. **sermon** : (牧师) 布道。
2. **courtship** : 求爱。
3. **miniaturist** : 微型画画家。

EXIT TEST

Focus on context

1 **Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.**

	T	F
a. Jane Austen was born in 1875 in Steventon, Hampshire.	☐	☐
b. She came from a rich upper-class family.	☐	☐
c. She lived most of her life in the country.	☐	☐
d. She started writing to entertain her family.	☐	☐
e. She published six novels in her lifetime.	☐	☐
f. *Pride and Prejudice* was based on an earlier novel called *First Impressions*.	☐	☐
g. The Prince Regent didn't like *Pride and Prejudice* and wrote her a letter of complaint.	☐	☐
h. She was just 42 when she died.	☐	☐

Focus on content

2 **Answer the following questions about the story.**

a. Why is Mrs Bennet so excited when she hears that Mr Bingley is moving to Netherfield?

.....

b. What is Elizabeth's first impression of Mr Darcy?

.....

c. How does Mr Darcy feel during Elizabeth's stay at Netherfield?

.....

d. What do Mr Bingley's sisters think of Jane and Elizabeth?

.....

e. Why will Mr Collins inherit Longbourn after Mr Bennet's death?

.....

f. According to Mr Wickham, how has he been wronged by Mr Darcy?

.....

g. What are Mr Collins's three reasons for wanting to marry Elizabeth?

.....

h. What do Mr and Mrs Bennet think of the proposal?

.....

i. What is Elizabeth's first impression of Lady Catherine de Bourgh?

.....

j. What shocking information does Colonel Fitzwilliam reveal to Elizabeth?

.....

k. How does Elizabeth react to Mr Darcy's proposal?

.....

l. What reasons does Mr Darcy give for having convinced Mr Bingley against marrying Jane?

.....

m. What does he reveal about Mr Wickham's true character?

.....

n. How does Elizabeth feel when she sees Mr Darcy at Pemberley?

.....

o. How does Lydia disgrace the family?

.....

p. What surprising information does Mrs Gardener give her in her letter?

.....

q. What effect does this have on Elizabeth?

.....

r. What is Lady Catherine de Bourgh's motive for visiting Longbourn?

.....

s. How does Mr Darcy's second proposal arise, and how is it received?

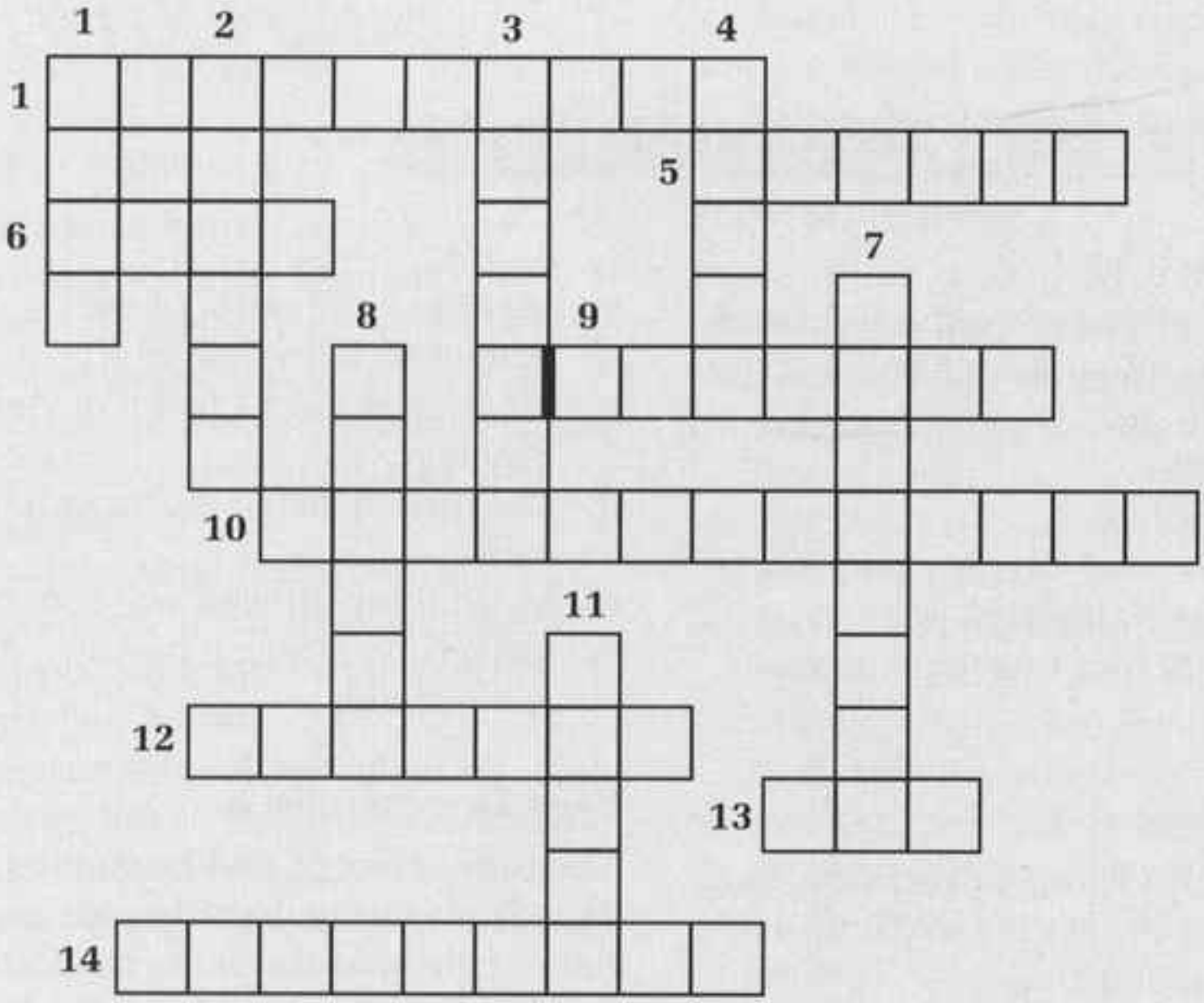
.....

t. How do the Bennet family react to Elizabeth's news?

.....

Focus on vocabulary

3



Across

1. Vile, contemptible.
5. Reduce.
6. Very wealthy, has a lot of money.
9. Person employed to manage another's property.
10. Area, district in a town or village.
12. Compliment someone.
13. Rented a property.
14. Socially acceptable behaviour.

Down

1. Have the courage.
2. Not very healthy.
3. Speaking critically.
4. Run away and marry secretly.
7. Vehicle with four wheels which is usually pulled by horses.
8. ..... Green, a place in Scotland where many couples get married secretly.
11. Took his ....., said goodbye.

Pride and Prejudice

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES AND EXIT TEST

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES

Page 14 - exercise 1

a. Mr Bingley rented Netherfield Park.
b. He's from the north of England.
c. He's rich.
d. He's single.
e. There are five.
f. She hopes that Bingley will marry one of her daughters.
g. She wants him to go and visit Mr Bingley.

Page 21 - exercise 1

a. Because he wants to surprise them.
b. Her main concern is to get all her daughters married.
c. He's young, handsome with a simple, friendly manner.
d. He returns with his two sisters, his brother-in-law and a friend.
e. They are upper class.
f. He's tall and handsome with a noble appearance and at the beginning everybody looks at him with admiration.
g. Because of his proud and unfriendly manners.
h. He thinks that she's only tolerable.
i. She thinks that they're handsome and well educated, but proud and conceited.

Page 21 - exercise 2

a. People accused Mr Darcy of being proud.
b. Mrs Bennet dreamt of her daughters marrying well.
c. Mr Bennet didn't feel like visiting Bingley.
d. The girls insisted on going to the ball.
e. Mr Bingley himself was looking forward to giving a ball at Netherfield.

Page 22 - exercise 3

The tone is ironic and humorous. The conversation between Mr and Mrs Bennet also has the same humorous and ironic tone.

Page 22 - exercise 4

A.

a. single **b.** property **c.** flatter **d.** permission **e.** favourable **f.** simple **g.** noble **h.** disagreeable **i.** handsome **j.** fault

B.

a. property **b.** permission **c.** favourable **d.** single **e.** handsome **f.** fault

Page 23 - exercise 5

discovers/learns - let - fortune - daughters - sisters - Darcy - manners - dance - handsome

Page 31 - exercise 1

a. two daughters
b. Charlotte
c. only Jane and Elizabeth
d. she has a good figure and beautiful eyes
e. a relative will inherit his estate
f. to see the officers
g. she thinks it's going to rain
h. to look after her sister

Page 32 - exercise 2

a. They are a family particularly intimate with the Bennets.
b. They talk about the ball, Mr Bingley and Darcy.
c. Because he had offended her at the ball by saying that she was only tolerable.
d. He discovered the beautiful expression of her eyes, her figure and playful manner. He wants to know her better.
e. They are well-off, but when Mr Bennet dies all the estate will be left to a distant male relative and the Bennet daughters will have nothing.

Page 32 - exercise 3

a. Mrs Bennet hoped that Jane would stay at Netherfield all night.
b. Elizabeth declared that she wasn't going to leave until Jane was well.
c. Mrs Bennet told Charlotte that she had begun the evening well.
d. Mrs Hurst said that she didn't think that Jane would ever marry with such relatives.
e. Jane said that she had been feeling ill all day.
f. Miss Bingley feared Darcy would marry Elizabeth.

Page 33 - exercise 4

What the Bingley sisters say about Elizabeth's:
manners – *mixture of pride and impertinence*
conversation – *none*
style – *none*
beauty – *none*
appearance – *wild*
propriety – *country town indifference*
what Charles Bingley said about Elizabeth – *she looked very well*
Darcy's remarks about Elizabeth's eyes – *brilliant with exercise*

Page 34 - exercise 5

Their opinions of Elizabeth:
MR BENNET – *intelligent*
MRS BENNET – *not as handsome as Jane, not as good humoured as Lydia*
MR BINGLEY – *very pretty, looked very well*
MR DARCY – *at first only tolerable then notices beautiful eyes, light, pleasing figure, playful manners, eyes brilliant with exercise*
MR BINGLEY'S SISTERS – *manners are a mixture of pride and impertinence, no conversation, no style and no beauty*

Page 35 - exercise 1

night/ better/ mother/ daughters/ breakfast/ danger/ home/ invited/ parlour/ ill/ depend/ coldly/ attention/ thanking/ kindness/ ridicule

Page 43 - exercise 1

a. Because Elizabeth sent her a note asking her to visit.
b. Because of the inferiority of her connections.
c. Because she wants Elizabeth to leave.
d. To stop the conversation between Darcy and Elizabeth.
e. Because he is beginning to feel the danger of giving Elizabeth too

much attention.
f. He's Mr Bennet's cousin.
g. He wants to forget the disagreement that has been in the past between their two families and he would like to help the Bennet girls.
h. He's tall and heavy-looking, about twenty-five. He's extremely formal and is rather ridiculous.
i. She's Mr Collins's patroness.
j. They're interested in seeing the officers in Meryton.

Page 43 - exercise 2

a. had welcomed
b. had been talking
c. had received
d. had been
e. had been staying
f. hadn't found

Page 44 - exercise 3

appearance – *gentleman-like*
name – *Mr Wickham*
profession – *officer in regiment*
how he is looked at by Darcy – *with surprise*
his reaction at seeing Darcy – *he changes colour*

Page 44 - exercise 4

Open answer.

Page 53 - exercise 1

a. False – Wickham goes to sit by Elizabeth.
b. False – He was treated badly by Darcy.
c. True
d. False – He loses the card game.
e. False – She smiles when she hears this news.
f. True
g. True
h. False – She criticises him.
i. True

Page 53 - exercise 2

a. Her opinion is good. She finds his conversation agreeable. She is shocked when she hears about Darcy's behaviour towards him.
b. *Possible answer:* He was worried about his friend marrying someone so much inferior.
c. Because he could hear her mother's conversation about Jane's future marriage with Bingley.

Page 54 - exercise 3

a. on **b.** by **c.** On **d.** On **e.** While/by **f.** Without **g.** at

Page 55 - exercise 4

A.
a. exciting
b. surprised
c. interested
d. amused
e. embarrassing

B.

Open answer.

Page 55 - exercise 5

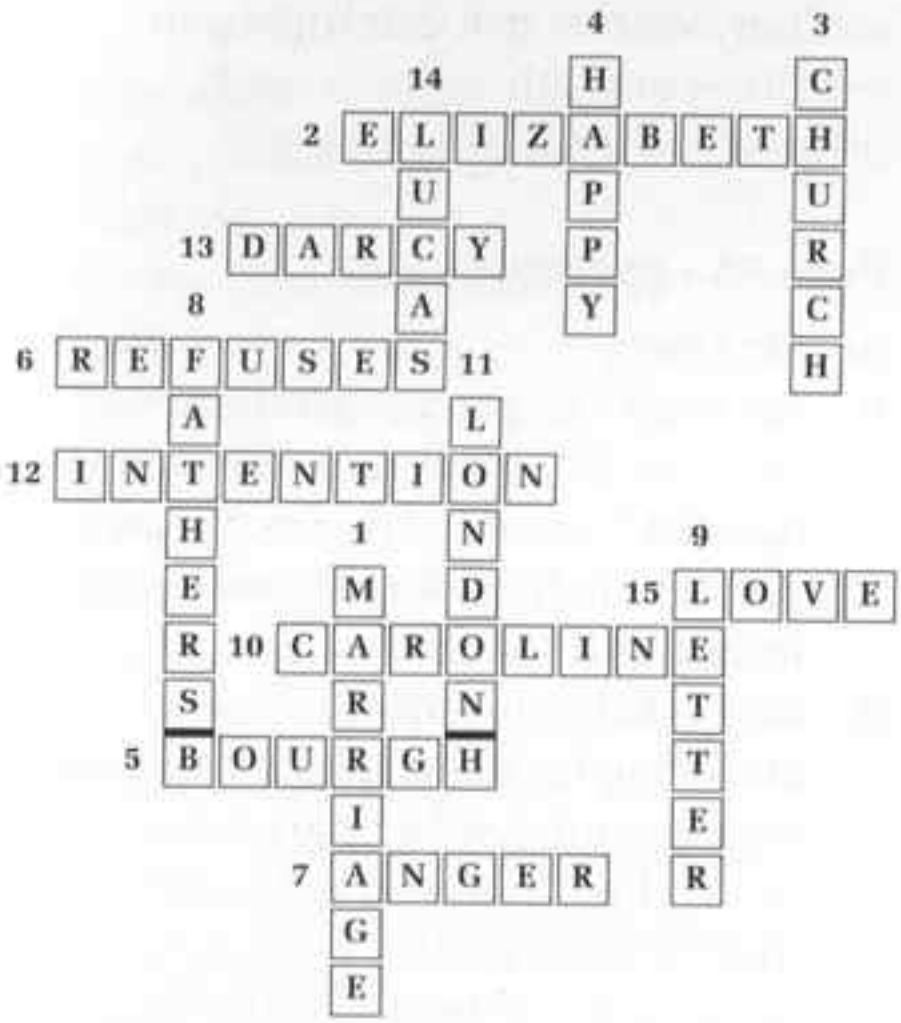
Open answer.

Page 56 - exercise 1

day / speak / surprised / immediately / feelings / amusement / house / partner / motives / serious / stop

Page 67 - exercise 1

1. marriage **2.** Elizabeth **3.** Church **4.** happy **5.** Bourgh **6.** refuses **7.** anger **8.** father's **9.** letter **10.** Caroline **11.** London **12.** intention **13.** Darcy **14.** Lucas **15.** love



Page 68 - exercise 2

a. *Possible answer*: He is very sincere in what he says to the point of saying that the most important reason he has for getting married is because his patroness wants him to! He shows no spontaneity, sensitivity or passion during his declaration which seems to be much more a business than marriage proposal.
b. Open answer.
c. Open answer.
d. Open answer.

Page 68 - exercise 3

Mr Collins – *completely insensitive; very serious; determined to find a wife.*
Elizabeth – *polite in her refusal to Mr Collins; very determined; she won't give in to her mother; she cares about her friend Charlotte and is sad about her marriage to Mr Collins, not because she's jealous but because she wants better for her friend.*
Mr Bennet – *sense of humour seen in the ultimatum he gives to Elizabeth; loves his daughter and wants the best for her; not simply to 'marry her off' to the first person interested.*
Mrs Bennet – *totally insensitive to Elizabeth's feelings regarding Mr Collins. Simply wants to marry her daughters off; it doesn't matter to her if they're happy or not.*

Page 69 - exercise 4

a. made/laugh
b. asked/to tell
c. asked/to call
d. let/decide
e. made/think
f. asked/to write back
g. had asked/to marry
h. made/believe

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT IN JANE AUSTEN'S TIME

Page 71 - exercise 1

a. aristocracy, lesser gentry, professional people, farmers, domestic servants and country and town workers
b. aristocracy – inherited wealth and estates; lesser gentry – inherited wealth usually in the form of land
c. a fixed code of accepted rules for behaving, dressing, courting and travelling

Page 72 - exercise 1

Who the Gardiners are – *Elizabeth's aunt and uncle; Mrs Bennet's brother and his wife*
What Mr Gardiner is like – *intelligent; gentleman-like; more educated and with a better character than his sister*
What Mrs Gardiner is like – *agreeable; intelligent; elegant*
What Mrs Gardiner gives her nieces – *presents*

How long the Gardiners stay at Longbourn – *a week*
What Mrs Gardiner warns Elizabeth about – *not to fall in love with Wickham as he has no fortune and couldn't make her happy*

Page 84 - exercise 1

a. Jane is invited to stay with the Gardiners in London.
b. Because she sees the attraction between Wickham and Elizabeth and thinks that he could not make Elizabeth happy.
c. Elizabeth goes to visit Charlotte and Mr Collins at Rosings.
d. She's not very impressed. She finds her rude and overbearing. At the dinner she behaves politely but is less full of admiration and flattery than the others.
e. She learns that it was Darcy and not Miss Bingley who had caused Bingley to leave Netherfield, thus causing Jane's unhappiness.
f. She feels angry and upset.

Page 84 - exercise 2

a. had had/wouldn't have been
b. had told/would have gone
c. wouldn't have been surprised/had given
d. would have left/had not changed
e. had known/would have suffered
f. hadn't been/wouldn't have lacked

Page 85 - exercise 3

Mrs Gardiner's relationship with her nieces seems to be based on real friendship and mutual respect. She is genuinely interested in her nieces' welfare as can be seen in her advice to Elizabeth and her invitation to Jane, after seeing that she is unhappy.

The girls (or at least the two eldest) do not have the same intimacy with their mother, who is not intelligent or sensitive enough to have such intimacy with her daughters.

Page 95 - exercise 1

a. Mr Darcy.
b. He wants to propose to her.
c. He says that there are objections against her mother's family and also the behaviour of her mother, father and younger sisters.
d. She refuses because of the suffering he has caused Jane and also because of his past behaviour to Wickham. She is also offended that he says he has proposed despite her inferior connections.
e. He defends his behaviour and is mortified by her refusal.
f. A letter.
g. He explains that Wickham wasted the money and opportunities offered to him by Darcy and then tried to elope with Darcy's younger sister, partly for her fortune and partly to get his revenge on Darcy.
h. He explains that there were too many objections against her family and their behaviour and that he had seen Bingley in love many times in the past and he didn't believe that Jane was in love with him.
i. She's shocked, ashamed, mortified.

Page 95 - exercise 2

a. were/wouldn't seem
b. had expressed/would have been
c. had made/wouldn't have been
d. sees/will be
e. lived/would be
f. had... wanted/would have helped
g. comes/will treat

Page 96 - exercise 3

A.
a. 2; **b. 3**; **c. 5**; **d. 6**; **e. 1**; **f. 7**; **g. 4**

B.

a. take after
b. took... breath away
c. taken in
d. took... into his confidence
e. took to
f. took... along
g. took... down a peg or two

Page 96 - exercise 4

Open answer.

Page 97 - exercise 1

a. False – They returned in May.
b. False – She was happy to have Jane at home.
c. True
d. False – She was very surprised.
e. False – She was very unhappy because she was still in love with him.
f. False – She only told him that she liked Darcy better now that she knew him better.

Page 109 - exercise 1

a. Because Mrs Gardiner has friends there.
b. Pemberley is Mr Darcy's estate. They go there because Mrs Gardiner wants to see it.
c. Because she talks so well of her master, saying that he is never unkind and isn't proud.
d. She meets Darcy.
e. They're both embarrassed.
f. He's very kind and courteous.
g. He wants to introduce Elizabeth to his sister.
h. She realises that she isn't proud, only shy.

Page 109 - exercise 2

a. Never should it be said that the Miss Bennets ran after the officers.
b. In vain did Elizabeth and Jane speak to Kitty.
c. Scarcely had a month passed when Elizabeth received a letter from her aunt.
d. Never in her life had she seen his manners so little formal.
e. Nothing but compliments did Darcy say.
f. Under no circumstances would Darcy have permitted her to invite her relatives if he had married her.

Page 110 - exercise 3

Open answer.

Page 121 - exercise 1

a. In the first letter she learns that Lydia has run off with Wickham and in the second letter she is told that it doesn't seem that they intend to marry.
b. Darcy arrives at that moment and she tells him the bad news. He is very shocked and concerned.
c. They immediately return to Longbourn.
d. Mr Bennet feels that it is his fault – he has not taken enough interest in the education of his daughters and this is the consequence. He confesses his feelings to Elizabeth who comforts him.
e. No, not at all. As soon as she hears of the marriage she is excited at the prospect of showing her married daughter to the neighbourhood.
f. No, they haven't.
g. Mr Bennet is rather severe, the sisters are uneasy while Mrs Bennet is delighted.

Page 121 - exercise 2

a. I wish he were/was intelligent.
b. Elizabeth wishes he didn't know about Lydia's elopement with Wickham.

c. Elizabeth would rather Lydia didn't tell her about her marriage.
d. He'd rather Mr Bennet didn't stay in London.
e. He wishes she was in love with him.

Page 122 - exercise 3

Open answer.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE REGENCY PERIOD

Page 125 - exercise 1

a. No, the position of women in the Regency period was very different. Middle and upper-class women did not work and spent their time reading poetry, paying visits to each other, painting, playing the piano and singing. They did no sport – just a little walking and dancing.
b. The fact that women didn't work meant that they had to make a 'good' marriage in order to have a good place in society.
c. People generally got married to people from their own social class.
d. Open answer.

Page 132 - exercise 1

a. False – She received the letter from her aunt.
b. True
c. True
d. True
e. True
f. False – She was rude only to Darcy.
g. False – She didn't know this.
h. True

Page 132 - exercise 2

A.
a. pride **b.** motive **c.** refused
d. pleasure **e.** impudent **f.** mortified
g. proud **h.** politeness **i.** delightful
j. beauty

B.
a. motive **b.** refused **c.** mortified
d. politeness **e.** delightful

Page 133 - exercise 3

a. At the ball Darcy made some unpleasant remarks about Elizabeth **which** were overheard by her.
b. Mr Collins proposed to Elizabeth **whose** first reaction was to laugh.
c. Elizabeth and the Gardiners went to Pemberley **where** they met Darcy.
d. Elizabeth talked about Darcy to the housekeeper of Pemberley **whose** opinion of him was very good.
e. When Elizabeth received the bad news about Lydia she told Darcy **who** took the news very seriously.
f. Mr Gardiner went to London **where** he found Lydia and Wickham.
g. Elizabeth read the letter **which** was from her aunt.

Page 143 - exercise 1

a. Lady Catherine de Bourgh.
b. She's rude and unfriendly.
c. She asks to speak to Elizabeth.
d. She comes to find out if it is true that Elizabeth is going to marry Darcy.
e. Lady de Bourgh's daughter.
f. She's a woman of no importance without family, connections or fortune.
g. She's offended and angry.
h. Darcy learns about the visit and he begins to hope that Elizabeth has changed her mind.
i. At first they are all shocked and surprised as they all believe that she doesn't like Darcy, but when

they learn the truth they are all very happy for her. Mrs Bennet is immediately delighted that her daughter is making such a good marriage.

Page 143 - exercise 2

order of paragraphs: 8-3-2-4-7-1-5-6

1. feelings **2.** accepts **3.** marriage
4. persuaded **5.** Jane **6.** friend
7. Wickham **8.** father **9.** shocked
10. proposes **11.** letter **12.** elope
13. London **14.** money **15.** Darcy
16. Netherfield **17.** friend **18.** Jane
19. London **20.** Darcy **21.** Pemberley
22. embarrassment **23.** Lydia
24. marrying **25.** story

Page 145 - exercise 3

Open answers.

JANE AUSTEN AND THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

Page 148 - exercise 1

a. The balance she maintains between reason and feelings, her realistic description of people and her great sense of irony.
b. Her style is elegant, clear and precise.
c. Her plots are based on character interaction.
d. It contributes to the understanding of the characters' personalities.
e. One of the great masters of the English novel.

KEY TO THE EXIT TEST

Focus on context

a. F – She was born in 1775.
b. F – They were upper class but they weren't rich.
c. T
d. T
e. F – Four novels were published in her lifetime. Two were published after her death.
f. T
g. F – He liked *Pride and Prejudice* very much and wrote her a complimentary letter.
h. T

Focus on content

a. Mrs Bennet is so excited because Mr Bingley is very rich and single and she hopes that he will marry one of her daughters.
b. Although handsome, she immediately finds him proud and disagreeable. She is offended when she overhears his conversation with Mr Bingley.
c. Mr Darcy's admiration of Elizabeth starts to increase rapidly and he soon realises that he has never been so attracted to anyone before.
d. They like Jane very much but do not regard Elizabeth very highly. They are very critical of her and the rest of the Bennet family.
e. There is a law that states that the property can only be inherited by a man. Since Mr and Mrs Bennet do not have any sons, Longbourn will go to their closest male relative.
f. Mr Wickham states that Mr Darcy's father provided generous instructions as to his welfare in his will and that the son, upon his

father's death, decided not to abide by them.

g. (i) He thinks marriage is correct for a man of the Church;
(ii) He believes that it will make him very happy;
(iii)Lady Catherine de Bourgh has requested that he gets married.

h. Mr and Mrs Bennet have quite opposite opinions. Mrs Bennet informs Elizabeth that she must marry Mr Collins while the father is adamant that she shouldn't.

i. Elizabeth finds her questions intrusive and impolite.

j. Colonel Fitzwilliam reveals that Mr Darcy is congratulating himself on having 'saved' a friend of his (Mr Bingley) from an unfortunate marriage.

k. At first she is very shocked and feels the compliment that a man of his status is proposing to her. However, as the conversation develops she becomes very angry.

l. He states that although the 'low connections' of the family did come into consideration, he truly believed that Jane was not in love with Mr Bingley.

m. He reveals that Mr Wickham, at first, declined the offer to go into the Church and was given money to study law. After that money was spent on other things he contacted Mr Darcy to request the position in the Church. Mr Darcy also discloses that Mr Wickham tried to marry his young sister to gain her fortune.

n. She is ashamed of the impropriety of her being there and she is also, subsequently surprised by his politeness to her and her aunt and uncle.

o. Lydia's elopement with Mr Wickham not only disgraces herself but the whole family because a good reputation is essential.

p. Mrs Gardener tells Elizabeth that the situation was resolved entirely by Mr Darcy.

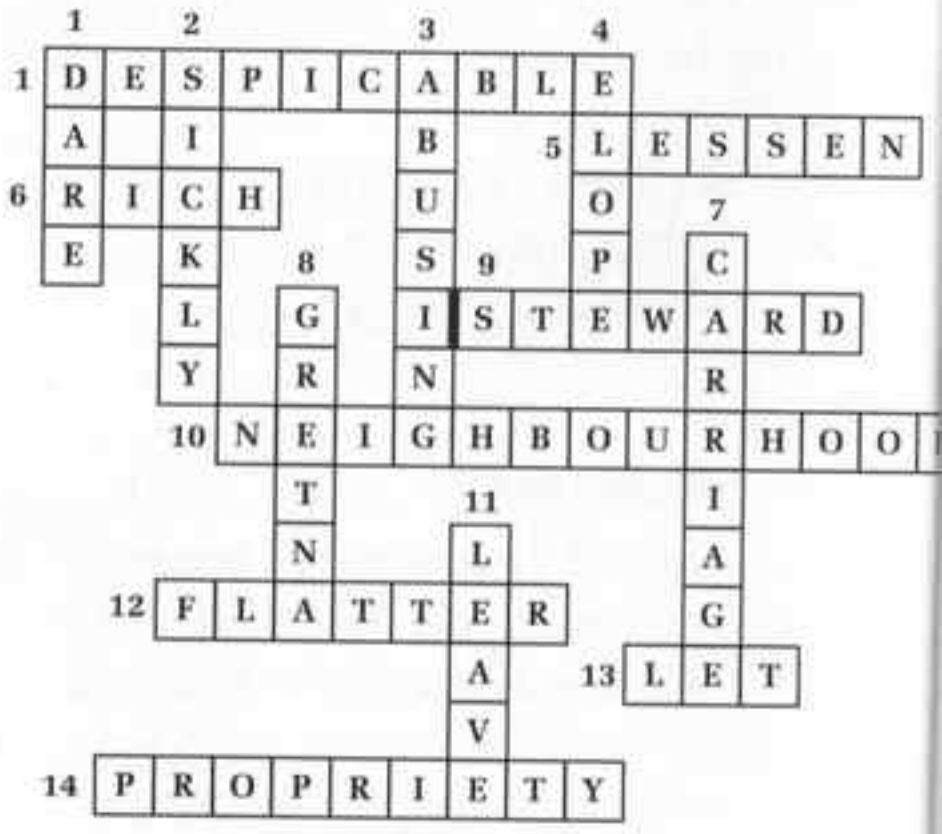
q. Since receiving Mr Darcy's letter and seeing him at Pemberley, Elizabeth had started to understand how wrong she had been. Upon learning this new information her admiration and shame are increased even more.

r. Lady Catherine de Bourgh has heard a rumour that Elizabeth will marry her nephew and comes to refuse her consent, expecting that Elizabeth will obey her.

s. Mr Darcy returns to Longbourn after a visit from his aunt but before he has the opportunity, Elizabeth expresses her gratitude for his help with Lydia. Elizabeth accepts his proposal.

t. Initially both Jane and Mr Bennet are worried – they do not believe that Elizabeth can love Mr Darcy – once convinced by Elizabeth, they are happy for her. Mrs Bennet, instead, immediately changes her opinion of him, thinking only of his wealth.

Focus on vocabulary



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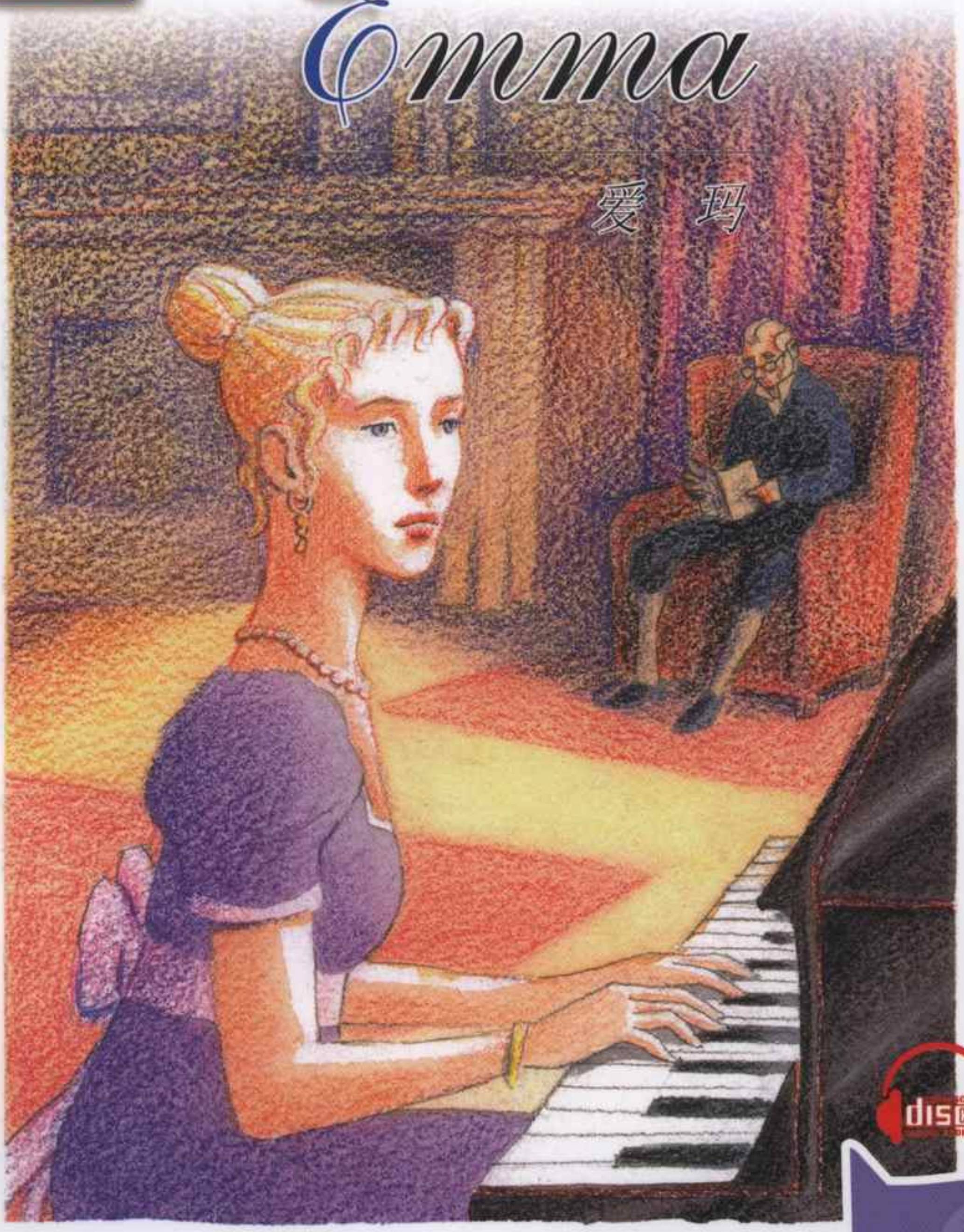
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简·奥斯汀

总顾问·陈琳

Emma

爱玛



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All the parts are recorded except for Part Five. 故事节选录音

These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities. 听力练习开始和结束的标记



Portrait of Jane Austen (*c.* 1790).

The Life of Jane Austen

Jane Austen was born on 16th December 1775 in the village of Steventon in the South of England. Her parents, an Anglican[1] clergyman[2] and his wife, a clergyman's daughter, had eight children. Jane's sister, Cassandra, was her favourite companion and they lived together or wrote to each other throughout their lives. It was normal for girls at that time to be educated at home after the age of eleven. They both read widely, learnt to play the piano, drew and learnt Italian and French.

1. **Anglican** : of the Church of England.
2. **clergyman** : a priest, somebody working in the church.



The Rectory[1] at Steventon where Jane Austen was born in 1775 in a sketch by James Edward Austen-Leigh.

The family moved to Bath in 1801. Bath was a large fashionable city with a lively social life but Jane and her sister had been happier in the small village where they were born. Jane's father died in 1805 and the two sisters moved to Southampton, a large seaport, with their mother. Three years later, however, they moved to the village of Chawton where they lived in a spacious[2] cottage. Jane lived there until she died in 1817 at the young age of forty-one. She is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

Jane's talent as a writer emerged[3] when she was still a child. She wrote stories to amuse the rest of her family. At sixteen, she wrote a comic history of the world and by the age of twenty she had written several unpublished novels.

1. **rectory** : the house of the clergyman in charge of a parish from which he receives his income directly.
2. **spacious** : big.
3. **emerged** : developed, came out.



When Jane moved to Chawton, she successfully published her novels, often developing her previous work. She never tried to become famous and her work was published anonymously[1] – 'by a lady'. *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion* were the five great novels which she wrote in the cottage at Chawton.

Few people knew the identity of the writer of these works. However, the Prince Regent was an admirer of her stories and, at his request, she dedicated *Emma* to him. Many contemporary writers, including Sir Walter Scott, recognised that she had a 'wonderful talent'.

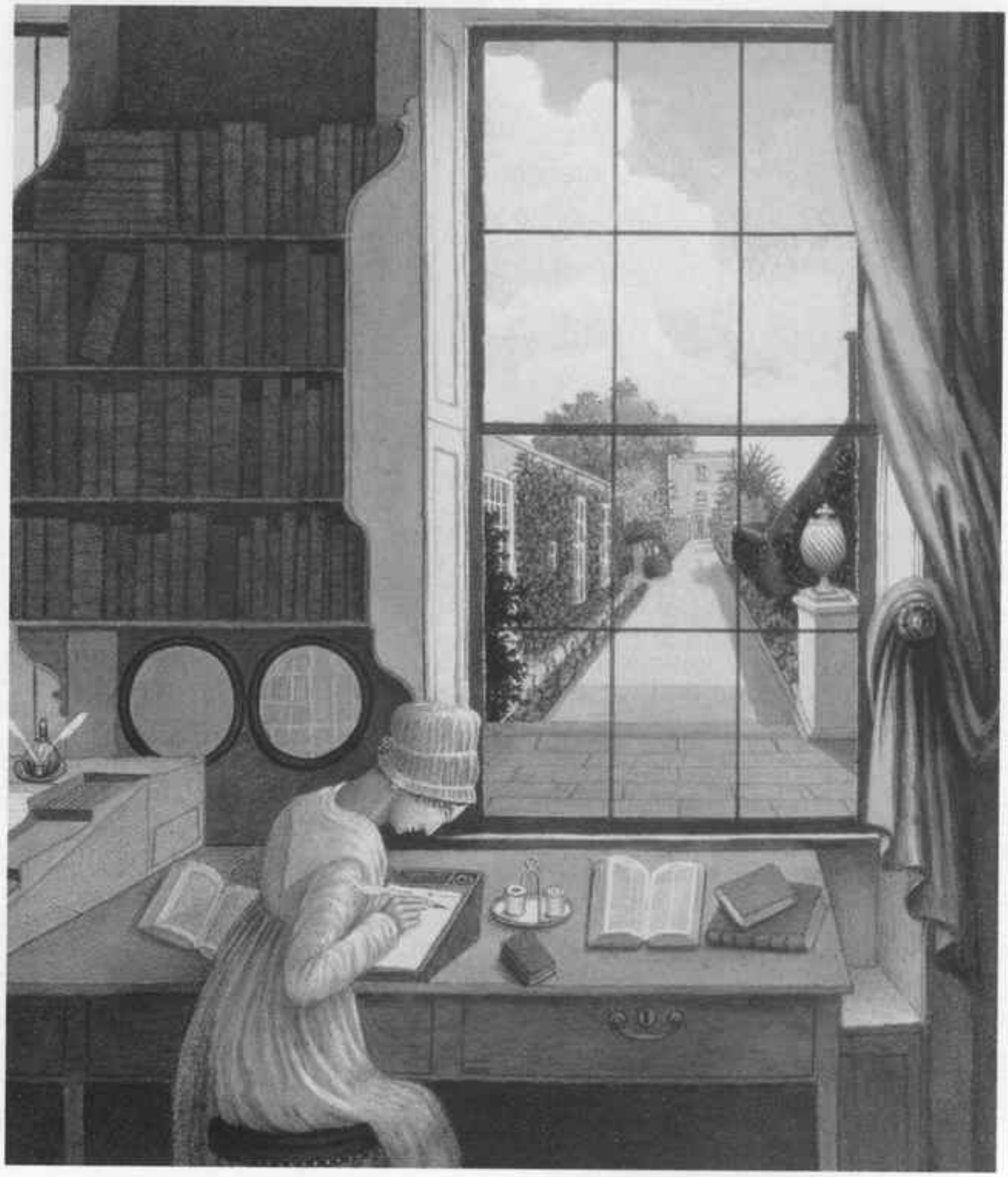
Her novels often reflect her life. For example, one of her brothers was adopted by a rich family, the Knights, and did not live with the Austens. In *Emma*, Frank Churchill is in the same situation. She describes the experience and feelings of upper class women very sensitively and, often, comically[2]. *Emma* contains some memorable comic characters: the dreadful snob, Mrs Elton, poor Miss Bates who cannot stop talking, Mr Elton the sentimental vicar. One critic has described her work as 'regulated[3] hatred' – she laughs at her enemies through her books and at the limitation of life in a small community.

All her novels centre on love and marriage but she is never sentimental. She suggests that a good relationship is based not only on romantic love but also on comfort, security and shared opinions. It is believed that Jane fell in love while at Bath but that her admirer died young. Later, she accepted a marriage proposal from a rich landowner but changed her mind the next morning. Unlike the heroines in her novels, she never found the man that she wanted to marry.

We learn a lot about Jane's ideas from her letters to Cassandra and to her niece, Anna. She wrote to Anna that for a novel, it was enough to write about '3 or 4 families in a country village'. This is a perfect

1. **anonymously** : with her name not made public.
2. **comically** : in an amusing way.
3. **regulated** : controlled.

description of the plot of *Emma*. Although her novels are limited in area, they express a depth of feeling and a rich sense of irony. They are still very widely read and are regularly adapted for television, the cinema or the theatre. The clergyman's daughter who preferred to live in small villages has entertained[1] the world for nearly 200 years.



In the Library, St. James' Square, by Thomas Pole.

1. **entertained** : interested and amused.

The World of Jane Austen

Jane Austen was born in the eighteenth century and died in the nineteenth. It was a time of great change in England and in the whole of Europe. The French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars occupied most of the years of her lifetime.

For a time, many people believed that Napoleon would invade[1] the south coast of England where she lived. The Battle of Waterloo in 1815, a turning point in European history, took place two years before her death. The United States of America became independent, England became involved in war in India, there was rebellion[2] in Ireland. At the same time the Industrial Revolution was progressing rapidly. The peaceful rural life



The Great House and Park at Chawton, by Adam Callender.

1. **invade** : enter a country with an army in order to take control of it.
2. **rebellion** : open resistance to the established government.



which Jane celebrated in her novels was being threatened[1].

Her letters show that she was keenly interested in all these developments. However, they hardly enter her novels. She prefers to describe the personal lives of characters that we all recognise from our own experience, who make mistakes, develop and come, like Emma, to a better understanding of their own hearts.

As you read *Emma*, you will read more about the world of Jane Austen.

1 Answer the following questions.

a. What was Jane Austen's father's job?

.....

b. What kind of education did she have?

.....

c. Why did she start writing?

.....

d. What did she write before she composed her famous novels?

.....

e. How did she sign her novels?

.....

f. What are her novels mainly about?

.....

g. What was her opinion of love and marriage?

.....

h. In what important way does Jane Austen differ from the heroines of her novels?

.....

i. What major historic events occurred during Jane Austen's lifetime?

.....

j. Why are these events not mentioned in her novels?

.....

1. **threatened** : out in danger.



A watercolour of Jane Austen by her sister Cassandra (1804).

Before you read

1 **Listen to the beginning of Part One, and choose the correct answer (A, B or C) for each question.**

1. How old was Emma?

A ☐ 21.
B ☐ 29.
C ☐ 20.

2. How many brothers did she have?

A ☐ 2.
B ☐ 1.
C ☐ 0.

3. Who was Miss Taylor going to marry?

A ☐ Mr John Knightley.
B ☐ Mr George Knightley.
C ☐ Mr Weston.

4. Which one of the following was not one of the evils in Emma's life?

A ☐ She lived sixteen miles from London.
B ☐ She had been spoilt by her father and Miss Taylor.
C ☐ She had too high an opinion of herself.

5. Why was Emma so sad on Miss Taylor's wedding day?

A ☐ Because Miss Taylor's new husband's first son had been adopted by another family.
B ☐ Because her best friend was leaving her house.
C ☐ Because Miss Taylor's new husband was not an excellent man.

6. According to Emma, Miss Taylor will be much happier

A ☐ away from Mr Woodhouse's complaining.
B ☐ with her own carriage.
C ☐ with her own house.



Part One

The Mistress of Hartfield House

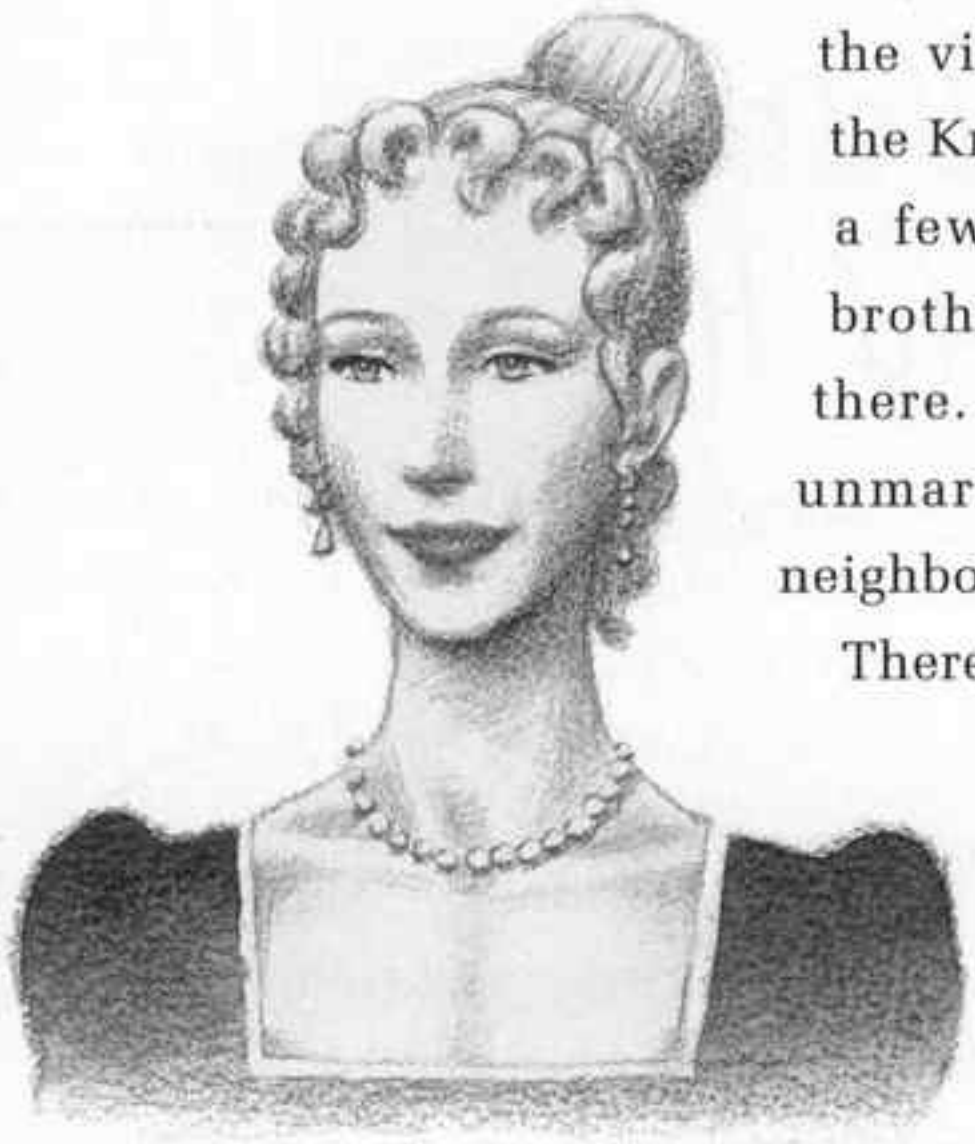
Emma Woodhouse, handsome[1], clever and rich, with a comfortable home and a happy disposition[2], seemed to have a perfect life. She was twenty-one years old with very few problems.

Emma had one sister, Isabella, who lived in London with her husband, Mr John Knightley, and her children. Emma's mother had died while she was still very young. Since then, Miss Taylor had been Emma's governess[3] and friend for sixteen years. They were very fond of each other. But now Miss Taylor was getting

1. **handsome** : good-looking (a word normally used for men).
2. **disposition** : personality, character.
3. **governess** : a woman who looks after and teaches a child at home.

married to Mr Weston and would move to his house, called Randalls.

Emma lived at Hartfield, a mansion[1] on the edge of the village of Highbury. It was sixteen miles from London. The Woodhouse family was the most important family in the village. Another important family, the Knightleys, lived at Donwell Abbey, a few miles away. John Knightley's brother, Mr George Knightley, lived there. He was thirty-seven years old, unmarried, and very popular in the neighbourhood.



There were only two evils[2] in Emma's life. Firstly, she had been spoilt by her father and Miss Taylor[3] ever since her mother's death. Secondly, she had a very high opinion of herself. In fact, Emma thought that she was perfect.

It was Miss Taylor's wedding day. Emma was very sad because her best friend had left the house. Mr Weston, her new husband, was an excellent man; his first wife had died, his son had been adopted by his wife's family in the North of England, the Churchills, and he had lived alone for many years. Everyone liked

1. **mansion** : a large house, belonging to a wealthy person.
2. **evils** : bad things.
3. **spoilt by ... Taylor** : they had given her everything she wanted.

him. But without Miss Taylor, Emma would have no young companion in the house. She loved her father, Mr Woodhouse. But he was always worried about illness or other dangers.

'Poor Miss Taylor,' said Mr Woodhouse at every meal, while he was eating his gruel[1]. 'I wish she were here. What a pity that she married Mr Weston!'

'I cannot agree with you, papa,' said Emma. 'Miss Taylor will be far happier with her own home. We shall often visit them. We shall go in the carriage.'

'The poor horses! The poor driver!'



1. **gruel** : a very thin soup, supposed to be healthy.

'Don't worry. Everything is perfect.'

'Poor Miss Taylor!' said Mr Woodhouse again.

At that moment, Mr Knightley of Donwell Abbey came into the room.

'I have been to London,' he said, 'to visit my brother's family.'

'Poor Isabella,' said Mr Woodhouse. 'London is a very unhealthy place for her to live.'



'She and the children are all very well. Did the wedding go well?'

'Ah, poor Miss Taylor. It is a sad business[1].'

'Nonsense!' said Mr Knightley. 'It is better to be independent.' 'Tell the truth, Mr Knightley,' said Emma, playfully[2]. 'You think it is better for Miss Taylor to escape from me and my silly imagination.'

'No, dear Emma. Perhaps I never flatter[3] you but I admire you greatly.'

'Don't forget,' said Emma, 'that I myself made the match[4] between Miss Taylor and Mr Weston. Everybody said that Mr Weston would never get married again. But I was right.'

1. **business** : (here) matter.
2. **playfully** : jokingly, humorously.
3. **flatter** : to say nice things (perhaps untrue) about somebody.
4. **made the match** : arranged the marriage, brought the couple together.

'Dear Emma, please don't make any more marriages,' said her father sadly.

'I will not get married myself, papa. But I am really successful in making matches for other people. I planned the marriage of Miss Taylor and now, dear papa, I shall plan for others.'

'Nonsense!' said Mr Knightley. 'Miss Taylor and Mr Weston decided themselves to get married. You did nothing. You just made a lucky guess[1].'

'I encouraged Mr Weston to visit Hartfield and meet Miss Taylor. I played an important part.'

'It is a dangerous thing to do, Emma. Don't interfere in[2] other people's lives.'

'Dear Emma is so kind. She always thinks about others,' said Mr Woodhouse affectionately.

'Mr Elton, the vicar[3], needs a wife. I will look for one for him,' declared Emma.

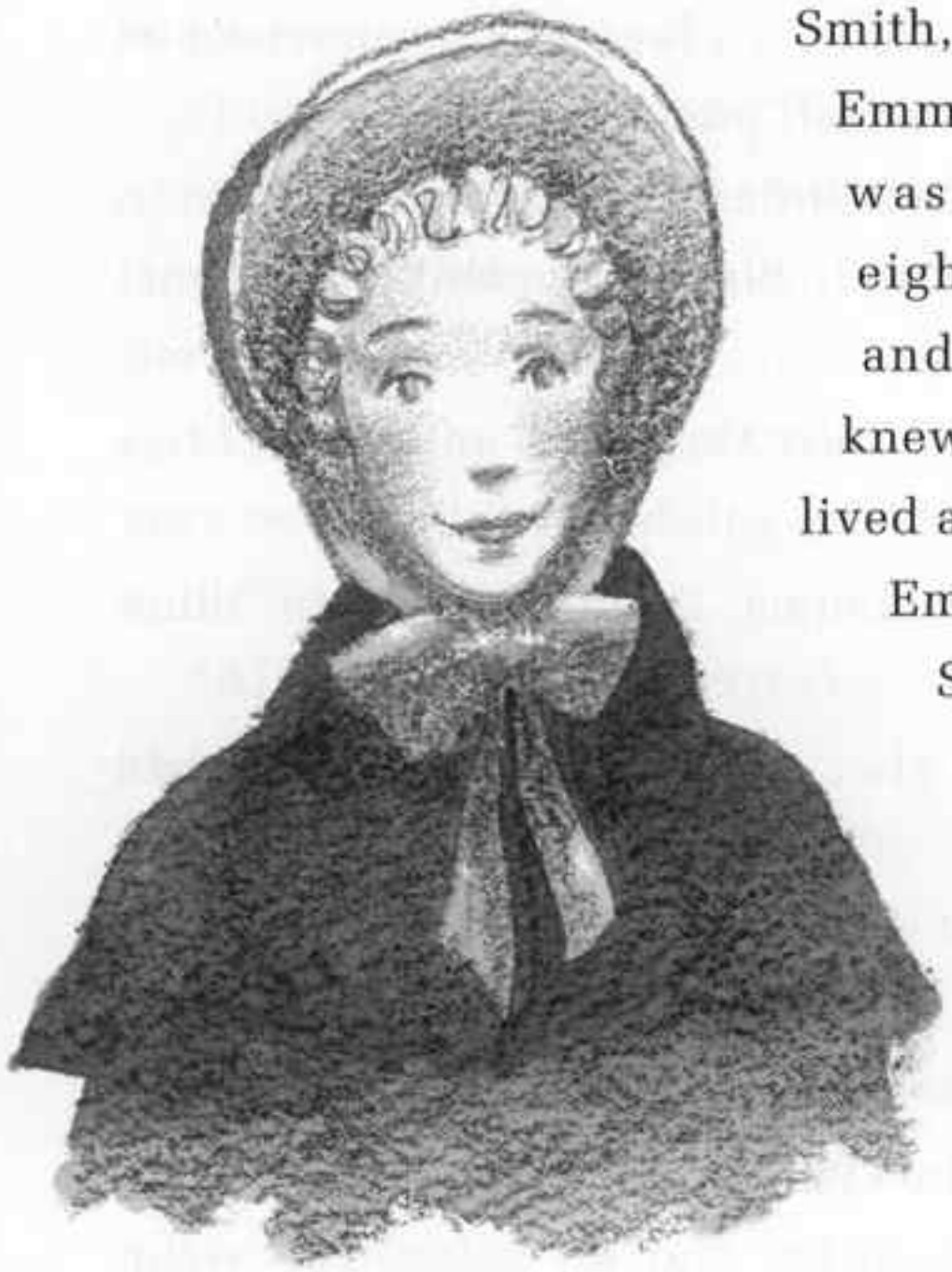
Mr Knightley laughed. 'He is twenty-seven years old. He can find his own wife if he wants one. Oh Emma, be serious.'

Mr and Mrs Weston, Mr Knightley and Mr Elton, the vicar, often came to visit Mr Woodhouse. They also came, of course, to talk with his lovely daughter.

There was another group of visitors. Mrs Bates was a very old lady. Her daughter, Miss Bates, was middle-aged but single. She devoted her life to caring for her mother. Miss Bates was famous for talking too much and saying stupid things. But she was so kind

1. **made a lucky guess** : knew something by luck.
2. **interfere in** : get involved in a situation where you are not wanted or needed.
3. **vicar** : the man in charge of a church, an Anglican priest.

and generous that nobody disliked her. Mrs Goddard, their friend, was the headmistress[1] of the village school.



One evening, they brought Harriet Smith, an orphan, with them to meet Emma and Mr Woodhouse. Harriet was a very pretty girl, about eighteen. She was short, plump[2] and fair with blue eyes. Nobody knew who her parents had been. She lived at the school.

Emma immediately liked Harriet Smith. She was sweet, shy and very grateful for the invitation to Hartfield. 'I can help this girl,' thought Emma. 'I can give her knowledge and good manners[3]. She isn't clever but she has soft eyes and a beautiful appearance.'

Emma invited Harriet more and more to Hartfield. She enjoyed helping and influencing her. Little by little, Harriet shyly told her about herself.

'Last summer, I stayed with the Martins at Abbey Mill Farm on Mr Knightley's estate[4]. They were very kind to me. They have eight cows on their farm!'

1. **headmistress** : a female teacher who is in charge of a school.
2. **plump** : pleasingly fat.
3. **good manners** : polite ways of behaving in society.
4. **estate** : a large area of land belonging to a gentleman.

The Mistress of Hartfield House

Emma, the mistress of Hartfield House, was not interested in cows. But when she found out that Harriet had met Mr Martin, the unmarried son of the family, she became worried.

'He came with us on our moonlit[1] walks. Once, he rode three miles to get me some walnuts[2]. He is very clever and has a fine flock[3] of sheep. His mother says that he will make a fine husband.'

Emma did not like this story. She wanted to improve Harriet. Emma did not want her to be in love with an uneducated farmer!

'What does Mr Martin look like?' asked Emma.

'He's not handsome. But I like him. Haven't you seen him? He often rides through Highbury.'

'I don't notice young farmers,' said Emma snobbishly[4]. 'How old is he?'

'Twenty-four.'

'Ah, he is much too young to get married. He must wait at least six years until he has enough money.'

'Six years, Miss Woodhouse!' exclaimed Harriet. 'But he'll be thirty!!!'

Next day, they met Mr Martin when they were out walking. He looked very happy to see Harriet. Emma thought that he was neat[5] and looked sensible[6] but he was not handsome.

When he had gone, Harriet came running back to Emma with a smiling face.

'It was so lucky to meet him. What do you think of him, Miss

1. **moonlit** : lit by the moon.
2. **walnuts** : a kind of nut.
3. **flock** : a group of animals, such as birds, sheep.
4. **snobbishly** : proudly.
5. **neat** : having a tidy and pleasing appearance.
6. **sensible** : with practical intelligence.

Woodhouse?'

'He is very plain[1] – remarkably plain. And he is clearly not a gentleman. He has no manners.'

Harriet was very disappointed. 'Of course,' she said sadly, 'he is not as genteel[2] as a real gentleman.'

'I think, Harriet, since you have known me, you have been in the company of real gentlemen. I should be surprised if you can still like Mr Martin.'

'Certainly he is not like Mr Knightley. But Mr Knightley is a very fine man.'

'True, Mr Knightley is one in a hundred. And Mr Elton is also an example of a very fine gentleman. In fact, I think that Mr Elton likes you, Harriet.'

'Oh, Miss Woodhouse! Do you think so?' And Harriet seemed to have completely forgotten Mr Martin, the young farmer. Emma congratulated herself. She was the perfect match-maker[3].

Meanwhile, Mr Knightley was talking to Mrs Weston about Emma. 'I think this friendship between Emma and Harriet Smith is a bad thing, Mrs Weston.'

'A bad thing! Why? I am very pleased to see them together,' replied Mrs Weston. 'To educate Harriet, Emma will read more herself.'

'Emma always plans to read more. I have seen all the lists of books she made when she was twelve years old. But she is never hard-working or patient. Her imagination is stronger than her

1. **plain** : ordinary, not handsome or attractive.
2. **genteel** : with good manners, like a gentleman or lady.
3. **match-maker** : someone who finds husbands or wives for others.

understanding. Her father spoils her. And since her mother died, she has been the mistress[1] of Hartfield and the mistress of you all!'

'But she is so happy to have a friend of her own age. She looks very well.'

'Yes, Emma is very pretty.'

'Pretty, Mr Knightley! She is perfect beauty,' said Mrs Weston.

'Well, I confess that I have seldom seen anyone more attractive. But I am an old friend. She always says that she will never marry. It would do her good to be in love. But there is no-one in Highbury to attract her.'

Mrs Weston smiled mysteriously. Would Emma fall in love with Frank Churchill, Mr Weston's son, if he came to Highbury? It would be the perfect marriage.



1. **she has ... mistress** : she has had control.

Go back to the text

1 **Choose from the characters (A-D) to answer the questions. There is an example at the beginning.**

A Emma
B Mr George Knightley
C Mr Woodhouse
D Harriet Smith

Who:

0. [C] seems to be always worried about almost everything?
1. [ ] has a brother who lives in London?
2. [ ] feels that he/she is responsible for Mr and Mrs Weston's marriage?
3. [ ] thinks that Emma should not try to direct other people's lives?
4. [ ] wants to find a wife for Mr Elton?
5. [ ] is an orphan?
6. [ ] admires Mr Martin?
7. [ ] thinks that Mr Martin is not rich enough to get married?
8. [ ] admires Emma but thinks that she is spoilt?
9. [ ] thinks that Emma is a good person because she is always trying to help others?
10. [ ] believes that he/she will never get married?

2 **What do you think? Why?**

a. Will Emma have a good influence on Harriet?
b. Will Frank Churchill play an important part in the story?
c. Will Emma fall in love?
d. Will Mr and Mrs Weston have a happy marriage?

Reporting conversations

Often, we need to report a conversation. We want to give the information some time after the original conversation took place. Look at this example from the story:

Everybody said that Mr Weston ***would*** *never* ***get married*** *again.*
Originally, people said: *'He* ***will*** *never* ***get married*** *again.'*

In reported speech, the verb goes one step back in the past.
Here are some more examples. Study the changes.

'I ***am going*** *to travel to London* ***tomorrow****.'*
He said that he ***was going*** *to travel to London* ***the next day****.*

*'****My*** *sister* ***has fallen*** *in love with a soldier.'*
She told me that ***her*** *sister* ***had fallen*** *in love with a soldier.*

'I ***came here*** *yesterday to see you,' he told her.*
He said that he ***had gone there*** *the previous day to see her.*

*'****Did*** *you* ***go*** *to the party?'*
He asked her if she ***had gone*** *to the party.*

3 Put these sentences into either direct or reported speech.

a. Emma said that she would come to see me.
b. Mr Knightley said, 'I have been to London to visit my brother's family.'
c. 'I myself made the match,' stated Emma.
d. Mr Woodhouse said that he was very sad about the wedding.
e. 'It is a dangerous thing to do,' Mr Woodhouse told Emma.
f. Mr Weston said that they had gone to London for the holidays.
g. Emma declared, 'I will look for a wife for Mr Elton.'
h. He told me that Miss Taylor was getting married.
i. Harriet told her that she had stayed with the Martins last summer.
j. Harriet exclaimed, 'I was so lucky to meet him.'

Writing

4 **Write a report of the conversation among Emma, Mr Knightley and Mr Woodhouse (pp. 20-21). You can begin like this:**

At that moment, Mr Knightley of Donwell Abbey came into the room. He said that he had been to London to visit his brother's family. Mr Woodhouse felt sorry for Isabella as he thought that London was a very unhealthy place for her to live. However, Mr Knightley...

Now imagine a conversation among three neighbours about some local news, for example:

– a murder
– a marriage
– a dramatic love affair
– an accident
– a plan for a new hospital

Write a report of the conversation. For example:

Mr Brown said that the police had found a man's body in the lake. Mrs Smith asked how old the man was. Mr Brown said that he was about twenty. Mrs Baxter told them that she had heard a strange noise in the middle of the previous night...

Thinking

5 **Topic – Living standards**

Ask a relative (grandparents, aunt, uncle etc.) about how they lived when they were young. Use an old photo of them and think about how they lived in the past.

Use the following questions to help you:

a. When was the photo taken? What was this relative doing at that time?
b. Where were they living? What was their house like?
c. What type of work did most people do?
d. What one thing has changed most in their life since the photo was taken?

Characters

6 **Mr Woodhouse is always worried about other people. He seems very unselfish. But, as you can already see, he doesn't like people to be independent. For example, he doesn't want Miss Taylor to be married and to leave Hartfield.**
Imagine a modern Mr Woodhouse. Choose some of the following situations and write a dialogue(s) between Mr Woodhouse and his daughter.

– Emma wants to go away to university in the USA.
– She has fallen in love and wants to get married.
– She wants to go on holiday to Africa.
– She wants to meet a friend in the pub.
– She wants to take a well-paid job in another town.

For example, you can begin like this:

Emma: Dad, I've been offered a place at university in California. Isn't it great?

Dad: It's a very long way away. You might be unhappy living in America.

Emma: No, it'll be really exciting.

Dad: But American food is very unhealthy. All the Americans are fat. Stay at home and let me cook for you.

Emma: But Dad,...

7 **For questions 1-12, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each space. There is an example at the beginning.**

Jane Austen at Chawton

Jane Austen moved to Chawton (**0**) ***A*** July, 1809. Her brother Edward, who had been adopted by the rich Knight family, (**1**) ..... to renovate a cottage there in the small village. It is now (**2**) ..... to visit the house and see it as it was when Jane lived there. She used to write at a small table. There was a creaking door. When Jane heard the noise of the door, she knew that she had visitors and she hid the (**3**) ..... of her novels. She was a very private person!

The vicar of Chawton was a middle-aged bachelor, and a friend (**4**) ..... that Jane should marry him. Jane laughed



Chawton Cottage.

(**5**) ..... this. In fact, she was happy living with her mother and beloved sister, Cassandra, and her books, (**6**) ..... she called 'my children'. Jane's brothers often visited and she (**7**) ..... a close friendship with one of her nieces, Anna. The girl wanted to be a novelist and sent examples of her work to her aunt. This probably helped Jane to rediscover her enthusiasm for writing. She found her first publisher in 1811. In 1815, *Emma* was published. Two thousand copies were printed (**8**) ..... not all of them were sold. She (**9**) ..... a profit of £39!

Obviously, Jane's reputation was (**10**) ..... slowly. She never personally met (**11**) ..... other author, and did not go to London to promote her writing.

When Jane's health suddenly (**12**) ..... worse – she probably had 'Addison's Disease' – she moved briefly to Winchester in order to consult an experienced doctor. He could not save her, however, and on July 18th, 1817, she died in the arms of Cassandra.

0.	**A** in	**B** at	**C** on	**D** for
1.	**A** offered	**B** presented	**C** ordered	**D** said
2.	**A** likely	**B** possible	**C** probable	**D** feasible
3.	**A** writings	**B** papers	**C** manuscripts	**D** documents
4.	**A** suggested	**B** wanted	**C** considered	**D** told
5.	**A** to	**B** for	**C** in	**D** at
6.	**A** what	**B** who	**C** which	**D** whose
7.	**A** gave	**B** made	**C** did	**D** formed
8.	**A** but	**B** as	**C** still	**D** while
9.	**A** collected	**B** did	**C** made	**D** took
10.	**A** worsening	**B** becoming	**C** raising	**D** growing
11.	**A** any	**B** some	**C** an	**D** one
12.	**A** took	**B** got	**C** was	**D** turned

Before you go on



1 **Listen to the beginning of Part Two, and identify the correct character (A-D).**

A Emma
B Mr Elton
C Harriet Smith
D Mr Knightley

Who:

1. ☐ wants Emma to paint Harriet's picture?
2. ☐ criticises the picture?
3. ☐ thinks that Emma is a very good artist?
4. ☐ is certain that Mr Elton is in love with Harriet?
5. ☐ receives a letter?
6. ☐ offers Harriet advice?
7. ☐ would be very sad if he/she could never visit Emma again?
8. ☐ thinks Mr Martin wants to marry Harriet for social reasons alone?
9. ☐ thinks that Mr Martin is Harriet's social equal?
10. ☐ thinks that Emma has been match-making?

2 **What do you think? Why?**

a. Do you agree more with Emma or Mr Knightley as regards to Mr Martin's proposal?

b. Would you have agreed to marry Mr Martin if you had been Harriet?



Part Two

Match-Maker or Trouble-Maker?

12 Emma had decided to make a match between Mr Elton and Harriet Smith. Emma was sure that Mr Elton was already half in love with her.

'You have given Harriet so much,' he told her. 'You have made her graceful and elegant, Miss Woodhouse.'

'Thank you, Mr Elton.'

'Let me ask you to paint her picture, Miss Woodhouse. You are a talented artist.'

Harriet was very shy but she agreed to sit for her portrait[1]. Emma took out her water colours and began to work. Mr Elton sat near her, constantly[2] jumping up to look at the picture.

1. **portrait** : a painting of a person.
2. **constantly** : always, continuously.

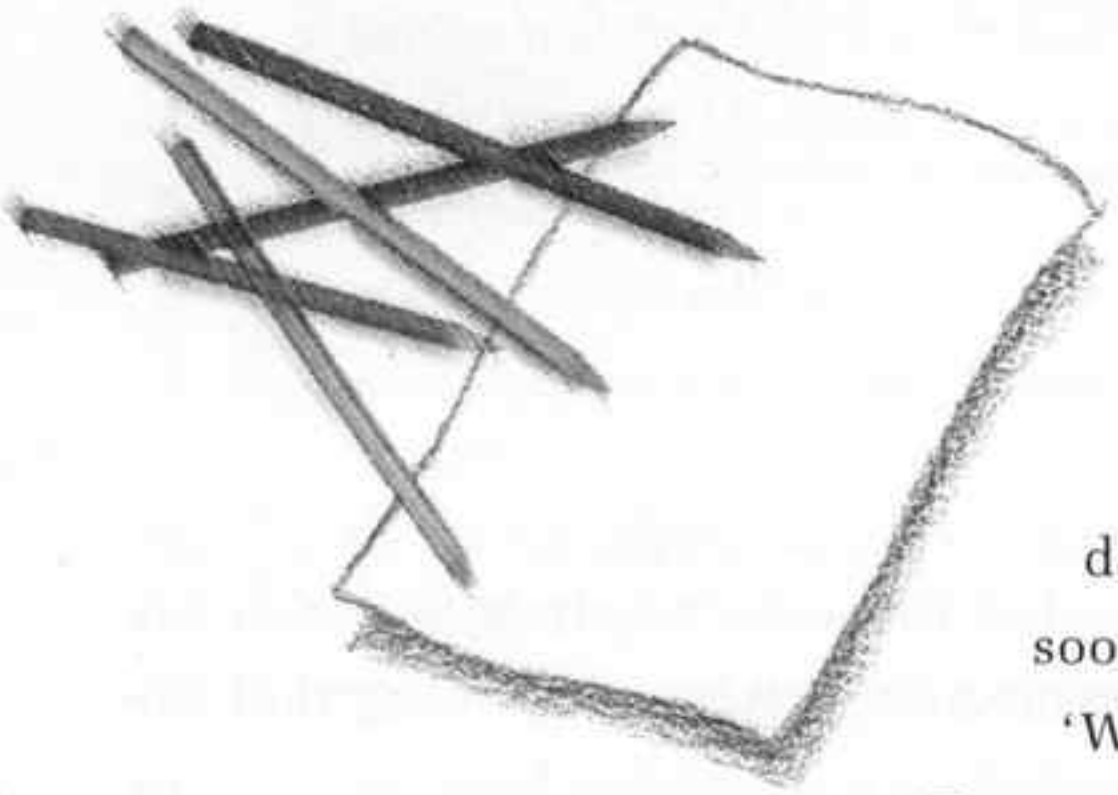
'That is an excellent likeness[1].'

'Thank you, Mr Elton,' said Emma. 'He must be very much in love with her, I have only just begun,' she thought.

'Harriet is not as beautiful as that,' said Mr Weston arriving to see Mr Woodhouse.

'You have made her too tall,' said Mr Knightley.

'Poor Harriet,' said Mr Woodhouse, 'you are painting her outdoors. She will catch cold.'



'Oh no,' said Mr Elton. 'It is a perfect work of art. I will ride to London to have it framed[2].'

Emma was very pleased. Mr Elton was obviously in love. But next day, Harriet came to Hartfield soon after breakfast.

'What is the matter?' asked Emma.

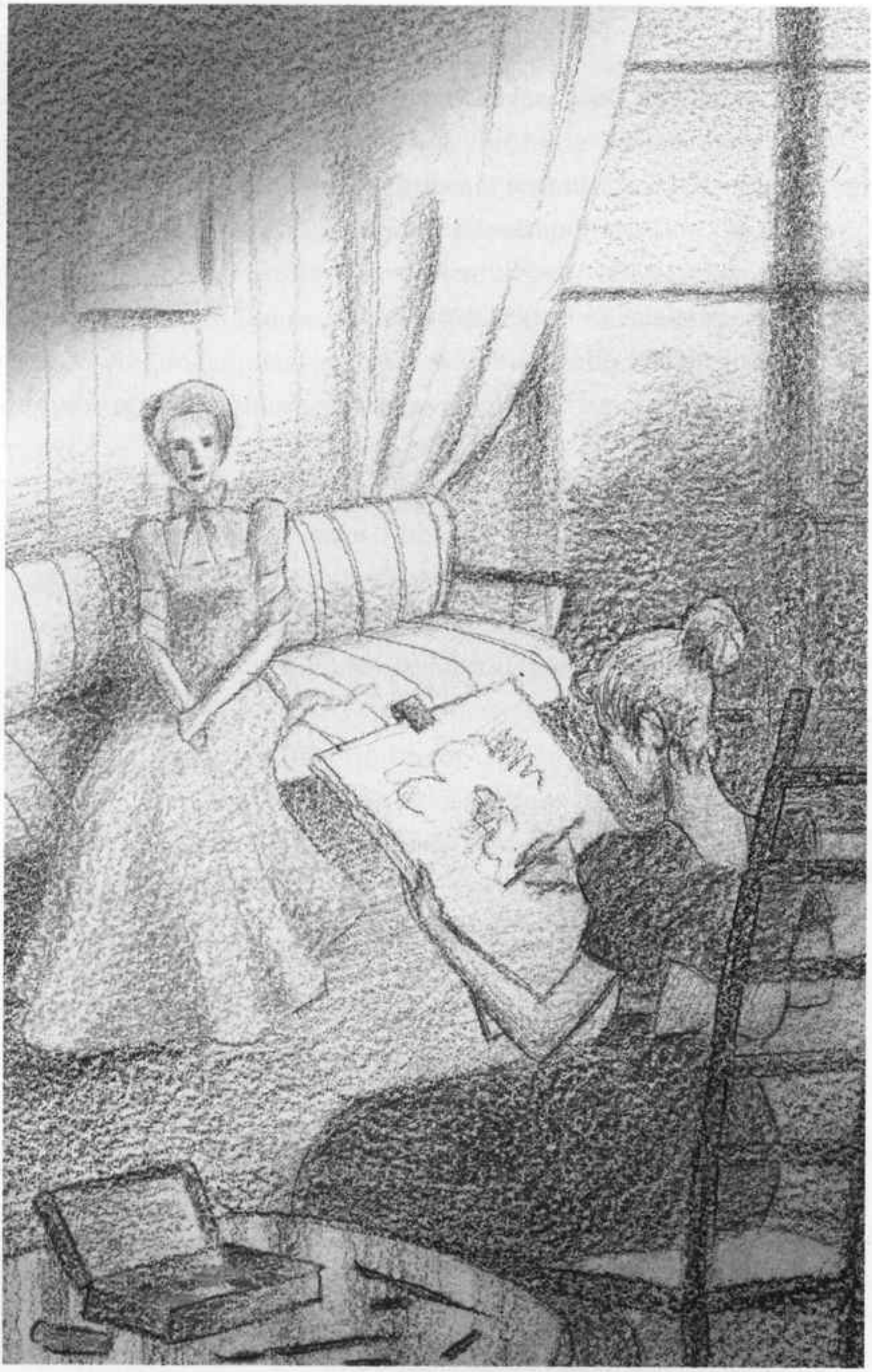
'Mr Martin has written to me. He has asked me to marry him.'

'He wants to have good connections[3],' said Emma coldly.

'Please, read the letter. It is a very good letter.'

Emma was surprised to find that the letter was short but well written.

1. **likeness** : similarity, a recognisable painting of someone.
2. **framed** : put in a wooden frame. 
3. **good connections** : friends or relatives from a high social class.



'But what shall I do?' asked Harriet.

'You ought to write politely but firmly like a lady. Thank him for his offer but explain that it is impossible.'

'I had no idea that he liked me so much. Do you think that it is better to say no, Miss Woodhouse?'

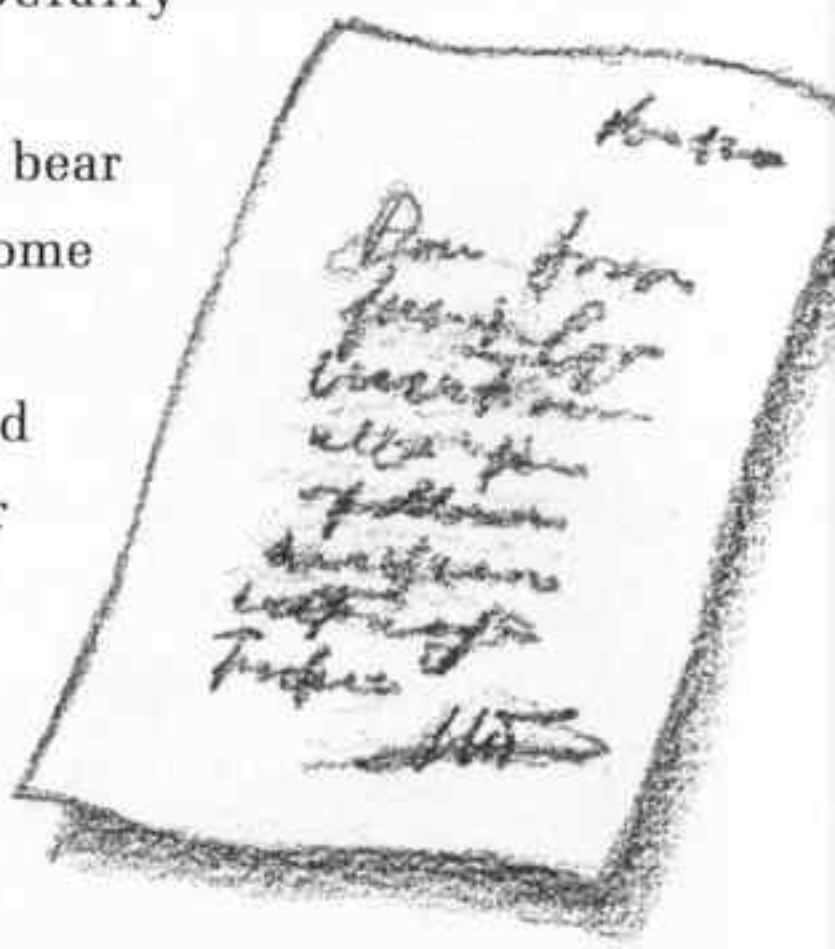
'You must make your own decision.'

'Then perhaps I ought to refuse him.'

'Perfectly right, Harriet. If you were married to a farmer, I could never visit you. It would be socially[1] impossible.'

'Oh, Miss Woodhouse, I couldn't bear it[2]. It would have killed me never to come to Hartfield again.'

'Dear, sweet, little friend,' said Emma. 'Let me help you write your answer.'



The letter was sent.

'Poor Mr Martin,' said Harriet sadly.

'You will always be welcome here at Hartfield. And remember Mr Elton. At this moment he is in London. Perhaps he is showing your portrait to his mother and sisters.'

'Oh, Miss Woodhouse, do you think so?'

Next day, Mr Knightley called on[3] Emma. He was very angry when he found out that Harriet had refused Mr Martin. 'The girl is

1. **socially** : in society.
2. **bear it** : accept it, tolerate it.
3. **called on** : paid a visit to, came to see.

a fool. Emma, is this your work? Did you persuade her to refuse him?'

'How can she accept him? He is not her equal[1].'

'Not Harriet's equal! Harriet is pretty and kind but that is all. Robert Martin is sensible, sincere and is a natural gentleman.'

'Anyway,' said Emma, 'Harriet has a different destiny[2].'

END

'Are you match-making?' asked Mr Knightley. 'Well, if Mr Elton is a part of your plan, then you are making a great mistake.' He left angrily.

Mr Elton brought back the picture from London and they hung it in the main room.

'It is a beautiful painting,' he sighed.

Harriet was busy writing out riddles[3] in a book. It was a fashionable thing for young ladies to do, to copy clever pieces of literature.

'Why don't you write a riddle for us, Mr Elton?' asked Emma.

'I'm not clever enough,' he said but next day he arrived with a piece of paper. He gave it to Emma.

When he had gone, Emma and Harriet read it together[4].

'In my first, rich kings live at ease...'

'That means "court[5]",' thought Emma.

'My second is the monarch of the seas...'

'That means "ship",' thought Emma.

1. **equal** : person equal to someone else in some way.
2. **destiny** : that which happens to someone.
3. **riddles** : clever puzzles using words.
4. **Mr Elton's riddle** : some of the language is difficult. Don't worry if you don't understand everything!
5. **court** : two meanings – 'a king's palace' and 'to want to marry a girl'.

'But ah! united, all man's freedom is flown;
And woman, lovely woman, reigns[1] alone...'
'That means "courtship[2]",' thought Emma.
'Your ready wit[3] the word will soon supply.
May its approval smile in that soft eye!'
'That is Harriet's "soft eye",' thought Emma.

'I don't understand,' said Harriet. 'What does it mean? 'Monarch of the seas'? Is that a mermaid? Or a shark?'

'Mermaids and sharks! Nonsense! My dear Harriet, the answer is 'courtship'. It is written for you. I congratulate you with all my heart. Here is proof that Mr Elton loves you.'

'Dear Miss Woodhouse,' said Harriet. 'Oh, Mr Elton is a true gentleman like Mr Knightley.'

That evening, Mr Elton called again.

'Thank you for the riddle,' said Emma. 'I have written it in Miss Smith's book.'

'That is an honour, Miss Woodhouse,' said Mr Elton gallantly[4]. 'It is the proudest moment of my life.'

Next day, Emma was walking in the village with Harriet.

'One day, Harriet, you will live in the vicarage[5]. And I shall come and visit you.'

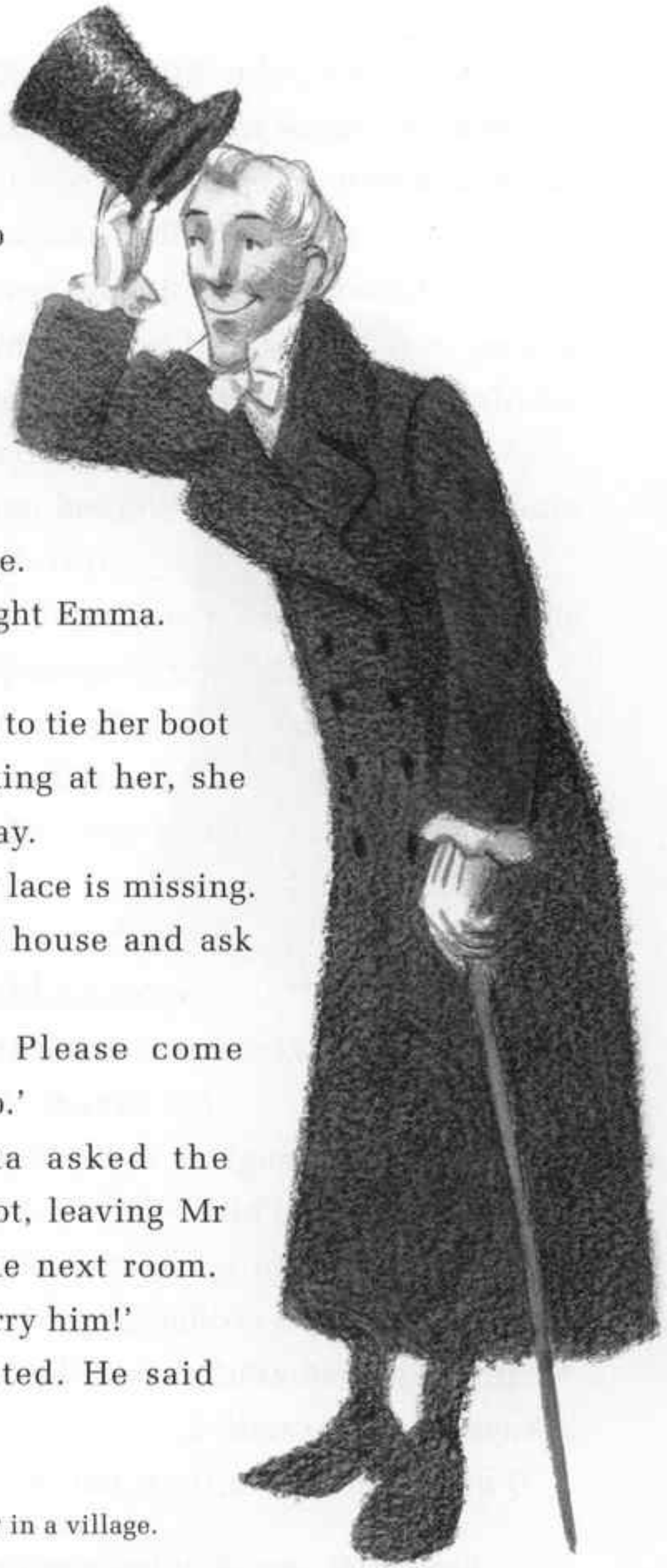
'And I shall visit you, Miss Woodhouse, when you are married.'

'No, I shall never marry. I have never been in love because I have never met a superior[6] man. I am content[7] to live in my father's

1. **reigns** : has power, governs.
2. **courtship** : the time when a man and a woman are in love, leading to marriage.
3. **ready wit** : quick intelligence.
4. **gallantly** : in a way that shows special attention and respect to women.
5. **vicarage** : the house where the vicar lives.
6. **superior** : better than average.
7. **content** : satisfied, happy.

house. It is a perfect life.'

They went to the cottage[1] of a poor family of the village. Emma went inside to talk to the sick children and to offer advice and sympathy. Walking on, they met Mr Elton in the lane[2]. He walked with them until they reached the vicarage.
'Harriet must go inside,' thought Emma.
'I have an idea!'



She stopped and pretended to tie her boot lace[3]. While no one was looking at her, she broke the lace and threw it away.

'Oh!' she cried, 'part of my lace is missing. Mr Elton, may I stop at your house and ask your house-keeper for help?'

'Dear Miss Woodhouse. Please come inside. Oh, and Miss Smith too.'

Inside the house, Emma asked the housekeeper to mend[4] her boot, leaving Mr Elton and Harriet alone in the next room.
'Perhaps he will ask her to marry him!'

But Emma was disappointed. He said nothing.

1. **cottage** : a small house, usually in a village.
2. **lane** : a small road or path.
3. **lace** : a string to tie shoes.
4. **mend** : repair.

Isabella, Mr John Knightley, their five children and their nursemaids[1] came to Hartfield for Christmas. One evening they talked about the Westons.



'But has Mr Weston's son come to visit them since the wedding?' asked John.

When Mr Weston's first wife had died, their son, Frank Churchill, had gone to live with his wealthy aunt and uncle in the North of England, in Yorkshire. He was now twenty-three years old but his aunt, Mrs Churchill, was a proud, stubborn[2] old lady. She made it difficult for Frank to visit his father at Highbury.

'No,' answered Emma. 'He has written a letter promising to visit but he has not yet come here. All of Highbury wants to see him.'

Later, Mr Knightley joined them for dinner. Emma was holding Isabella's baby daughter in her arms. He came up to her and she passed the child to him.

'At least we can agree about our baby niece[3],' she said. 'We both think that she is charming.'

'If you judged adults as well as you judge children, we would always agree,' he smiled.

'I hope that Mr Martin is not too disappointed.'

1. **nursemaids** : servants to look after young children.
2. **stubborn** : determined not to give way.
3. **niece** : the daughter of a brother or sister.

'A man could not be more disappointed.'

'I am very sorry,' said Emma sincerely. 'But come, shake hands with me.'

They were friends again.

Later that evening, they decided that they would all visit Randalls on Christmas Eve. Mr Elton and Harriet would be invited too. Unfortunately, Harriet developed a sore throat[1]. Emma told Mr Elton, 'She is too ill to come to the party.'

'Be careful, Miss Woodhouse. Do not catch the infection from her.'

'But you must be careful too, Mr Elton. Don't come out in the cold weather. Remember, you must preach[2] on Christmas Day.'

'Thank you. The advice of such a beautiful lady is precious to me. But I am looking forward to the party.'

'How strange!' Emma thought. 'The woman he loves is ill but he still smiles.'

'Be careful, Emma,' said Mr John Knightley. 'I think Mr Elton is in love with you. I have been watching him.'

'With me? What an idea! You are quite mistaken!'

1. **a sore throat** : an infection that makes it painful to talk.
2. **preach** : give a talk on a religious subject.

Go back to the text

1 **Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each question.**

1. What are some of the reasons why Emma believes that Mr Elton is in love with Harriet?
   - **A** ☐ Because Harriet has become so socially elegant and attractive.
   - **B** ☐ Because he asks Emma to paint Harriet's portrait and he writes a riddle about her.
   - **C** ☐ Because she knows that Mr Elton knows that Harriet would be the perfect wife for a vicar.
   - **D** ☐ Because he certainly realises that Emma is his superior and would never marry him.
2. How did Emma have Harriet invited into the vicarage?
   - **A** ☐ She decided to pass by the vicarage with Harriet in the hope of seeing Mr Elton.
   - **B** ☐ She told Harriet to pretend to have a sore throat.
   - **C** ☐ She asked Mr Elton to write a riddle for Harriet.
   - **D** ☐ She broke her boot lace so they could be invited into the vicarage.
3. Why was Emma disappointed with the visit?
   - **A** ☐ Because she had to trick Mr Elton to get invited.
   - **B** ☐ Because she knew that Mr Knightley would not approve of their visit.
   - **C** ☐ Because she realised during their visit that Mr Elton wanted to marry Harriet just to improve his social connections.
   - **D** ☐ Because Mr Elton did not ask Harriet to get married during their visit.
4. Who is Frank Churchill?
   - **A** ☐ He is a friend of the Westons.
   - **B** ☐ He is Mrs Weston's son.
   - **C** ☐ He is Mrs Churchill's nephew.
   - **D** ☐ He is John's son by a first marriage.

5. What do Mr Knightley and Emma agree about?
   - **A** ☐ That Harriet shouldn't marry Mr Elton.
   - **B** ☐ That their niece is charming.
   - **C** ☐ That Emma is good at judging adults.
   - **D** ☐ That Harriet should marry Mr Martin.

6. How does Mr Elton react to the news that Harriet is ill?
   - **A** ☐ He is worried that she might infect Emma.
   - **B** ☐ He is worried about her.
   - **C** ☐ He is worried that there will be no party.
   - **D** ☐ He is worried that she might infect him.

2 What do you think? Why?

a. Will the party at Randalls be successful?

b. Will Mr Elton marry Harriet?

c. Will Frank visit Highbury in January?

d. Will Mr Martin forget Harriet?

Having something done

Mr Elton said: *'I will ride to London and have the picture framed.'* He means that somebody else will frame the picture for him. It isn't important who frames the picture.

HAVE	+	OBJECT	+	PAST PARTICIPLE
I will have		***the picture***		***framed***

Here are some more examples:

Frank Churchill ***has had*** *his hair* ***cut****.*
Isabella ***had*** *her children* ***looked after*** *by a nursemaid.*

In spoken English we can also use **get** instead of **have**:

I will ***get*** *the picture* ***framed****.* *He is* ***getting*** *his hair* ***cut****.*

Notice how both **get** and **have** change tense as appropriate.

3 **Rewrite the following sentences using the words in brackets.**

a. A photographer is taking his picture. *(get)*

b. I will pay a painter to paint my house. *(have)*

c. A technician repaired our computer last week. *(get)*

d. A dentist has removed her wisdom teeth. *(have)*

e. A mechanic services my car every six months. *(get)*

4 **Now complete the following sentences using 'get/have something done' with one of the verbs below.**

shorten	**lengthen**	**test**	**cut**	**install**	**fill**	~~**deliver**~~

Example:

They must have these books by tomorrow, but I have to stay here. I ***will have*** *them* ***delivered****.*

a. I had a terrible toothache because I had a large cavity. So, I went to the dentist and .....

b. This coat was too long but I ..... . Now it fits perfectly.

c. I don't like long hair. In fact, every three weeks I ..... .

d. My eyes hurt, and I keep getting headaches. I think I ..... .

e. I know nothing about computers. Every time I need a programme I ..... .

f. These trousers fit you perfectly, except they are a bit too short. You should ..... .

Writing

5 **Pretend you are Harriet. Write a letter to an old friend in which you explain what happened with Mr Martin. Use between 120 and 180 words.**

Include the following information:

- who Mr Martin is
- how you met him
- who Emma Woodhouse is and what she thinks of him
- what Mr Martin asked you
- how you responded
- any doubts you may have about your decision

Start and finish your letter like this:

Dearest Sarah,

Do you remember how we used to talk together about marriage when we were in the orphanage together. Well, you won't believe it but...

Your old and still loyal friend,

Harriet Smith

6 **What do you think? Why?**

a. Are boys more romantic than girls?

b. If someone is in love, do they always use fine words?

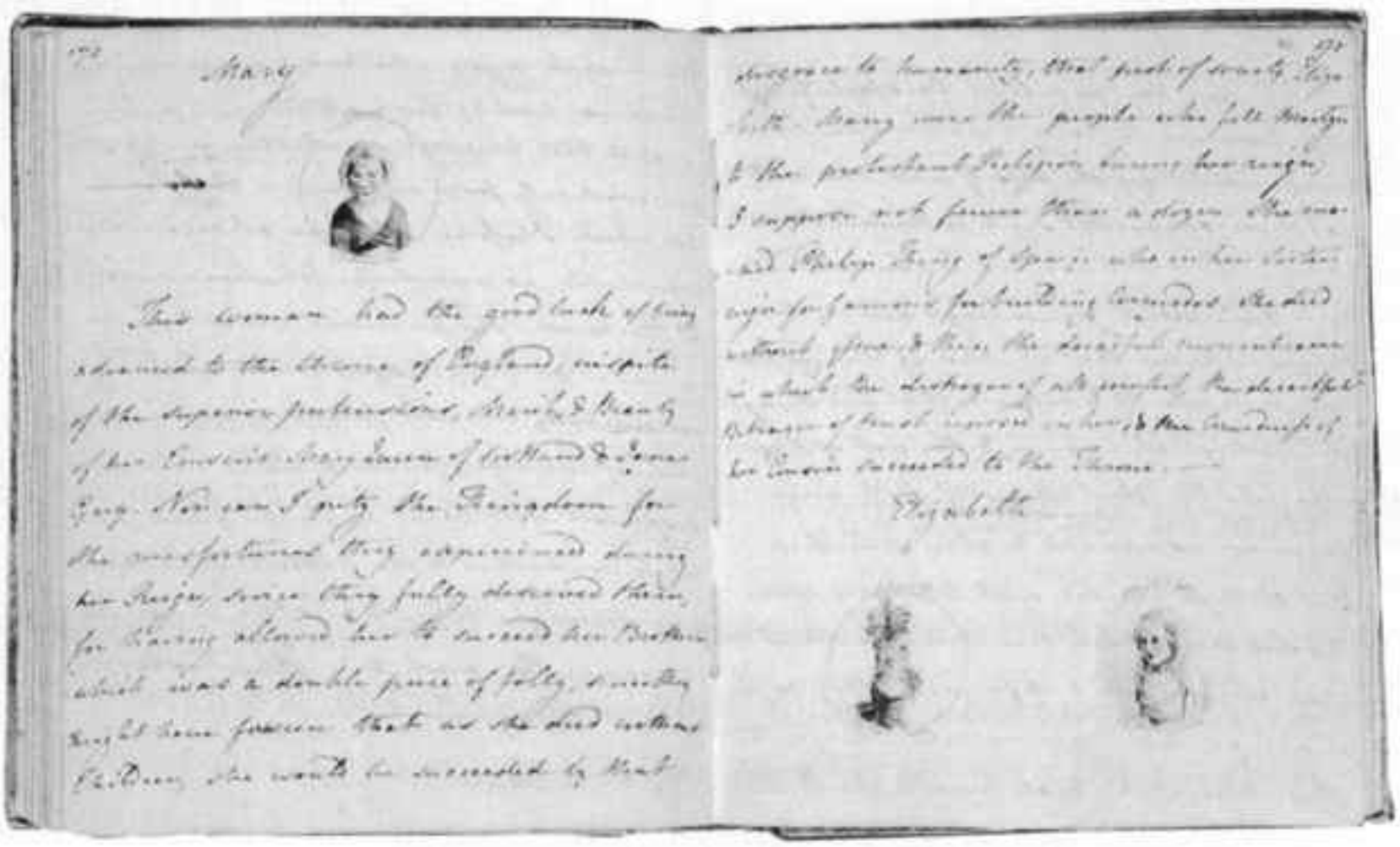
c. Do girls like to be told they're beautiful?

d. Do boys like to be told they're handsome?

e. Is it sometimes right for a third person to help two people to fall in love? Has it ever happened to you?

Jane Austen and Reading

Jane Austen loved reading. She believed in the great importance of literature and wrote that it showed 'the greatest power of the human mind.' She was familiar with the classic authors such as Shakespeare but also kept up-to-date with[1] the latest writers. She also knew the dangers of literature. There was a fashion for very dramatic, romantic novels by authors such as Mrs Radcliffe. In her early novel, *Northanger Abbey,* Jane laughs at her heroine who expects life to be as exciting as one of these novels. *Emma* continues this idea of the dangers of the imagination. Emma Woodhouse behaves as if life is a love story which she can control. As Mr Knightley says, she has 'more imagination than understanding'.

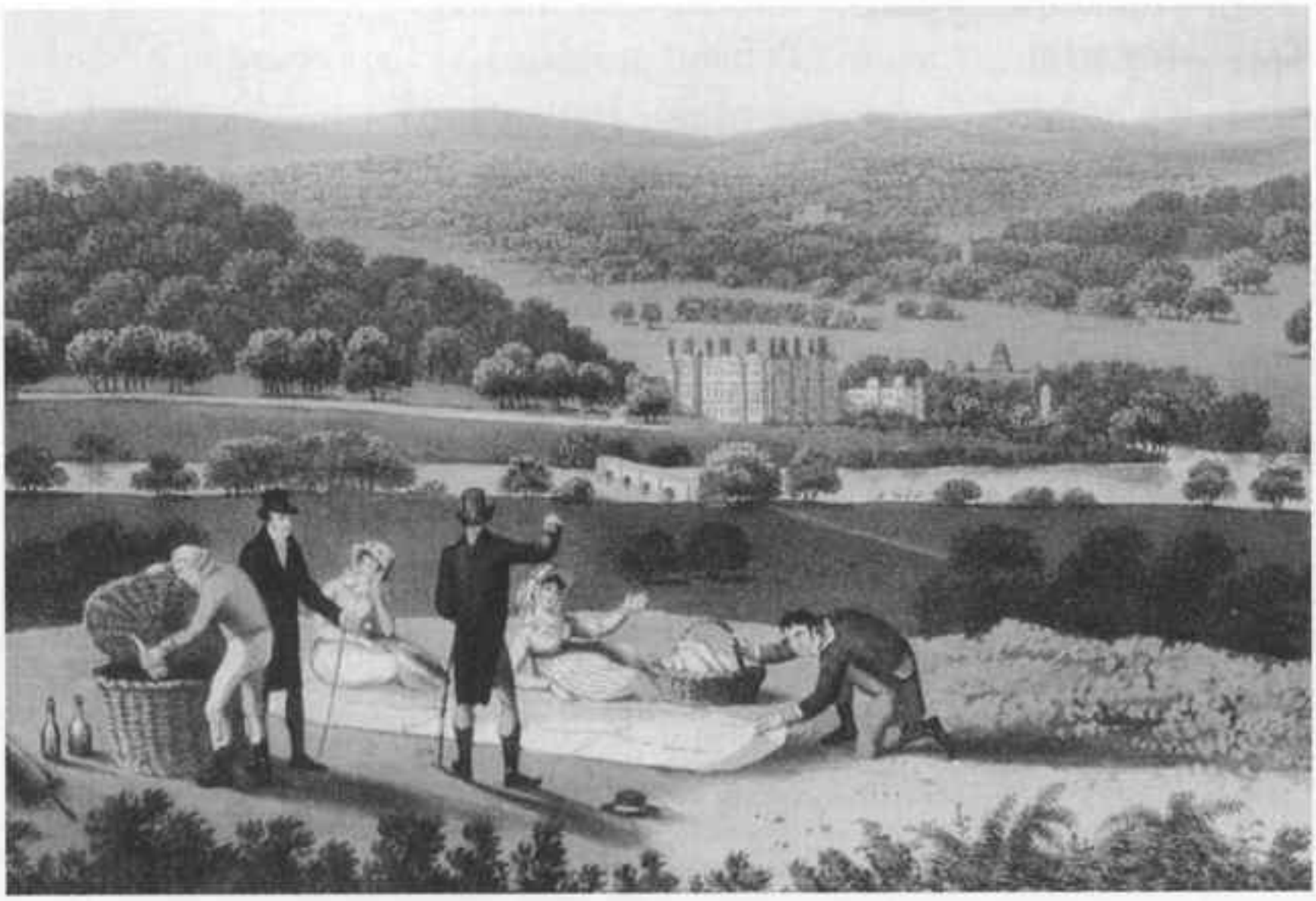


A manuscript[2] written by Jane Austen at the age of 16.

1. **kept up-to-date with** : knew about what was happening.
2. **manuscript** : the first copy of a piece of writing written by hand.

There is little reference to literature in *Emma*. Mr Knightley remembers that Emma has made many lists of good books but that she has failed to read them. Emma plans to educate Harriet by giving her a programme of reading but, in fact, they are always thinking too much about love to have time for literature!

The newest movement in European literature and art at this time was known as Romanticism. Many famous English writers belong to this period – Byron, Shelley, Keats, Walter Scott. The Romantics generally preferred passion and imagination to calmness and reason[1]. They also preferred the wild dramatic landscape of the Lake District in northern England or the Alps in Switzerland. In most ways, Jane Austen does not share these ideas although she lived and wrote at the same time. In *Emma*, she praises the calm, sweet English countryside at Donwell Abbey and Box Hill.



A View of Box Hill (1816), by Humphrey Repton.

1. **reason** : (here) power of the mind to think and understand.

There are no passionate and dramatic incidents in the novel. Instead there is wit[1] and irony[2] and a deep understanding of human behaviour.

1 **Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Then correct the false ones.**

	T	F
a. Jane Austen thought that literature was the greatest power of the human mind.	☐	☐
b. She read only the classics of English literature.	☐	☐
c. *Northanger Abbey* is a wildly romantic novel by Mrs Radcliffe.	☐	☐
d. Her novel *Emma* speaks very little of literature.	☐	☐
e. Jane Austen was a typical representative of the English Romantic movement in literature.	☐	☐
f. Romantic writers had a great dislike of wild landscapes.	☐	☐
g. She thought that an uncontrolled belief in imagination could create problems.	☐	☐
h. In her novels she paid tribute to England's rural areas.	☐	☐
i. Her novels are characterised by a good knowledge of human nature.	☐	☐



Before you go on

1 **What do you think? Why?**

Mr Knightley says that Emma has more imagination than understanding. How is Emma's relationship with Harriet true to this?

1. **wit** : intelligent humour.
2. **irony** : using words that are the opposite of what they really mean.



Part Three

The Great Mistake

It was Christmas Eve. The carriages were ready in the courtyard at Hartfield, and Emma travelled in the second one with Mr John Knightley. It was already beginning to snow. At the vicarage, Mr Elton joined them. He seemed extremely happy. She did not understand – his loved one was ill.

They entered Randalls. Mr Weston was talking about 'Mr Frank Churchill'. Emma found that the name had a strange effect on her feelings. She was inexplicably[1] excited.

Frank would visit Highbury in January. Emma had never met Frank Churchill but she had frequently thought that, if she ever married, he was the most suitable person in age, character and social position. Their families were connected. He seemed to belong to her.

'We are not sure that Frank will come,' said Mrs Weston later.

1. **inexplicably** : that can not be explained.

'His aunt may refuse to allow him. The Churchills think that the Westons are below them[1].'

'You told me that he was in Weymouth[2] in the autumn. Then surely he can find time to visit his father,' said Emma.

'He is his aunt's favourite. She will find a way to keep him in Yorkshire.'



Standing beside her, Mr Elton began talking to Emma. 'You must promise me, Miss Woodhouse, not to see Harriet again until she is well. You must not put yourself in danger of becoming ill yourself. Don't you agree with me, Mrs Weston?'

Emma gave him an angry look. He was talking as if he had the right of first interest in her.

At that moment, Mr John Knightley came into the room. 'There is a snowstorm outside. The roads may be blocked[3]. We may not be able to get back tonight.'

'Oh, the poor horses. What shall we do, my dear Emma,' cried Mr Woodhouse.

'My children are at Hartfield,' said Isabella.

Mr Knightley had kept calm. He went out to examine the road and returned. 'There is no difficulty,' he reported. 'There is very little snow on the ground and the clouds are already clearing[4].'

1. **below them** : socially inferior.
2. **Weymouth** : a fashionable holiday town on the coast.
3. **blocked** : made impossible for traffic.
4. **clearing** : disappearing.

The Great Mistake



But Mr Woodhouse was so worried that they decided to leave immediately. They all went out to the carriages. Mr Woodhouse and Isabella got in the first carriage. In the confusion, Mr John Knightley joined them, forgetting that he was travelling with Emma. She got in the second carriage and found Mr Elton following her. The coachman shut the door. They were alone together. And Mr Elton had been drinking Mr Weston's red wine.

4 As soon as the carriage passed through the gates, Mr Elton seized[1] her hand.

'You know that I love you. I am ready to die for you. Please accept me as your husband.'

'I am very much astonished[2], Mr Elton. You are in love with Miss Smith. How can you say these words to me?'

'Miss Smith! I have never been interested in Miss Smith. It is you I love, dear Miss Woodhouse. Say that you will marry me.'

'For the past month you have been courting Miss Smith. You took her portrait to London, you wrote a riddle for her, you

1. **seized** : took violently.
2. **astonished** : very surprised.

visited her at Hartfield constantly... This is very bad behaviour, Mr Elton.'

'Good heavens!' cried Mr Elton. 'I never ever thought of Miss Smith. She is a penniless[1] orphan. Everything I have said and done has been for you. I am sure that you understood.'

Emma was coldly silent.

But Mr Elton tried to seize her hand again.

'Charming Miss Woodhouse, do not be shy. Confess that you return my affections.'

'No sir,' cried Emma, 'I have always thought that you loved my friend. I could never consider marrying you.'

Mr Elton was silent. He sat angrily in his corner of the carriage while Emma sat angrily in hers. The carriage went slowly through the snow. The journey was like torture[2] for them. Mr Elton jumped out as soon as they arrived at the vicarage.

'Goodnight!' said Emma.

'Goodnight!' he replied coldly and proudly.

5 The carriage drove on to Hartfield. Emma was feeling very miserable. 'How shall I tell Harriet? I have been only half a friend to her.'

Isabella and John returned to London soon after Christmas. Mr Elton wrote to Mr Woodhouse. 'I am going to Bath[3] for a few weeks to spend some time with friends.'

Harriet of course was heart-broken. There was more bad news. Frank Churchill wrote that he could not come to Highbury. 'My aunt cannot spare[4] me.'

1. **penniless** : poor, with no money.
2. **torture** : great suffering.
3. **Bath** : a city in the West of England, very fashionable in Jane Austen's time.
4. **spare** : be without.

The Great Mistake

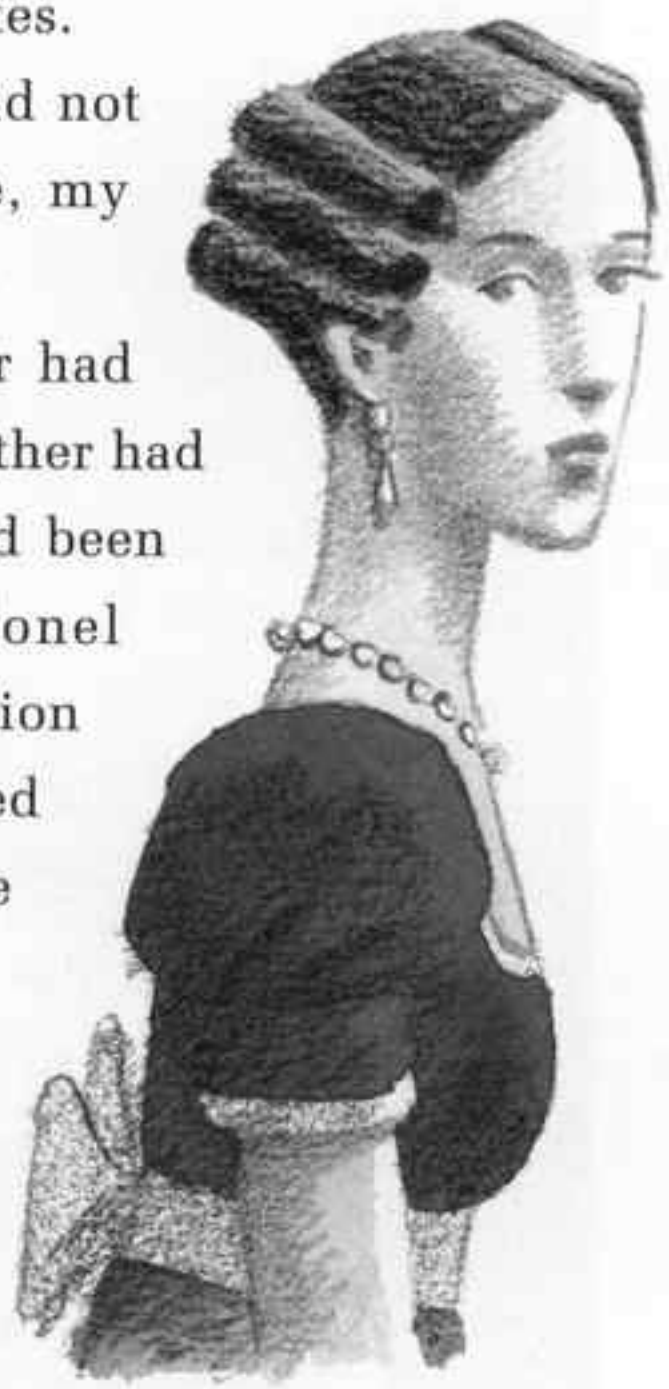
Mr Knightley was furious. 'He must be a very proud, selfish young man to treat his father in this way.'

'But he depends on the Churchills. You are independent, you cannot understand his situation. When he finally comes to Hartfield, I shall welcome him. We do not often see fine young men, well-bred[1] and fashionable.'

'My dear Emma, he is a spoilt puppy[2]!'

6 Emma and Harriet went to visit Miss Bates.

Miss Bates began talking at once and did not stop. 'I have had a long letter from Jane, my niece.'



Jane Fairfax was an orphan. Her father had been killed in the war overseas and her mother had died soon afterwards. Fortunately, she had been brought up by her father's friend, Colonel Campbell, and his wife. She was a companion for their daughter who had just got married to Mr Dixon, a rich young man. The Campbells lived in Weymouth but Mr Dixon had taken his new bride to live in Ireland with him. As Jane had no wealth of her own, she now had to leave the Campbell family and find a job as a governess. But first, she would come to Highbury and stay with her aunt.

'Jane will miss Mr and Mrs Dixon. Mr Dixon once saved her from drowning, you know.'

1. **well-bred** : well educated, with good manners.
2. **puppy** : a young dog, used to mean an irresponsible young man.

Emma's imagination began to work. 'I wonder if Jane is in love with Mr Dixon. Perhaps that is why she is coming here, to escape a broken heart.'

7 Emma had not seen Jane Fairfax for two years. 'You envy[1] her,' Mr Knightley once said. 'She is a really talented young woman.' Yes, Jane could play the piano, sing and draw better than Emma. But also she was cold and reserved[2].

As soon as Jane arrived, Emma went to visit her. She liked her better. She was elegant, with more beauty in her face than Emma remembered. Her eyes were deep grey, with dark eyelashes[3] and eyebrows[4]; her skin was clear and delicate[5]. She seemed ill.

'Perhaps she is heart-broken for Mr Dixon,' imagined Emma.

Then Jane visited Hartfield with her aunt. Miss Bates talked without stopping about Jane's talents and her health. Then both Emma and Jane played the piano but Jane was clearly more talented.

'Did you meet Frank Churchill when you were in Weymouth?' asked Emma. 'Is he handsome?'

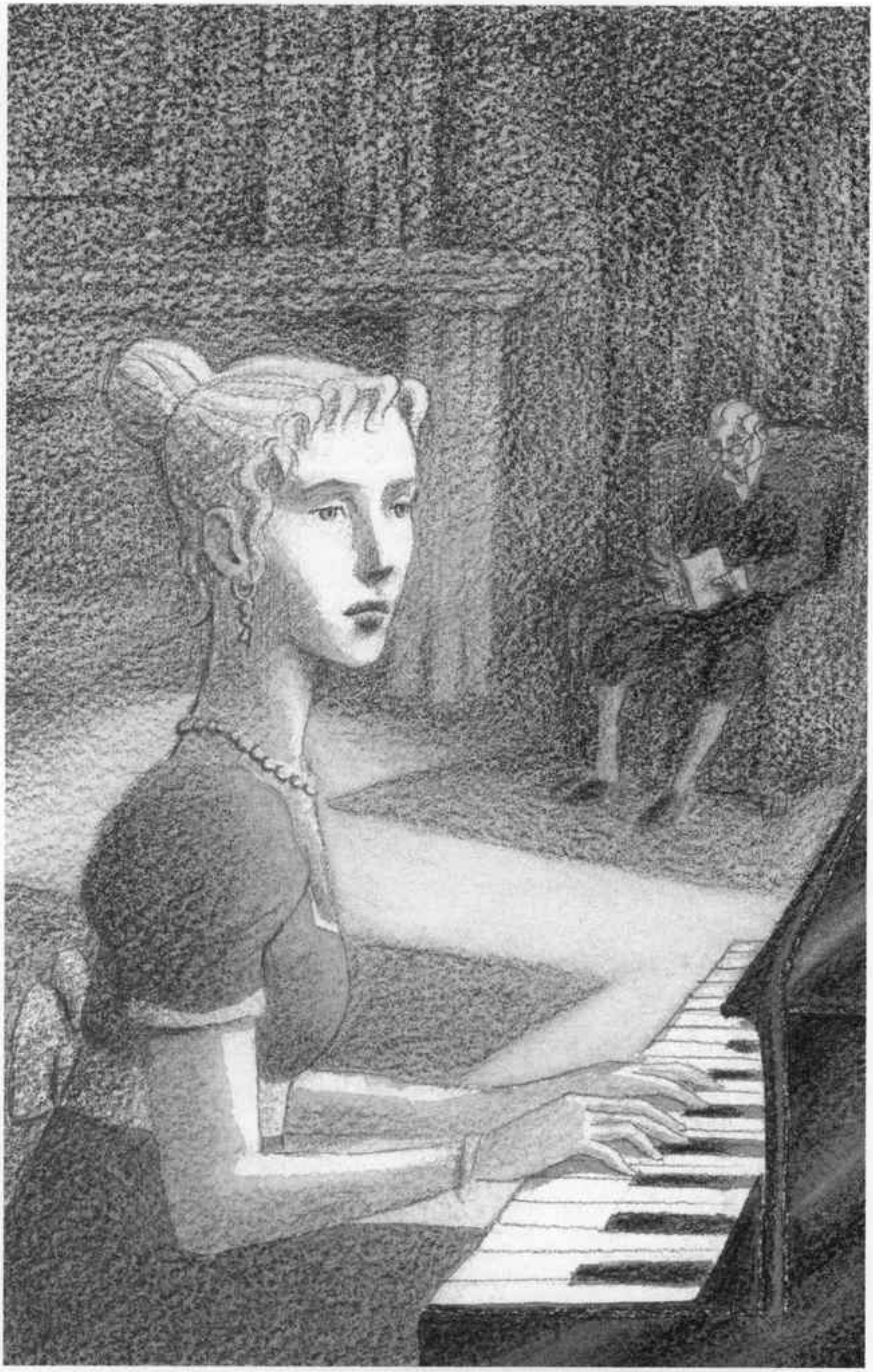
'Yes, I met him. But I hardly remember him.'

'She is so cold, so reserved,' thought Emma. 'I don't like her after all. Harriet will continue to be my first friend.'

Next day, Mr Knightley called at Hartfield.

'I was so pleased to see that you and Jane Fairfax were friends last night,' he said to Emma. 'It was kind of you to let her play at the piano – she has no piano at Miss Bates's house.'

1. **envy** : be jealous, want to be in someone else's position.
2. **reserved** : slow to show feelings or express opinions.
3. **eyelashes** : the hairs around the eyes.
4. **eyebrows** : the hairs on the forehead above the eyes.
5. **delicate** : soft, tender.



(8) At that moment, Miss Bates and Jane themselves entered. Miss Bates could not wait to give the latest news.

'Mr Elton is going to be married! He has met Miss Hawkins at Bath. She comes from a rich trading[1] family. It is a very good match.'

'Poor Harriet,' thought Emma immediately.

'Poor Mr Elton. He is very young to get married,' said Mr Woodhouse.

Emma had to tell Harriet the news. Luckily, Harriet had just met Mr Martin and his sister in the village shop. They had talked kindly to her. She did not care so much about Mr Elton.

'It was all my mistake,' thought Emma. 'But Harriet is too good to be a farmer's wife. I must try to help her.'

1. **trading** : buying and selling, business.

Go back to the text

1 **Part Three has been divided into eight sections. Choose the most suitable heading from the list (A-I) for each section. There is one extra heading which you do not need to use.**

A ☐ Imagination meets reality.
B ☐ That man's mine.
C ☐ She loves me? She loves me not!
D ☐ Take good care of yourself, you belong to me.
E ☐ Difficult travelling conditions.
F ☐ No parents, no money? Get a job!
G ☐ Real love means real patience.
H ☐ Two women disappointed in love.
I ☐ Artistic she is, sociable she isn't.

2 **What do you think? Why?**

a. What clues did Emma have that Mr Elton was in love with her and not with Harriet?
b. What does Emma's inability to interpret these clues correctly tell us about Emma?
c. How does Emma feel about Mr Churchill? Why does she feel this way?
d. How does Emma feel about Jane? Why does she feel this way?
e. How does Mr Knightley react to Emma's defence of Frank Churchill?
f. Does Emma's mistaken interpretation of Mr Elton's behaviour make you doubt her judgement about Jane and Frank Churchill? Explain.

Past Perfect Continuous

Look at this sentence.

SUBJECT +	HAD BEEN +	ING-FORM OF VERB	
He	***had been***	***drinking***	***red wine.***

This sentence is in the **Past Perfect Continuous**. We use this tense to talk about a continuous action that had been happening up to the time that something else happened.

*When we arrived, he **had been reading** for an hour.*

*It **had been snowing** for two hours but then the sun came out.*

Observe the difference between the **Past Continuous** and the **Past Perfect Continuous**.

*I looked out of the window and saw that it **was raining**.*
It was raining in that moment when I looked out the window.

*I looked out of the window and saw that it **had been raining**.*
The ground was wet and there were puddles.
It was not, though, raining in that moment.

3 **Put the verbs in brackets into the *Past Perfect Continuous* or the *Past Continuous* according to the context. There are two examples at the beginning to help you.**

e.g. My brother walked into the living-room. He was covered with dirt from head to toe.
He *(play)* ***had been playing*** football.

e.g. When I arrived at the field they *(play)* ***were playing*** football, and they didn't want to stop even though it was raining.

a. I walked into the restaurant and saw some friends of mine. They *(eat)* ..... their dinner, but they stopped when they saw me and asked me to join them.

b. I was certain there was something wrong with Julie. Her eyes were red and she kept blowing her nose. She told me that she *(cry)* ..... because her best friend was moving to another city.

c. We *(drive)* ..... for more than two hours when we finally saw a hotel.

d. I walked into the kitchen but nobody was there. There was flour on the table and the floor. My mother *(bake)* ..... a cake for my sister's birthday.

e. When I entered the room I saw Mr Jones. He *(talk)* ..... excitedly about Mary. He is generally a very quiet man so I imagine that he *(drink)* ..... wine.

f. We looked out of the window on Christmas morning. The sky was blue and the ground white. It *(snow)* ..... .

g. I saw John at the library last Saturday. He *(look for)* ..... books about horses.

h. Philip *(run)* ..... along the beach when he heard an explosion.

i. I saw Mike while I *(walk)* ..... home. His hair was wet because he *(swim)* ..... .

j. Alison didn't hear what the teacher said because she *(talk)* ..... to her friend.

4 **Read the text about fashion during Jane Austen's lifetime, and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space. There is an example at the beginning.**

Regency Fashion

Jane Austen was writing (**0**) ***during*** the period known as the Regency. It was a time (**1**) ..... people were very conscious of fashion as (**2**) ..... important part of civilized life. Since the eighteenth century, many things (**3**) ..... changed. Men (**4**) ..... longer wore wigs, but had short haircuts. In *Emma*, when Frank Churchill travels all the way to London (**5**) ..... a haircut, Mr Knightley sees it as unsuitable behaviour. Frank Churchill represents the young man of fashion. He buys expensive gloves, he loves social occasions (**6**) ..... he sees and is seen. Another change (**7**) ..... men's clothing was the wearing of trousers. Previously, 'knee-breeches' had reached only to the knees.

Women's dress changed (**8**) ..... . The typical woman's dress was very simple, based on ancient Greek dress. A ribbon (**9**) ..... tied under the breasts, giving the appearance of a very high waist.



Morning Dress, a plate from *Gallery of Fashion* (1794).

Another important (**10**) ..... of a woman's outfit was her bonnet, a kind of hat. Bonnets (**11**) ..... be very simple or fantastically decorated with flowers and fruit.

Mrs Elton (**12**) ..... a large, ridiculous bonnet when she goes strawberry-picking at Donwell Abbey. Generally, (**13**) ....., women's fashions were natural, simple and graceful during the Regency period.

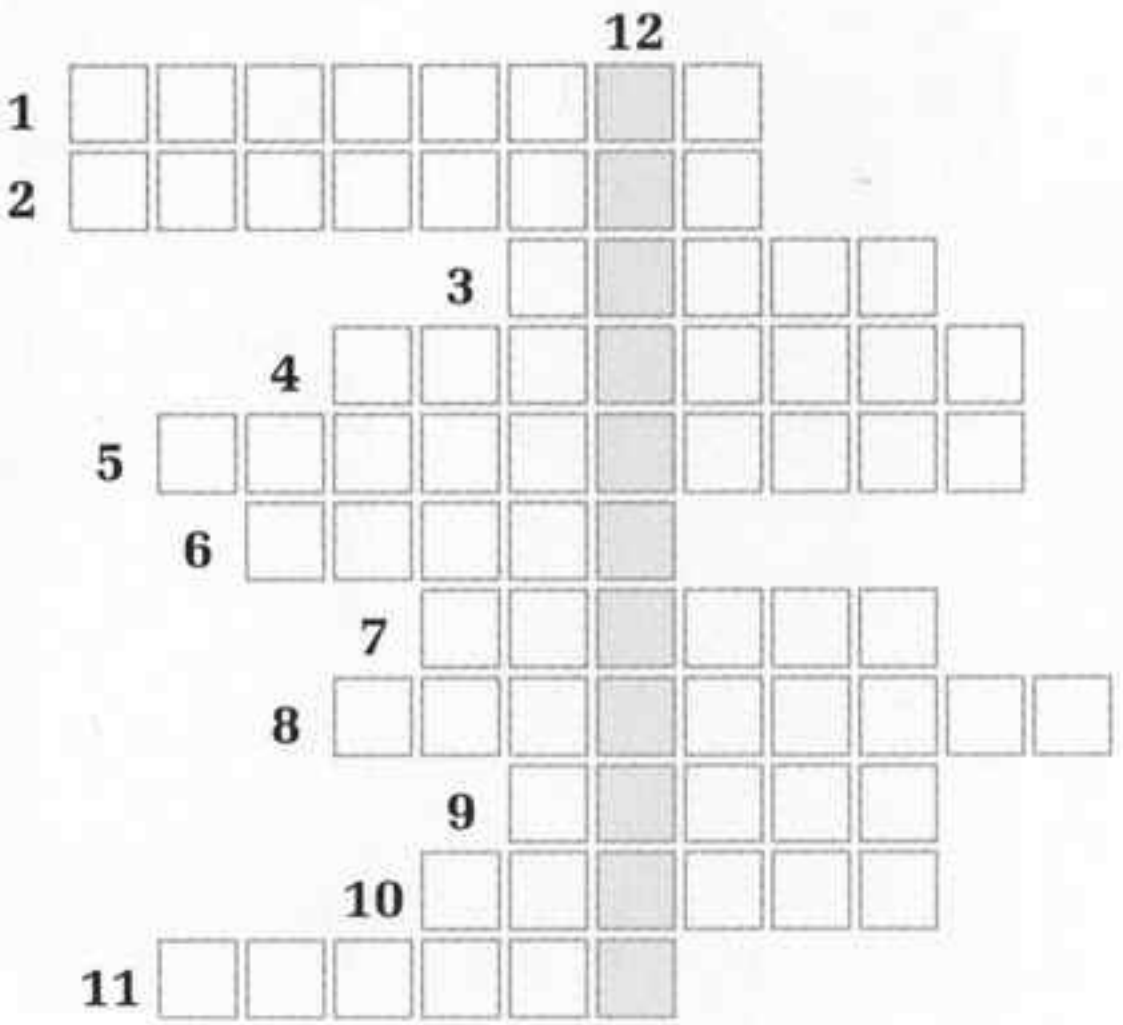
Rooms were light and airy. Furniture was designed to be pleasant and elegant. Different kinds of natural wood were (**14**) ..... skilfully to create beautiful pieces of furniture for the houses of the rich. Jane Austen wrote that (**15**) ..... of life's greatest pleasures was to 'sit before a fire in a well-proportioned room.'



Morning and Evening Dress from *Le Beau Monde* (1807).

5 **Do the following crossword, at the end you will see the answer to Question 12.**

1. Emma painted Harriet's ..... for Mr Elton.
2. Attractive. Nowadays we use this adjective mostly for men, but Jane Austen uses it to describe Emma.
3. To get married you have to find the right ..... .
4. Isabella is Mr Woodhouse's ..... .
5. Surprised.
6. Mr Martin, in Emma's opinion, is not particularly attractive or ugly. He is just ..... .
7. Jane was rather pale, and Emma thought that her ..... was not good.
8. In Jane Austen's time, this was an upper-class man with refined manners.
9. A minister of the Anglican Church.
10. Mr Woodhouse gave his daughter everything she wanted, and in this way he ..... her.
11. Harriet's parents are dead; she is an ..... .
12. Mr Knightley believes that Emma has too much of this, and too little understanding.



Before you go on

1 **Listen to the beginning of Part Four, and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).**

	T	F
1. Miss Augusta Hawkins was Mr Elton's fiancée.	☐	☐
2. Harriet visited the Martins for forty minutes.	☐	☐
3. The Martins were very nice to Harriet during her visit.	☐	☐
4. Emma would like Harriet to fall in love with Robert Martin again.	☐	☐
5. Emma is sorry that the Martins belong to a lower social class.	☐	☐
6. Frank Churchill came to visit Emma.	☐	☐
7. He visited the Bates before visiting Emma.	☐	☐
8. Frank has to go to Weymouth to visit Miss Fairfax.	☐	☐

2 **What do you think? Why?**

a. What will the new Mrs Elton be like?

b. Will Harriet fall in love again?

c. Will Jane Fairfax become Emma's friend?

d. Will Mr Knightley and Emma disagree again?



Part Four

A Trifling Young Fellow

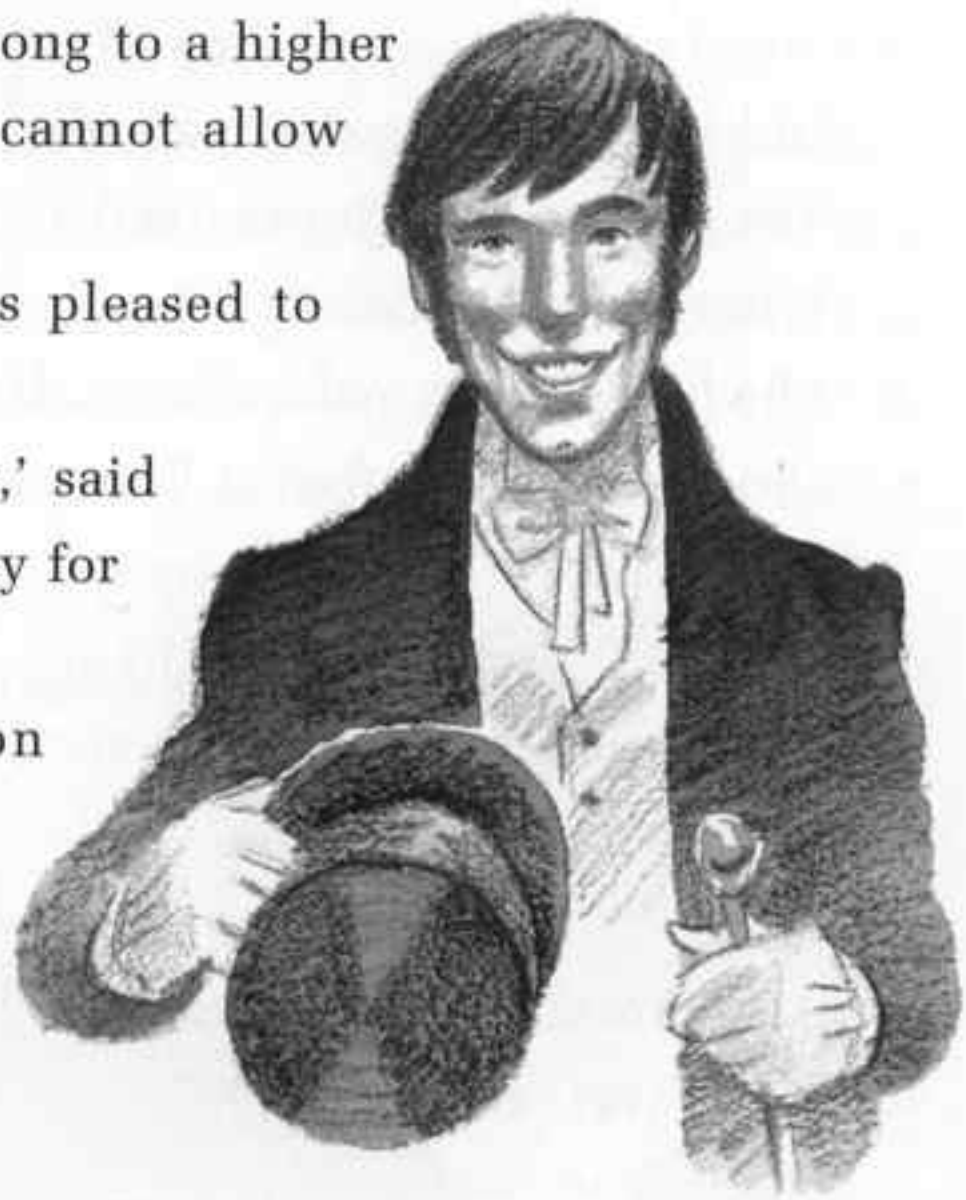
Mr Elton returned to Highbury with a self-satisfied smile. His fiancée[2], Miss Augusta Hawkins of Bath and Bristol, was rumoured[3] to be charming, beautiful and perhaps more importantly, in possession of[4] ten thousand pounds a year. He had caught both wealth and affection, all in a few weeks in Bath.

Emma decided that it was best if Harriet visited the Martin family. It would help her forget. But the visit to Abbey Mill Farm only lasted fourteen minutes. Emma did not want Harriet to fall in love again.

1. **trifling** : not serious in character.
2. **fiancée** : a woman engaged to be married.
3. **rumoured** : according to gossip, said by people.
4. **in possession of** : having or owning.

'They have been very kind,' Harriet told her.

'It is a pity they do not belong to a higher class,' thought Emma. 'But I cannot allow Harriet to mix with them.'



On the way home, she was pleased to see Mr and Mrs Weston.

'Frank is coming tomorrow,' said Mr Weston excitedly. 'He'll stay for a whole fortnight[1].'

Next morning, Mr Weston and his son visited Hartfield.

'He is a very good-looking young man,' thought Emma.

'Tell me about life in Highbury, Miss Woodhouse,' Frank asked. 'Do you ride? Are there pleasant walks? Are there balls?'

Emma was aware that Mr Weston was watching her and Frank Churchill together. She knew what he and Mrs Weston hoped for – that Frank and Emma might fall in love and marry. Mr Woodhouse, however, had no such idea.

'Poor young man,' he said. 'Did you have a hard journey? Will you have some gruel, sir, some Hartfield gruel?'

'I must pay one other visit in Highbury,' said Frank. 'At Weymouth, I met a young lady from here, called Miss Fairfax I believe. It would be polite to call on her.'

END

Next day, Emma went out with Mrs Weston to show the village

1. **fortnight** : two weeks.

of Highbury to Frank. Seeing the Crown Inn[1], he immediately said, 'We must organise a ball here.'

'Did you pay your visit yesterday?' she asked.

'Yes, indeed. The aunt talked and talked.'

'What did you think of Miss Fairfax?'

'She looked very pale, almost ill, but very elegant.'

'Did you see her often at Weymouth?'

1. **inn** : a hotel, a large pub with rooms for guests.

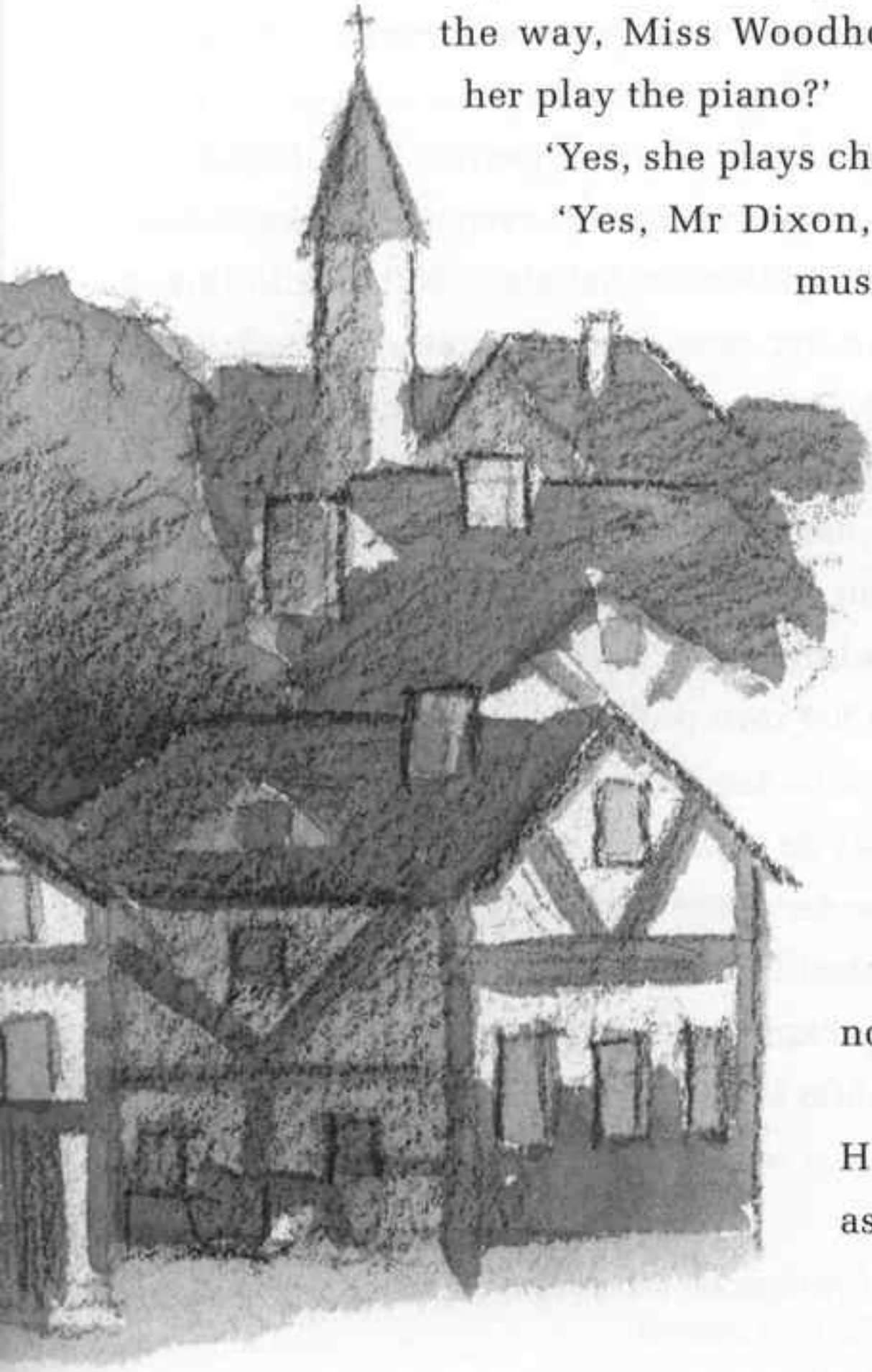


Frank had seen the village shop. 'Forgive me, but I must go in and buy some gloves. Then I shall be a true citizen of Highbury.'

Inside the shop, he chose the most fashionable and expensive pair of gloves. 'Yes, I met Miss Fairfax frequently, with the family of Colonel Campbell. The Campbells are very warm-hearted people.' He paused. 'By the way, Miss Woodhouse, have you heard her play the piano?'

'Yes, she plays charmingly.'

'Yes, Mr Dixon, who is an expert in music, always asked her to play.'



Emma smiled. Her imagination had been correct. Jane Fairfax and Mr Dixon were in love!

'Is Mr Dixon very musical[1] then? Miss Fairfax is so reserved that she told us nothing about him.'

'Yes, he loves music. He said no one played as well as Miss Fairfax.'

1. **musical** : fond of music.

'If I had been Miss Campbell,' said Emma, 'I would have been jealous. But Miss Fairfax herself must have been embarrassed by the flattery[1].'

'I do not know what her feelings were.'

'Of course not. Miss Fairfax is so reserved that her feelings are known only to herself.'

'True. It is impossible to love a reserved person,' agreed Frank Churchill.

The next day, Frank Churchill disappeared from Highbury. He had gone to London to have a haircut. It seemed frivolous[2] to leave his father just to have a fashionable hairstyle. But in all other ways he was an excellent young man. He was open, cheerful, lively, attentive, warm-hearted. Emma was not in love but she would allow others to think that she was.

When Mr Knightley heard about the haircut in London, his face grew dark. 'Hmmm! The young puppy. He is just the trifling[3] silly young fellow I took him for[4].'

Emma, however, had her own problems. The Coles had invited her to a party. The Coles were a family from a low social class but their business had done well so that now they were rich. Emma, the mistress of Hartfield, was far[5] too snobbish to accept their invitation.

But they had invited all her friends. Frank Churchill would be there. But not Emma. Perhaps there would be dancing.

'What do you think, Mrs Weston,' she asked. 'I cannot accept, can I?'

1. **flattery** : high praise from another person.
2. **frivolous** : not sensible, light-hearted.
3. **trifling** : unimportant.
4. **took him for** : imagined him to be.
5. **far** : very much.

'It would be an honour for them if Miss Woodhouse came to their house. Accept their invitation, Emma.'

This was really the advice that Emma wanted to hear. 'Very well, I shall accept. Will there be dancing, do you think?'

In the evening, the carriage took her to the house of the Coles. Mr Knightley arrived at the same time in his own carriage instead of walking as he usually did.

'I am pleased to see you travelling like a gentleman,' she told him.

'Nonsensical[1] girl!' he replied affectionately.

Frank Churchill seemed to want to spend all his time with her at the party. But there was interesting news.

'A piano has arrived at the home of Miss Bates,' said Mrs Cole. 'It is a very handsome instrument. It is a gift for Miss Fairfax. But no one knows who has sent it!'

'Of course it is from Colonel Campbell.'

'Yes, it must be. But he has not mentioned it in his letters to Jane. It is a great mystery!'

Emma smiled secretively[2] at Frank Churchill.

'Do you think it is possible that Mr Dixon has sent the piano? I believe that Mr Dixon and Miss Fairfax were a little in love with each other. Did you know that he saved her from drowning?'

'Yes, I was there. Miss Fairfax nearly fell into the water. Mr Dixon caught her. It all happened in a moment.'

'A moment is enough to fall in love. I am sure that the piano is a gift from Mr Dixon,' she said.

'Yes,' agreed Frank, 'you must be right.'

1. **nonsensical** : ridiculous, silly.
2. **secretively** : in a way that hides one's thoughts.

Soon, Harriet and Jane arrived. Emma saw that Frank was staring intently[1] at Jane Fairfax on the other side of the room.

'What is the matter?' she asked.

He woke as if from a dream. 'Excuse me, I am very rude. I was looking at Miss Fairfax's hairstyle. It is very strange. I shall go and ask her about it.'

While Frank went to speak to Jane, Mrs Weston sat with Emma. 'Do you know that Mr Knightley has lent his carriage to Miss Bates and Jane so that they did not have to walk?'

'Indeed,' said Emma. 'Mr Knightley is always very kind and thoughtful.'

'I think it is more than kindness,' whispered Mrs Weston. 'I think he is in love with Jane Fairfax!'

'Mr Knightley and Jane Fairfax!' exclaimed Emma. 'No, Mr Knightley must not marry. Isabella's children would not inherit[2] Donwell Abbey. Poor little Henry. And Jane Fairfax, of all women!'

'Jane has always been his favourite, as you know.'

'Please, Mrs Weston, do not become a match-maker. Jane Fairfax cannot be mistress of Donwell Abbey.'

'Perhaps he has sent her the piano.'

'Mr Knightley does nothing mysteriously. I do not believe that he has any idea of marrying Jane Fairfax.'

'Well, Frank wants you to sing with him. Go to him, Emma.'

After Emma and Frank had sung at the piano, Frank sang with

1. **intently** : with great concentration.
2. **inherit** : receive property from someone after his/her death.

Jane Fairfax. She played with great talent. Mr Knightley sat watching them with Emma.

'The piano is a very kind gift from the Campbells,' she said, testing him.

'Yes, but they should have warned her that it was coming. Surprises are foolish things.' He paused, looking angrily towards the piano. 'Frank Churchill is asking her to sing another song. She is already tired. He only thinks about his own pleasure. He is a trifling silly young fellow.'

He spoke to Miss Bates and she rescued Jane.

Dancing followed. Emma and Frank Churchill led the dance. She looked to see if Mr Knightley danced with Jane but he was talking to Mrs Cole.

'You dance beautifully, Miss Woodhouse,' said Frank Churchill as he helped her into her carriage at the end of the party.



Go back to the text

1 Answer the following questions.

a. What is the first thing Frank thinks of when he sees the Crown Inn?

.....

b. How does Frank become a true citizen of Highbury?

.....

c. Why does Emma conclude that Mr Dixon must be in love with Jane Fairfax?

.....

d. Why did Frank Churchill go to London?

.....

e. What do people think of his reason for going to London?

.....

f. Why was Emma undecided about going to the Coles' party?

.....

g. What was the interesting news at the party?

.....

h. Why was Frank staring at Jane?

.....

i. According to Emma, why shouldn't Mr Knightley marry Jane?

.....

j. What does Mr Knightley think of Frank Churchill?

.....

2 What do you think? Why?

a. Is Emma's imagination usually correct?

b. Who is right about Frank's character?

c. Does Emma think too much about romance?

d. Would Harriet be happier if she had never met Emma?

Third conditional

Look at these examples of the third conditional. We use it when we imagine what would have happened if the past had been different. But it is too late to change things!

*If Emma **hadn't influenced** Harriet, she **might have married** Mr Martin.*
*Miss Taylor **would have stayed** at Hartfield **if** she **hadn't got** married.*

The sentences follow this structure:

If	+	PAST PERFECT, **had + past participle**	+	CONDITIONAL PERFECT **would** **might + have + past participle** **could**

3 **Match the elements in column A with the elements in column B to form third conditional sentences that make sense within the context of the story. You must decide which elements form the if-clause of each sentence. There is an example at the beginning.**

0. [d] If Harriet hadn't had a sore throat, she would have gone to the party.

A	**B**
0. [d] Harriet/go/to the party	**a.** Mr Dixon/not save/Jane
1. [ ] Mr Elton/propose	**b.** Mr Weston's first wife/not die
2. [ ] Emma/have/more understanding than imagination	**c.** His aunt/let him
3. [ ] Mr Woodhouse/be/happier	**d.** Harriet/have/a sore throat
4. [ ] Jane/drown	**e.** He/not marry/ Augusta Hawkins
5. [ ] Emma/accept/Mr Elton's marriage proposal	**f.** John Knightley/get in/ the right carriage
6. [ ] He/come to Highbury/more often	**g.** Emma/guess that Mr Elton was in love with her

When alone with Elizabeth afterwards, Mrs Gardiner asked if she thought Jane would like to come back with them to London. Jane accepted her aunt's invitation with pleasure. Her only thought of the Bingleys was to hope that, as Caroline did not live with her brother, she might see her without any danger of meeting him.

The Gardiners stayed a week at Longbourn. Every day they dined with the Philipses, the Lucases or the officers. Mr Wickham was always invited. Elizabeth spoke so warmly about him that Mrs Gardiner was suspicious and observed them both. From what she saw she did not think them much in love, but their attraction to each other was clear enough to make her caution [1] Elizabeth.

'You are an intelligent girl, Lizzy. I am not afraid of speaking openly,' she began. 'Do not continue or let him continue in an affection which could not make you happy. I have nothing to say against him. He is a most interesting young man, and if he had a fortune I think you could not do better. But as it is, you must be cautious.'

'I am not in love with Mr Wickham,' Elizabeth answered, 'but he is the most agreeable man I ever saw – if he does fall in love with me – Better that he does not. It would not be wise. – Oh that detestable [2] Mr Darcy! My dear aunt, I would be sorry to make any of you unhappy, but we see every day that where there is affection, young people do get married without fortune. How can I promise to be wiser than so many others? All I can promise you is not to be in a hurry. I will try to do what I think wisest. I hope you are satisfied.'

Soon after the Gardiners and Jane had left, Mr Collins returned

1. **caution** : 告诫。
2. **detestable** : 可恶的。

for the wedding. Charlotte came to Longbourn before leaving and asked Elizabeth to write and to come and visit with Charlotte's father and sister Maria in March.

Elizabeth soon heard from her friend in Kent. She was happy with the house and neighbourhood, and Lady Catherine's behaviour was most friendly. Jane too, soon wrote to her sister. She had been a week in London, without seeing or hearing from Caroline. She thought perhaps her last letter had got lost. She was going to visit her the next day. In her next letter she wrote that Caroline had been very glad to see her. She had asked after her brother. He was well, but always with Mr Darcy. They never saw him. Miss Darcy was expected to dinner.

Elizabeth did not believe that Mr Bingley's sisters would ever tell him that Jane was in London. Four weeks passed and Jane saw nothing of him. After Jane had waited at home every morning for two weeks, Miss Bingley did at last appear, but her visit was so short and her manner so changed that Jane at last understood.

'Caroline did not return my visit till yesterday,' she wrote. 'When she came it was clear that she had no pleasure in it. She said not a word of wishing to see me again and had changed so much that when she went away I decided not to see her again. I am sorry for her, because she must feel that she has been doing wrong, and I am sure that anxiety for her brother is the cause.'

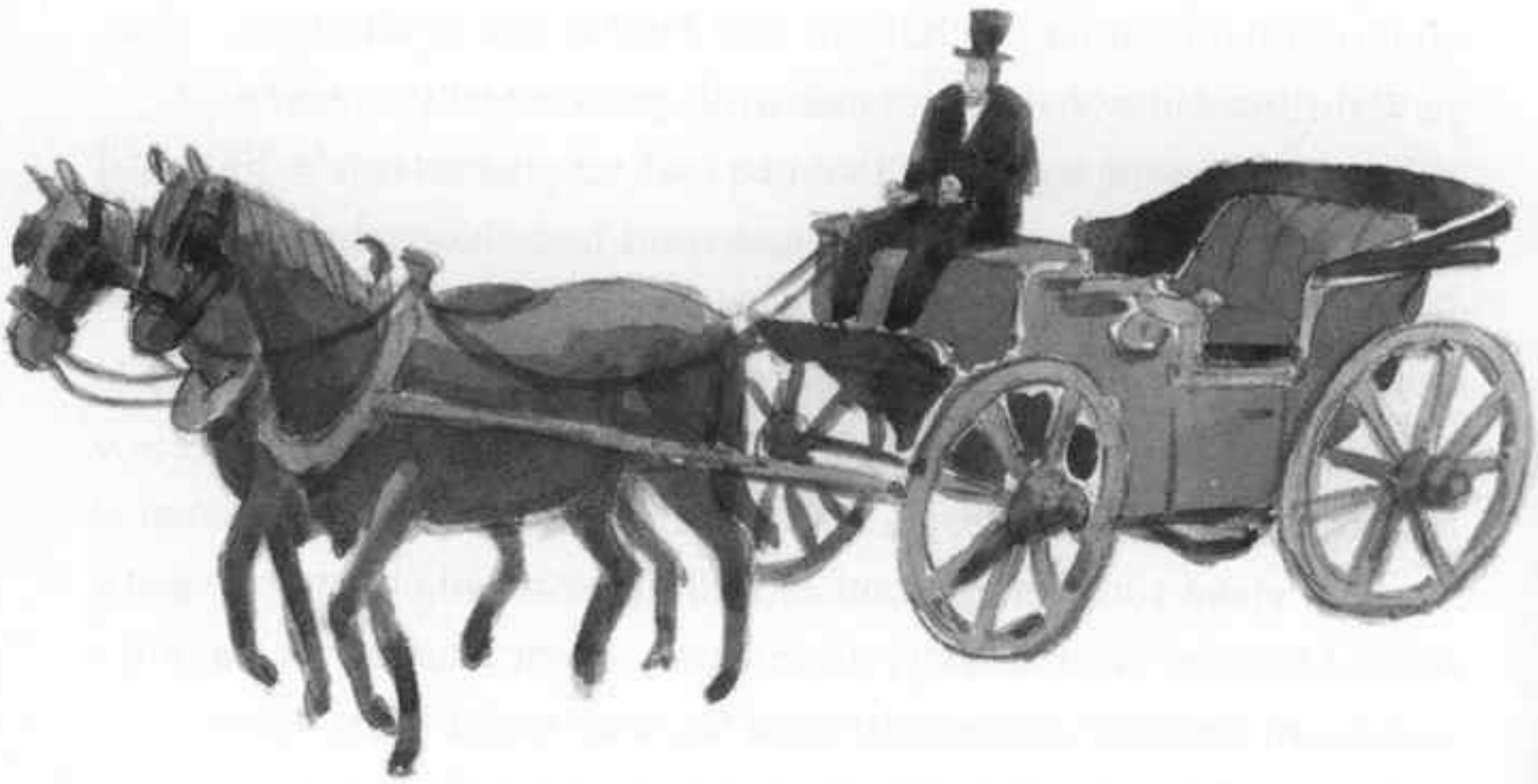
Elizabeth was unhappy to read this, but thought it good that at least her sister now understood Miss Bingley's real character. She wished Bingley would marry Miss Darcy. From what Mr Wickham said about that lady, he would soon be sorry he had lost Jane.

Mrs Gardiner wrote to ask about her promise about Mr Wickham. Her answer gave more pleasure to her aunt than herself.

Mr Wickham was now the admirer of another lady. Elizabeth could see it and write of it without much unhappiness. She had not been really in love. Her vanity was satisfied with believing that if she had had a fortune, she would have been his choice.

March neared and with it Elizabeth's visit to Charlotte. The change was not unwelcome. Elizabeth, Sir William and Maria Lucas stopped in London one night with the Gardiners where Elizabeth could see Jane. When they arrived, Elizabeth was pleased to see Jane looking well, though her aunt told her that she was not always happy. Before they left, Mrs Gardiner invited Elizabeth, to her great pleasure, on a journey that summer with herself and her uncle to the Lakes. [1]

Everything was new and interesting on the next day's journey. Mr Collins and Charlotte welcomed them with pleasure. After they



1. **Lakes**：位于英国坎布里亚郡的湖区。

had seen the house, Mr Collins invited them to walk in the garden where he showed them all the views. But the most beautiful view of all from his garden, no, from England, was the view of Rosings.

At dinner Mr Collins said, 'Miss Elizabeth, you will have the honour of seeing Lady Catherine in church on Sunday. You will be most pleased with her. She is all kindness. I am sure she will not forget you in her invitations to us. We dine at Rosings twice a week.'

The next day Elizabeth was in her room when she heard someone running and calling her loudly. She opened the door and met Maria who cried out,

'Oh my dear Eliza! Please hurry and come down this moment. There is such a sight to be seen!'

When she came down all Elizabeth could see was two ladies in a carriage. 'And this is all?' she asked. 'I don't know what I expected, and here is nothing but Lady Catherine and her daughter.'

'But my dear.' Maria was shocked. 'Only look at Miss de Bourgh. Who would have thought she could be such a little thing!'

'She is most impolite to keep Charlotte out in this cold. Why does she not come in?'

'Oh! Charlotte says it is the greatest honour when Miss de Bourgh comes in.'

'I like her appearance,' said Elizabeth. 'She looks sickly [1] and nervous. – Yes, she will make Darcy a very good wife.'

Mr Collins had no sooner returned into the house than he began to compliment the two girls on their good fortune. The whole party was asked to dine at Rosings the next day.

1. **sickly** : 病弱的。

'Who could have expected such an attention,' said he, 'so soon after your arrival!'

The whole next day he told them what they could expect at Rosings, so that the sight of such rooms, so many servants, so large a dinner would not be too much for them.

At Rosings they followed the servants to the drawing-room. Her Ladyship got up to receive them. Lady Catherine was a tall, large woman. She was very proud and spoke a great deal. Miss de Bourgh was little and sickly and quiet.

The dinner was handsome and there were all the servants Mr Collins had promised. There was not much conversation. Charlotte listened to Lady Catherine. Maria thought speaking out of the



question and the gentlemen did nothing but eat and admire. Lady Catherine seemed to enjoy this flattery and smiled at them all.

When the ladies returned to the drawing-room there was little to do but to hear Lady Catherine talk, which she did without stopping till coffee came in, giving her opinion on every subject in so decisive a manner it was clear she did not often meet with disagreement. She asked Elizabeth how many sisters she had, how old they were, if they were likely to be married, if they were handsome, what carriage her father kept and what had been her mother's name before marriage. Elizabeth felt all the impoliteness of her questions, but answered them quietly.

When the gentlemen joined them they played cards until Lady Catherine and her daughter decided to stop. Then the carriage was immediately ordered.

The pleasure of dining at Rosings was repeated twice a week. There was little other society, but Elizabeth spent her time agreeably enough in conversation with Charlotte or walking in the garden. The first week soon passed. The next was to bring a visitor to Rosings. Mr Darcy was expected. It would be amusing, Elizabeth thought, to see how hopeless Miss Bingley's plans to marry him were and to observe his behaviour to his cousin. Lady Catherine talked of his coming with the greatest satisfaction and clearly had her own plans for his future.

On the day after Mr Darcy's arrival, Mr Collins hurried to pay his respects at Rosings where he met a Colonel Fitzwilliam, cousin of Mr Darcy's. To everybody's surprise he returned with both men. Colonel Fitzwilliam was about thirty, not handsome, but a gentleman. He started a conversation immediately and talked very

pleasantly, but after paying his compliments to the ladies, his cousin sat without speaking. At last he asked Elizabeth about her family. She answered that they were well, and then said,

'My oldest sister has been in town these three months. Have you never seen her there?' She thought he looked a little embarrassed as he answered that he had never been so fortunate.

After the gentlemen had left, the ladies admired Colonel Fitzwilliam's manners. His presence at Rosings must make it more pleasant to visit there, they felt. It was some days, however, before they received an invitation. While there were visitors in the house, they could not be necessary.



At Rosings, Colonel Fitzwilliam seemed really glad to see them. He talked so agreeably of Kent, of journeys, of new books and music, that Elizabeth had never spent an evening so pleasantly in that room. Their conversation was so lively they attracted the attention of Lady Catherine as well as that of Mr Darcy. He looked at them repeatedly.

After coffee, Colonel Fitzwilliam asked Elizabeth to play. Lady Catherine listened to half a song, and then said to Darcy,

'Miss Bennet would not play badly, if she played more often and could have the advantage of a London teacher. Anne would have played better if she could have learned, but she was such a sickly girl.'

Elizabeth looked at Darcy to see how warmly he looked at hearing his cousin's name, but she could see no love in his expression.

A Visit to Rosings

Elizabeth was home alone the next morning when she heard someone at the door. To her very great surprise Mr Darcy entered alone.

He apologised, saying that he had understood all the ladies to be at home. Then he sat down and was silent. It was necessary to think of something to say.

'How very suddenly you all left Netherfield, Mr Darcy,' Elizabeth observed. 'It must have been a surprise to Mr Bingley to see you all after him so soon. If I remember he went only the day before. He and his sisters were well, I hope, when you left London?'

'Very well. I thank you.'

'I think that Mr Bingley has little idea of returning to Netherfield?'

'I would not be surprised if he gave it up.'

A short conversation on the subject of the country followed and was soon ended by the return of the others.

'What can this mean?' asked Charlotte as soon as he was gone. 'My dear Eliza, he must be in love with you.' But when Elizabeth told of his silence it did not seem even to Charlotte to be probable.

The two cousins visited almost every day, sometimes together, sometimes alone. It was clear that Colonel Fitzwilliam had pleasure in their society. Why Mr Darcy visited was more difficult to understand as he frequently sat there without speaking. When he did speak, it seemed to be from necessity, not pleasure. Mrs Collins would have liked him to be in love with her friend, but though she observed him, she could see little admiration in his look.

More than once Elizabeth met Mr Darcy walking in the gardens. She had told him the first time that this was a favourite walk of hers. How he could be there a second time, she could not

understand, but he was, and a third time too. He never said much, but always thought it necessary to walk back with her.

She was walking one day reading again Jane's last letter and thinking that she did not sound happy, when she looked up to see Colonel Fitzwilliam. She put away the letter and tried to smile.

'Do you leave Kent on Saturday?' Elizabeth asked.

'Yes, if Darcy does not change his plans again. But he does as he pleases.'

'I do not know anybody who seems more to enjoy doing what he likes than Mr Darcy.'

'It is only that he can do so better because he is rich and others are poor,' answered Colonel Fitzwilliam. 'I know. I am a younger son and have no fortune. In matters of importance I suffer from this. Younger sons cannot marry where they like.'

'Unless they like women of fortune, which I think they very often do,' Elizabeth said, asking herself if this was meant for her. To change the subject she asked him about Miss Darcy. 'She is a favourite with some ladies I know, Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley. Do you know them?'

'A little. Their brother is a pleasant, gentleman-like man; he is a great friend of Darcy.'

'Oh yes,' said Elizabeth coldly. 'Mr Darcy is most kind to Mr Bingley and takes great care of him.'

'Yes, I really believe he does. From something that Darcy told me on our journey, I believe Bingley must be very thankful to him. But I may be wrong. Bingley may not be the person meant.'

'What do you mean?'

'Darcy would not wish it to be generally known. If the lady's family were to hear of it, that would be unpleasant.'

'I shall not speak of it.'

'He told me that he had recently saved a friend from making a very unfortunate marriage. He did not name the friend.'

'What were his reasons?'

'I understood that there were some very strong objections against the lady.'

Elizabeth walked on silently. After watching her a little, Fitzwilliam asked what she was thinking.

'That I do not like your cousin's behaviour.'

'You think it was not his business?'

'How could Mr Darcy decide if his friend's affection was mistaken, or in what manner he should be happy? But I expect that there was not much feeling.'

'That is possible, but it is lessening the honour of my cousin's triumph.'

Fitzwilliam was smiling, but this seemed to Elizabeth so true a picture of Darcy that she could not speak and talked on other matters till they got back. There, in her own room, she could think of all that she had heard. She was sure Darcy had spoken of Bingley. She had always believed Miss Bingley to be at fault [1] for Jane's unhappiness. Now it seemed Darcy was the cause of all that Jane had suffered. He had taken every hope of happiness from the most affectionate, generous heart in the world, no one could say for how long. At that Elizabeth cried until she felt quite ill.

1. **at fault** : 有过错。

1 **Answer the following questions.**

a. Where is Jane invited to by the Gardiners?

b. Why does Mrs Gardiner seem worried about Elizabeth?

c. Where does Elizabeth go on a visit?

d. How impressed is Elizabeth by Lady de Bourgh? Does she behave like the other guests at the dinner?

e. What important information does Elizabeth get from Colonel Fitzwilliam?

f. How does she feel about this information?

The third conditional

2 **Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.**

a. If Wickham ..... (have) a fortune, it ..... (be not) a problem for Elizabeth to marry him.

b. If Charlotte Bingley ..... (tell) her brother that Jane was in town, he ..... (go) to visit her.

c. Darcy ..... (not be surprised) if Bingley ..... (give) Netherfield up.

d. Fitzwilliam ..... (leave) Kent the following week, if Darcy ..... (not change) his plans.

e. If Jane ..... (know) there were strong objections about her family, she ..... (suffer).

f. If Fitzwilliam ..... (not be) a younger son, he ..... (not lack) money.

Thinking and writing

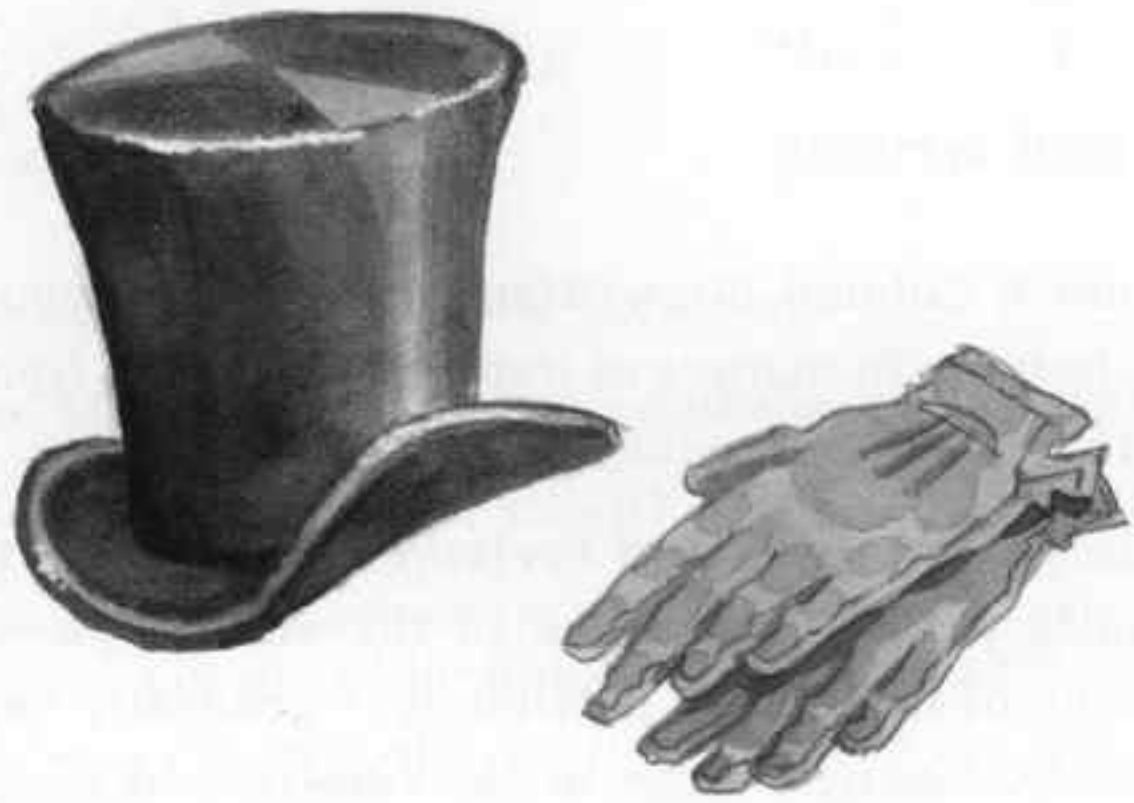
3 **In Chapter 6 Colonel Fitzwilliam says,** 'I am a younger son and I have no fortune. In matters of importance I suffer from this. Younger sons cannot marry where they like.'

At the time when *Pride and Prejudice* was written the fortune of a rich family passed undivided to the eldest son to preserve the consistency of the family patrimony,[1] generally represented by a large estate. Younger sons in the family had to find fortune by themselves, very often in the Army.

Think if this custom is right or wrong. Compare it with what happens nowadays and find the reasons for the change.

- What is Mrs Gardiner's relationship with her nieces based upon? Where can you infer that from?
- Do you see the same intimacy between the girls and their mother?

1. **patrimony**：祖传财产。



Chapter Seven

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal

That evening Elizabeth decided not to go to Rosings. The agitation [1] and tears had made her feel ill. When the others were gone she sat down to reread Jane's letters. They did not speak of the past or of present sufferings. But all Jane's peace of mind and happiness were gone. That Mr Darcy could be proud of the suffering he had caused made it worse. She was glad to think that his visit was soon to end and that in a few weeks she would be with Jane again.

There was a noise at the door and to her complete surprise Mr Darcy walked into the room. In a hurried manner he asked if she was better. She answered him with cold politeness. After a

1. **agitation** : 焦虑。

silence of several minutes he came up to her and began,

'In vain have I tried, but I cannot. My feelings are too strong. You must permit me to tell you how much I admire and love you.'

Too surprised to speak, Elizabeth looked at him in silence. He continued, telling her all that he felt and had long felt for her. He spoke well, but not only about his feelings of the heart. He spoke as much of his pride, of her inferiority, of the objections to her and her family. To marry her would be a degradation. [1]

Elizabeth disliked Darcy, but she felt the compliment of such a man's affection. At first she was sorry for the unhappiness she must cause him. Darcy finished his proposal by telling her of the strength of his attachment [2] which he was unable to resist, and of



1. **degradation** : 降低身份。
2. **attachment** : 依恋。

his hope that she would accept his proposal. As he said this, she could see that he was sure of a favourable answer. When he was silent, she said,

'It is, I believe, usual to express one's obligation, even where feelings are not returned. If I could feel thankful, I would now thank you. But I cannot. I am sorry to cause suffering to anyone. It has not been done intentionally, however, and I am sure it will not last long.'

Mr Darcy heard her words with anger and surprise. After a long silence he said,

'And this is all the answer I have the honour to expect! I could, perhaps, ask why, with so little politeness, I am refused like this. But it is not important.'

'I could as well ask,' answered she, 'why, with the clear intention of offending me, you chose to tell me that you liked me against your will, against your reason and even against your character. Was not this some excuse for impoliteness, if I *was* impolite? But I have other reasons. You know I have. Had my feelings been indifferent or even favourable, do you think I could ever have accepted the man who has ruined the happiness of a most beloved sister? I have every reason to think ill of[1] you. Nothing can excuse what you did there.'

She stopped, and saw that he was listening with a manner which showed him unmoved, a smile of disbelief on his face.

'Can you say it is not true?' she asked.

'I will not say that I did not do everything I could to separate my friend from your sister, or that I was not pleased at my success.'

'But it is not only this,' she continued. 'Long ago, your

1. **think ill of**: 对…的印象很差。

character was shown in the things I heard from Mr Wickham. On this subject, what can you have to say?'

'You take a great interest in that gentleman,' said Darcy.

'All those who know what his misfortunes have been must feel an interest in him.'

'His misfortunes!' repeated Darcy disgustedly. 'Yes, his misfortunes have been great indeed.'

'And all your fault,' cried Elizabeth. 'You caused him to be poor. You kept from him the advantages meant [1] for him, and yet you can speak of him with ridicule.'

'And this,' cried Darcy, as he walked with quick steps across the room, 'is your opinion of me! I thank you for explaining it so completely. My faults are great indeed! But perhaps,' he said, stopping in his walk and turning towards her, 'you would have considered them less if your pride had not suffered, if I had flattered you more. But I despise hypocrisy. [2] I cannot apologise for my feelings. They were natural. Could you expect me to be happy about the inferiority of your connections?'

Elizabeth could feel her anger growing, but she tried to speak quietly when she said,

'You are mistaken, Mr Darcy, if you think that the manner of your proposal has made me feel anything but glad. Now I shall not feel sorry about refusing you. I would have, if you had behaved in a more gentleman-like manner.'

She saw him look up at this, but he said nothing, and she continued.

'You could not have made me the offer of your hand in any

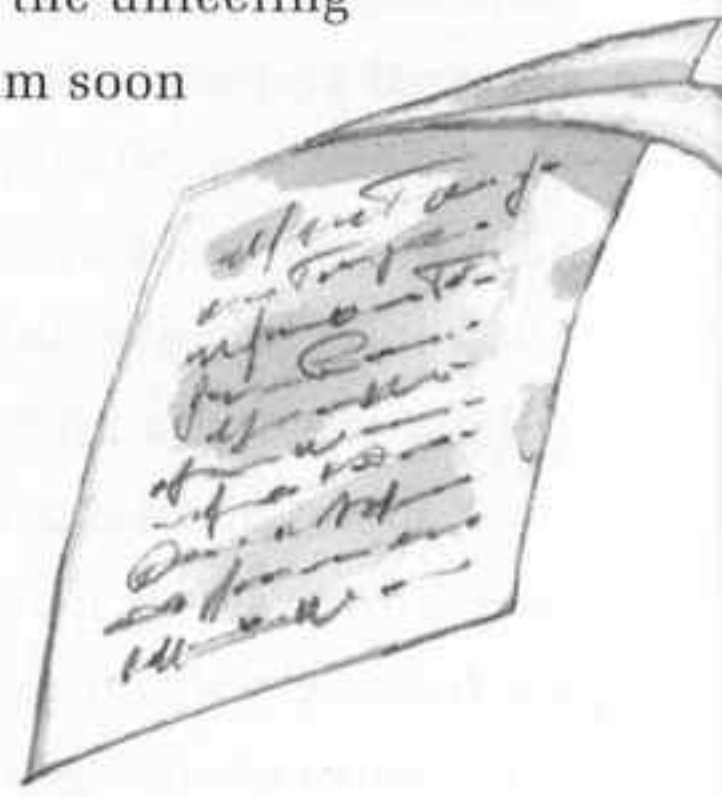
1. **meant** : 原来打算。
2. **hypocrisy** : 虚伪。

possible way that would have made me want to accept it.'

Again his surprise was clear as he looked at her with an expression of mortification. [1]

'You have said enough, madam. I completely understand your feelings. I apologise for having taken up so much of your time. Please accept my best wishes for your health and happiness.'

With these words he left. Elizabeth did not know what to think. From weakness she sat down and cried for half an hour. Her surprise was greater every time she thought about what had passed. That she had received an offer of marriage from Mr Darcy! That he had been in love with her for so many months, so much in love as to wish to marry her for all the objections against her. She could not believe it. It was gratifying [2] to have caused so strong an affection. But his pride, his despicable [3] pride, his shocking story of what he had done to Jane, the unfeeling manner in which he had mentioned Wickham soon stopped the pity she had felt for a moment.



Elizabeth woke the next morning to the same thoughts and feelings. It was impossible to think of anything else. After breakfast she decided to take a walk.

She was at the end of the garden when Mr Darcy came up and gave her a letter which he asked her to do him the honour of reading.

When he had gone Elizabeth opened it and read,

1. **mortification** : 羞愧。
2. **gratifying** : 令人滿意。
3. **despicable** : 卑鄙的。

Mr Darcy Makes a Proposal

Do not fear, Madam, a repetition of those sentiments or offers which were last night so disgusting to you. I shall not speak of wishes, which, for the happiness of both of us, cannot be too soon forgotten. It was, however, necessary for me to write this letter and I must ask you to read it.

Last night you told me of two reasons for your dislike of me. The first was, that without thought for the feelings of either, I had separated Mr Bingley from your sister; the other, that I had, against the wishes of my father, ruined the future of Mr Wickham. To have abandoned the friend of my youth, a young man with no fortune who had been taught to expect our help would be scandalous. It cannot be compared to the separation of two young people whose affection was only a few weeks old. I hope that you will understand both situations when I explain. I had not been long at Netherfield, before I saw that Bingley liked your eldest sister. On the evening of the dance I saw that his feelings were serious. I had often seen him in love before. At that ball I first understood that Bingley's attentions to your sister had caused a general expectation of their marriage. I watched your sister. Her look and manners were open, but I did not believe her to be in love. If I was mistaken, your anger is understandable. But there were other reasons against such a marriage. Not only because of your mother's family, but also because of her

behaviour, that of your three younger sisters, and even of your father. I am sorry if I offend you.

My friend left Netherfield the following day with the plan of soon returning. His sisters and I had spoken of the matter; they felt as I did. So we decided to join him in London, where I told my friend of the objections to his choice. But I could not have stopped the marriage if I had not convinced him of your sister's indifference. On this subject I have nothing more to say. If I have made your sister suffer it was not done intentionally.

As for Mr Wickham, it is best if I tell you the whole story. Mr Wickham is the son of a very honourable man, who for many years was the steward of all the Pemberley estates. My father, wanting to help the son, gave him a good education. He hoped George Wickham would go into the Church. I long ago began to see his true character as my father could not. My father died five years ago. He asked me to help Mr Wickham as best I could, and to give him a family living as soon as possible. Half a year later Mr Wickham wrote to inform me that he had decided not to go into the Church, but wanted to study law. He hoped I could help him. The business was soon settled. He gave up the Church and I gave him the money to study. All connection between us seemed now finished. He lived in London for three years, but he did not study. Then he

wrote again telling me he had decided against law and asking for the living my father had promised him. You will understand that I refused. After this the last connections stopped. Until last summer. I must now mention a matter I would like to forget myself, one I have not told any other person as I am sure you will not. My sister, who is ten years younger than me, finished school last year and went to live in London with a lady in whose character we were unhappily mistaken. In the summer they went to Ramsgate, and so did Mr Wickham. With the lady's help he met my sister who had not forgotten his kindness to her as a girl. She believed she was in love with him and agreed to an elopement.[1] *She was only fifteen. I am happy to say that she told me the story herself when I joined them a few days before the event. You can imagine how I felt. Mr Wickham was clearly interested mostly in my sister's fortune, but I think he would have been glad to make me suffer. This, madam, is the true story of the matters we have spoken of. If you do not believe me you can ask Colonel Fitzwilliam who knows everything. I shall try to give you this letter in the morning. I will only say, God bless you.*

Fitzwilliam Darcy.

1. **elopement** : 私奔。

With a strong prejudice against everything he might say, Elizabeth read Mr Darcy's letter. She had to read it many times before she could begin to understand it. That it was true she had to believe, although her feelings were shocked and her pride suffered. She was completely ashamed of herself. Of neither Darcy nor Wickham could she think, without feeling that she had been blind and prejudiced.

'How despicable I have been!' she cried. 'I who was proud of my understanding. How mortifying is this discovery! If I had been in love, I could not have been more blind. But vanity, not love has been my weakness. Pleased with the preference of one, and offended by the opinions of the other, from the beginning I understood nothing. Till this moment, I never knew myself.'

Darcy wrote that he had no suspicion of Jane's feelings. Elizabeth remembered what Charlotte's opinion had always been. Neither could she deny the justice of his description of her sister. It was true. While Jane's feelings were strong, she showed them little.

When she read that part of the letter in which her family was mentioned in such a mortifying manner, her feelings of shame were strong. What he wrote was true. It was hard to think that Jane's present unhappiness was the work of her nearest relations, to feel how both she and Jane must suffer in the eyes of society because of her family's improper behaviour.

Elizabeth returned home to hear that the two gentlemen from Rosings had visited to take their leave. Colonel Fitzwilliam had sat with them an hour hoping for her return. Though she said she was sorry, Elizabeth was not unhappy. Colonel Fitzwilliam was no longer interesting to her. She could think only of her letter.

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Who pays Elizabeth a visit?

b. What is the purpose of his visit?

c. What does he say about Elizabeth's family?

d. What are Elizabeth's reasons for refusing?

e. What is Darcy's reaction?

f. What does Darcy give Elizabeth the following day?

g. What are Darcy's reasons for his behaviour towards Wickham?

h. What are his reasons for separating Jane and Bingley?

i. How does Elizabeth feel after reading the letter?

2 Taking into consideration what has already happened in the story, complete the following sentences using the verbs in the box and the first, second or third conditional. Some verbs can be used more than once.

	see	**be**	**express**	**make**	
seem	**live**	**want**	**help**	**come**	**treat**

a. 'If Georgiana ..... less timid, she ..... so proud,' said Elizabeth.

b. If Darcy ..... his feelings more during his proposal, Elizabeth ..... persuaded of his love.

c. If Jane ..... her love for Charles Bingley more obvious, Darcy ..... able to dissuade Bingley.

d. If Elizabeth ..... Mr Darcy in the future, she ..... embarrassed.

e. If more rich young men ..... near Longbourn, Mrs Bennet ..... happy.

f. If Mr Wickham ..... really ..... to enter the Church, Darcy ..... him.

g. If Mr Wickham ..... tomorrow, Elizabeth ..... him differently.

3 **Below is a list of phrasal verbs which all contain the verb 'take'. Match them with their definitions and then use them to fill in the gaps in the sentences.**

A.

a. take after
b. take someone in
c. take along
d. take someone down a peg or two
e. take someone's breath away
f. take someone into one's confidence
g. take to someone or something

1. to surprise or amaze someone
2. to have the same characteristics of a family member
3. to deceive someone
4. to start to like someone or something
5. to bring someone or something along with one
6. to put someone in their place
7. to tell someone something that must remain a secret

B.

a. Lydia and Kitty ..... their mother.
b. Darcy's proposal ..... Elizabeth's ..... .
c. Elizabeth had been completely ..... by Wickham.
d. When Darcy told Elizabeth about his sister and Wickham he ..... her ..... .
e. Darcy ..... Elizabeth the second time he saw her.
f. The Lucases ..... Elizabeth ..... with them to visit Charlotte at Rosings.
g. Elizabeth's refusal to Darcy ..... him ..... .

4 **Write a short summary of Chapter 7.**

Before you read

1 **Listen to the first part of Chapter 8 and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.**

	T	F
a. Elizabeth and Jane returned to Longbourn in March.	☐	☐
b. Her mother was happy to have them both at home.	☐	☐
c. Elizabeth objected to her younger sisters running after the officers in Meryton.	☐	☐
d. Jane was not surprised when Elizabeth told her of Darcy's proposal.	☐	☐
e. Jane was calm and happy because she did not love Bingley any more.	☐	☐
f. Elizabeth met Wickham and told him everything that had happened during her stay in Kent.	☐	☐

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Chapter Eight

Embarrassment at Pemberley



It was May when Elizabeth and Jane returned to Longbourn. Their reception at home was most kind. Mrs Bennet was happy to see Jane as beautiful as always and more than once during dinner Mr Bennet told Elizabeth that he was glad she was back.

On their first day home Lydia wanted to walk to Meryton, but Elizabeth objected strongly. People should not say that the Miss Bennets could not be home for half a day before they ran after the officers. She did not want to meet Wickham and hoped to avoid him as long as possible.

Only the next morning could Elizabeth speak to Jane about her meeting with Mr Darcy and the letter. She had decided not to mention Mr Bingley. Jane was surprised at Darcy's proposal. She was sorry he had expressed his feelings in a manner so little

pleasing to her sister, but still more for the unhappiness her refusal must have given him. When she heard of George Wickham, however, Jane's feelings were more serious.

'I do not know when I have been more shocked,' she said. 'Wickham so very bad! It is past belief. [1] And poor Mr Darcy! Dear Lizzy, only think what he must have suffered with the knowledge of your ill opinion too and having to tell such a thing of his sister! It is really too bad. Lizzy, when you first read that letter, you must have felt it so.'

'I was very uncomfortable. I may say unhappy. And with no one to speak to, of what I felt, no Jane to make me feel better and say that I had not been so very weak and vain and nonsensical [2] as I knew I had! Oh! how I wanted you!'

The sisters decided against telling people about Wickham. His regiment was soon to move to Brighton for the summer. It did not seem important.

At home, Elizabeth could now observe her sister's real feelings. Jane was not happy. She still felt a very strong affection for Bingley. She had never thought herself in love before so her feelings had all the warmth of first attraction, and were, from her age and character, longer lasting.

The second week after their return began. It was the last week of the regiment's stay in Meryton, and all the young ladies in the neighbourhood were in despair. Only Jane and Elizabeth were still able to eat, drink and sleep. Kitty and Lydia could not understand them.

1. **past belief** : 难以置信。
2. **nonsensical** : 荒谬。

'What, oh what shall we do!' they often cried desperately. 'How can you smile so, Lizzy?'

Their affectionate mother joined them in their feelings. She remembered what she herself had suffered at such a time, twenty-five years ago.

'I am sure,' said she, 'I cried for two whole days when Colonel Millar's regiment went away. I thought I would die.'

'I am sure I shall die,' said Lydia.

'If only we could go to Brighton!' observed Mrs Bennet.

'Oh yes! If only we could go, but papa is so disagreeable.'

Lydia's happiness soon returned, for she received an invitation to Brighton from her friend Mrs Forster. This was a very young woman, just married to the Colonel of the regiment. But where Lydia was happy, Kitty was mortified. In vain did Elizabeth and Jane speak to her. She refused to be comforted.

Before the regiment departed Elizabeth saw Mr Wickham for the last time. He was invited to Longbourn with some other officers. On her return from Kent, she had learned that the rich young lady who had taken her place in his affections had moved. Over dinner Mr Wickham spoke to her with a gallantry which caused her much displeasure. When he asked about her stay in Kent, she told him she had seen Mr Darcy and that she found him more agreeable now that she knew him better. Wickham looked anxious and said,

'I am happy that he is wise enough to try and appear a good man. But I imagine that he was only cautious to seem so at the house of his aunt because of his wish of marrying Miss de Bourgh.' Elizabeth had to smile, but did not answer.

Embarrassment at Pemberley

A month before her planned journey to the Lakes, Elizabeth received a letter from her aunt, informing her that instead of the Lakes they had decided to go to Derbyshire, to the little town of Lambton, where Mrs Gardiner had friends. Lambton was, Mrs Gardiner wrote, five miles from Pemberley, the estate of Mr Darcy and old home of George Wickham. Elizabeth's feelings were mixed, but she consoled herself that there was small probability of meeting Darcy.

Four weeks passed, and Mr and Mrs Gardiner appeared at Longbourn. They stayed the night, and left the next morning with Elizabeth. The evening before their arrival in Lambton, while talking over their travel plans, they saw that Pemberley was not more than two miles out of their way. Mrs Gardiner expressed a wish to see the place and asked Elizabeth if she wouldn't like to see a place to which so many of her friends were connected.

Elizabeth knew not what to say. She felt that she had no business at Pemberley. She was tired of great houses, she told her aunt, but Mrs Gardiner was determined.

'It is not only a great house,' said she, 'but the gardens are some of the finest in England.'

Elizabeth said no more, but she was uneasy. The possibility of meeting Darcy while visiting the place immediately came to mind. That night she asked the servant about Pemberley and if the family was there. The answer was no.

Pemberley, a large, handsome house, delighted Elizabeth when she saw it. She had never seen a place of such natural beauty, and felt that to be mistress of Pemberley might be something. The housekeeper, a respectable-looking, older woman, showed them the house. The rooms were both simple and elegant.

'And of this place,' she thought, 'I might have been mistress![1] I might have enjoyed it as my own and welcomed as visitors my uncle and aunt. But no, that could never be. They would have been lost to me. He would not have permitted me to invite them.' This fortunate thought saved her from feeling almost sorry.

When her aunt called her to look at a picture, the housekeeper came forward and said,

'That is my master, and very like him.'

'I have heard of your master,' said Mrs Gardiner. 'Lizzy, you can tell us if it is like or not.'

The housekeeper asked if she knew Mr Darcy.

'A little,' said Elizabeth.



1. **mistress**：女主人。

Embarrassment at Pemberley

'Do you not think him a very handsome gentleman, Ma'am?'

'Yes, very handsome.'

The housekeeper, either from pride or affection, clearly had great pleasure in talking about him. Mr Gardiner asked her about him. Elizabeth listened with surprise as she said, 'I never had an unkind word from him in my life and I have known him since he was four years old. There is not one of his servants who does not speak well of him. Some people call him proud, but I am sure I never saw that.'

As they walked through the rooms Elizabeth was stopped by



the sight of a large portrait. It was of Mr Darcy, with such a smile on his face as she remembered to have seen sometimes when he looked at her. There was at this moment in Elizabeth's mind, a warmer feeling towards the man than she had ever felt before. The picture of his character given by his housekeeper was a compliment indeed.

When they had seen what was open of the house, they took their leave. As they walked through the garden, Elizabeth turned back to look again when suddenly she saw Darcy himself. They were so near that it was impossible to avoid his sight. Their eyes met, and they both blushed deeply. He looked and for a moment could not move for surprise, but then came up and spoke to Elizabeth politely, explaining that he had come a day early.

She had turned away, but stopping, received his compliments with mortification. The thought of the impropriety [1] of her being there made those moments some of the most uncomfortable of her life. He too was not at ease. After standing a few moments without saying a word, he suddenly took his leave.

The others then joined her and expressed their admiration, but Elizabeth heard not a word. She was so ashamed. Her coming there was the most unfortunate thing in the world! Oh! Why did he come a day before he was expected? And his behaviour, so changed, what could it mean? She was surprised that he should even speak to her, but to speak so politely, to ask after her family! Never in her life had she seen his manners so little formal, never had he spoken so kindly as on this unexpected meeting.

They were walking on when Mr Darcy came up again and

1. **impropriety**：不恰当的举止。



asked if Elizabeth would do him the honour of introducing him to her friends. She almost smiled when she remembered what he had once said of her connections. 'What will be his surprise,' thought she, 'when he knows who they are! He now thinks they are people of fashion.'

The introduction was made. Mr Darcy turned back with them and started a conversation with Mr Gardiner. Elizabeth was very pleased that he should know she had some relatives to be proud of. She listened and triumphed [1] at every word of her uncle's that showed his intelligence or his good manners.

They began to speak of fishing, and she heard Mr Darcy invite him to fish there as often as he liked while in the neighbourhood. Mrs Gardiner gave Elizabeth a look of surprise. Elizabeth said nothing, but was very gratified. The compliment must be for herself, but she kept thinking, 'Why is he so changed? It cannot be for me that his manners are so softened. It is impossible that he should still love me.'

After some time Mrs Gardiner, tired from the walk, asked for her husband's arm, and Mr Darcy took her place by her niece. Elizabeth spoke first. She wanted him to know that she had been assured he was away from home before she came to the place. He had come early on business he explained. The party who travelled with him was joining him the next day.

'There are some of them who you know, Mr Bingley and his sisters.' Elizabeth did not answer. 'There is one other person in the party who wished to be known to you. Will you permit me, or do I ask too much, to introduce my sister to you during your stay at Lambton?'

1. **triumphed**：（因成功）感到得意。

They walked on in silence. Elizabeth was not comfortable, but she was flattered and pleased. His wish of introducing his sister to her was a compliment of the highest kind. At the house Mr Darcy invited them to tea, but they refused and took their leave.

The observations of her aunt and uncle now began. Both thought him much better than anything they had expected.

'There is something a little formal in him, but only in his manner,' said her aunt.

'I was never more surprised than by his behaviour to us. It was more than polite. It was really attentive, and there was no necessity. He does not know Elizabeth so well,' her uncle added.

'Indeed Lizzy,' said her aunt, 'he is not as handsome as Wickham, but how could you tell us that he was disagreeable? It is hard to believe he can have behaved so badly to poor Wickham.'

Elizabeth explained that his character was not so bad nor Wickham's as good as they had thought. The Gardiners were shocked, but as they were now nearing Lambton, there was no time to say more.

On the morning after their arrival at Lambton, they heard the sound of a carriage. It was Darcy. When Elizabeth told her uncle and aunt they were most surprised, and the embarrassment of her manner as she spoke opened to them a new idea on the business.

Miss Darcy and her brother appeared and the introduction took place. Elizabeth saw that the young lady was as much embarrassed as she. She had heard that Miss Darcy was proud, but the observation of a few minutes showed her that she was only timid.

They had not been long together before Darcy told her that

Bingley also was coming. A moment later he entered the room and greeted her warmly. He asked in a friendly, though general way after her family.

To Mr and Mrs Gardiner, Bingley was a most interesting person. They observed the whole party with attention. Their suspicions of Mr Darcy and their niece made them watch each closely and they soon saw that one of them, at least, knew what it was to love. The lady's feelings they did not quite understand, but the gentleman was clearly full of admiration.

In seeing Bingley, Elizabeth immediately thought of Jane. She watched his behaviour to Miss Darcy, but saw nothing that spoke of affection in his manner to her. At one point he observed to Elizabeth that it was a very long time since he had had the pleasure of seeing her, and then asked if *all* her sisters were at Longbourn, with a look and a manner that gave the words meaning.

When their visitors got up to depart, Mr Darcy asked his sister to join him in inviting the Gardiners and Miss Bennet to dinner at Pemberley. They accepted and a day was decided.



A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Why do the Gardiners decide to go and stay in Lambton?
b. What is Pemberley and why do they go to visit it?
c. Why is Elizabeth surprised at what the housekeeper says?
d. Who does Elizabeth happen to meet there?
e. How do they both feel at meeting each other?
f. How does he behave towards Elizabeth and her relatives?
g. Who does he want to introduce Elizabeth to?
h. What does Elizabeth realise about Miss Darcy?

Inversion after negative and restrictive expressions

2 Look at the following sentences.

Elizabeth knew the truth about Wickham only then.
Only then did Elizabeth learn the truth about Wickham.

If a negative adverb or adverbial expression is put at the beginning of a clause for emphasis, it is usually followed by *auxiliary verb + subject*. These structures are mainly found in formal use.

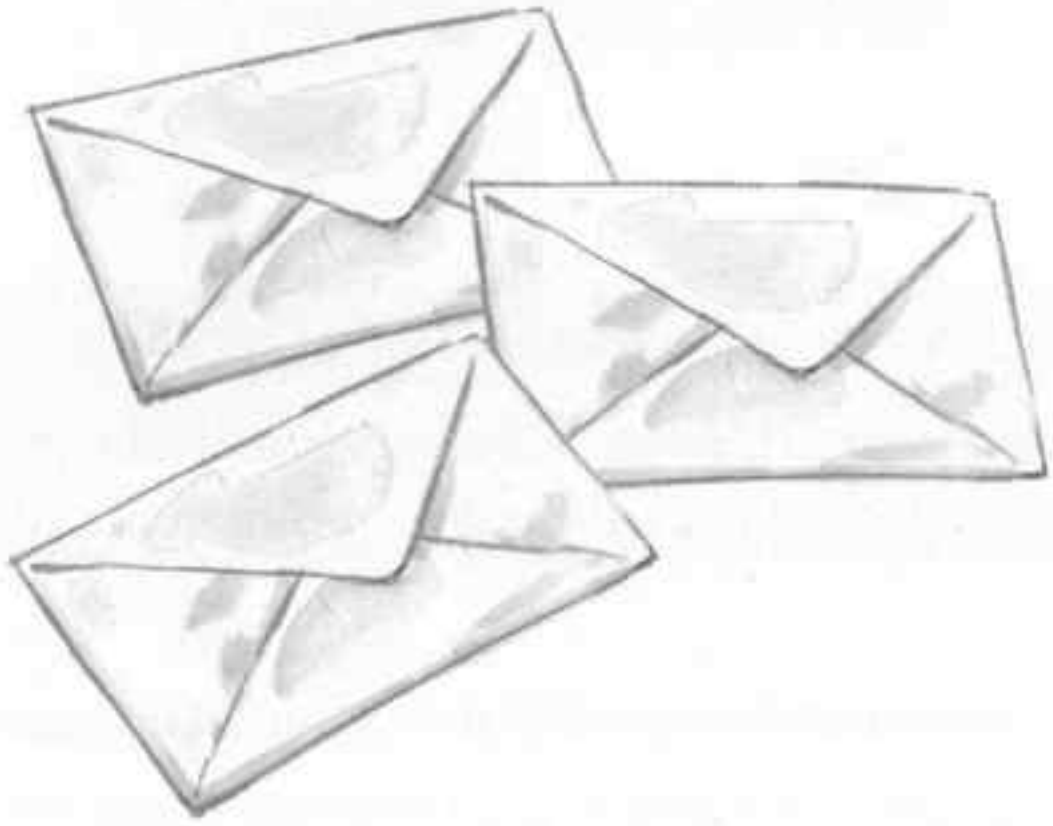
Turn the following sentences from non-inverted to the inverted form.

a. People should never say that the Miss Bennets ran after the officers.
b. Elizabeth and Jane spoke to Kitty in vain.
c. A month had scarcely passed when Elizabeth received a letter from her aunt.
d. She had never in her life seen his manners so little formal.
e. Darcy said nothing but compliments.
f. Darcy would have permitted her under no circumstances to invite her relatives if he had married her.

Thinking and writing

3 **In your opinion how much has Darcy changed?**
Do you think he is still in love with Elizabeth?
Does Elizabeth regret having refused his proposal?
Have you ever regretted something you did or didn't do?





CHAPTER NINE

Bad News!

Elizabeth had been sorry not to find a letter from Jane on their arrival at Lambton. On the third day two letters arrived together. They had just been going to go for a walk, so her aunt and uncle left her and went ahead by themselves.

Elizabeth opened the first letter. It was five days old.

Dearest Lizzy, something most serious has happened. It is about poor Lydia. An express letter came at twelve last night from Colonel Forster to inform us that she had gone off to Scotland with one of his officers, to tell the truth with Wickham! Imagine our surprise. Only Kitty knew something of this. I am very, very sorry. Such an unfortunate marriage

for both! At least he has not chosen her for her fortune. He must know my father can give her nothing. Our poor mother is most unhappy. I must finish as I cannot leave her long.

Elizabeth immediately opened the other letter and read,

By this time you will have received my hurried letter. Dearest Lizzy, I have bad news for you. Unfortunate as a marriage between Mr Wickham and our poor Lydia would be, we are now anxious to hear it has happened. It seems that they were not going to Scotland. Colonel Forster came yesterday. Though Lydia's letter to Mrs Forster made them think they were going to Gretna Green,[1] *Denny told a friend that W. never planned to go there or to marry Lydia at all. As soon as Colonel Forster heard of this he left to go after them, but could follow them only to Clapham, where they changed carriage. All that is known after this is that they were seen to continue towards London.*

My father and mother believe the worst, but I cannot think so ill of him. My poor mother is really ill and remains in her room. As for my father, I never saw him so. He is going to London with Colonel Forster to try to find her. What he

1. **Gretna Green**：苏格兰一地名。在此处很容易获取结婚证书，所以那些想秘密结婚的人常来这里。

means to do, I do not know. At such a moment my uncle's advice and help would be everything in the world. I must ask you, dearest Lizzy, to come here as soon as possible.

'Oh! Where, where is my uncle?' cried Elizabeth. At that moment the door was opened by a servant and Mr Darcy appeared. Her face and manner shocked him. Before he could speak, she cried,

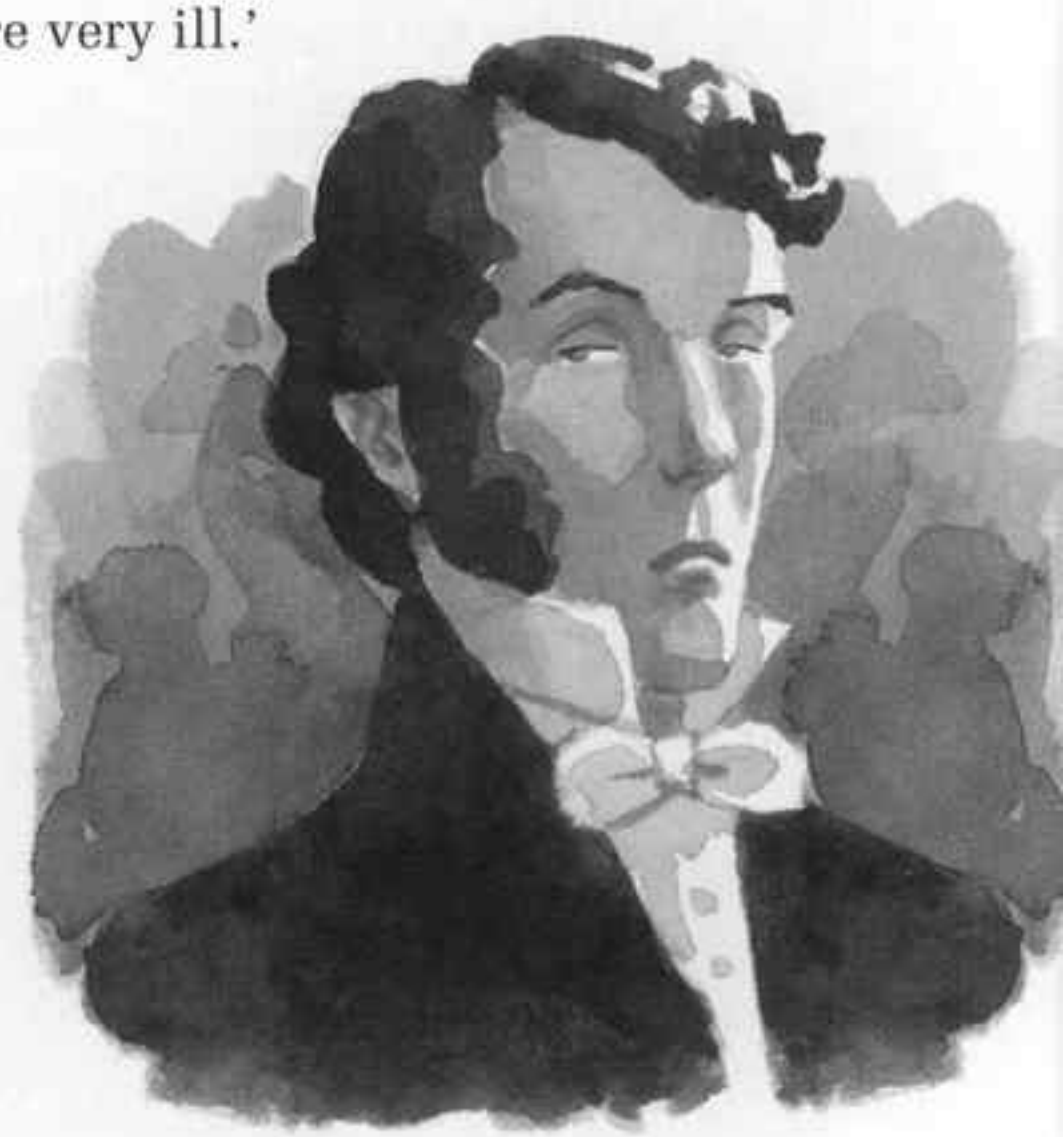
'I am sorry, but I must leave you. I must find Mr Gardiner this minute on business that cannot wait.'



'Good God, what is the matter?' cried he with more feeling than politeness. 'I will not stop you, but let me go, or the servant. You are not well enough.'

Knowing she could do nothing, she called the servant and asked him to find her aunt and uncle. When he left the room she sat down and looked so ill that it was impossible for Darcy to leave her.

'Is there nothing you could take?' he asked in the kindest manner. 'You are very ill.'



'No, I thank you,' she answered. 'I am quite well. I have only had some bad news.' She began to cry and for a few minutes could not say another word. When she could, she told Darcy the story.

'When I think,' she said, 'that it might not have happened if I had told my family about him! But it is all, all too late now.'

'I am shocked and sorry indeed!' cried Darcy. He walked up and down the room, deep in thought, his manner severe. Elizabeth understood. He could no longer feel for her[1] after such an example of the complete impropriety of her family. Never had she felt so sure that she could have loved him as

1. **feel for her** : 爱她。

now, when all love must be in vain.

At length Darcy turned to her and said,

'You must be wishing me to leave. I fear my sister will not now have the pleasure of seeing you at Pemberley.'

'Be so kind as to apologise for us to Miss Darcy. Say that important business calls us home immediately.'

Darcy left his compliments for her relatives and, with only one serious look, left the room. She was sorry to see him go and, with despair, saw it as an example of the shame Lydia's behaviour must give all her family.

Mr and Mrs Gardiner soon came back, and as soon as Elizabeth had told her story and read them Jane's letters, got ready to leave for Longbourn.

On their arrival Jane came running to meet them and tell them there was no further news.

'Now that my dear uncle has come,' she said, 'I hope everything will be well.'

'Is my mother well?'

'She is not too ill, and will be very satisfied to see you all.'

'But how are you?' cried Elizabeth. 'You look pale. Oh! that I had been with you. You have had every care [1] and anxiety alone.'

The whole party were in hopes of a letter from Mr Bennet the next morning, but nothing came. Mr Gardiner had only waited for that before he left, promising to send Mr Bennet back to Longbourn.

When Mrs Bennet heard this she cried,

'What! Is he coming home without poor Lydia! Surely he will not leave London before he has found them. Who is to make

1. **care** : 烦恼。

Wickham marry her, if he comes away?'

When Mr Bennet arrived he looked as always. It was not till the afternoon that Elizabeth introduced the subject, saying how sorry she was for his suffering.

'Say nothing of that,' he answered. 'Who should suffer but me? It has been my own fault and I should feel it.'

'You must not be too severe on yourself,' said Elizabeth.

'No Lizzy. Let me for once in my life feel how much I have been in the wrong.'

Two days later a letter came by express from Mr Gardiner, reading

My dear brother,

At last I am able to send you news of my niece, and such as I hope will give you satisfaction. I was fortunate enough to find out in what part of London they were. I have seen them both. They are not married, nor can I find they planned to be, but if you will do what I have promised, I hope it will not be long before they are. All that you have to do is to assure your daughter the thousand pounds she would get when you and my sister die, and to give her, while you live, one hundred pounds a year. I am sure you will agree to do this. Answer me as soon as you can. Do not return to London. I will do everything necessary. We thought it best that Lydia be married from this house. I hope you agree. Yours,

Edw. Gardiner

Bad News!

'Is it possible!' cried Elizabeth, 'Can it be possible that he will marry her?'

'Wickham is not as bad then as we have thought him,' said her sister. 'My dear father, I congratulate you.'

'There are two things that I want very much to know. One is, how much money your uncle has given Wickham, and the other, how can I ever give it back.'

'Money, my uncle!' cried Jane. 'What do you mean, Sir?'

'That no man would marry Lydia for only one hundred a year.'

'That is true,' said Elizabeth. 'It must be my uncle's doing. Generous, good man.'

The sisters quickly went to give their mother the good news and read her Mr Gardiner's letter. As soon as she had understood, her happiness was as violent as her despair before.

'My dear, dear Lydia!' she cried. 'This is delightful indeed. She will be married! I shall see her again! She will be married at sixteen! Oh how I want to see her and dear Wickham! How happy will we be together.'

That day she came down for the first time to dinner. No sense of shame lessened her triumph. She talked of fashions and carriages and servants and was busy thinking of a house good enough for the Wickhams. The marriage of a daughter had been her greatest wish since Jane was sixteen. Her husband let her talk on while the servants remained, but then said to her,

'Mrs Bennet, let us understand each other. In one house in this neighbourhood, they shall not come. I will not receive them at Longbourn.'

Elizabeth was sorry that she had told Mr Darcy of their fears now that her sister would be married. This was not from any

hopes for her own happiness. Even had Lydia's marriage been proper and honourable, Mr Darcy would not connect himself with a family related to Mr Wickham, a man he despised. Elizabeth wanted to hear from Darcy now that it seemed impossible. She was sure that she could have been happy with him when it was no longer probable that they should meet.

What a triumph for him, she thought, if he knew that the proposal she had proudly rejected only four months ago, would now have been gladly received.

Mr Gardiner soon wrote again to inform them that Wickham had decided to leave his regiment and join another in the north of England. Before they left, he continued, Lydia wanted to see her family.

Jane and Elizabeth agreed in wishing their parents to receive Lydia as soon as she was married. At last Mr Bennet agreed, and Mrs Bennet was satisfied that she could show her married daughter in the neighbourhood.

They came. The family were all together in the breakfast-room to receive them, Mrs Bennet all smiles, her husband severe, her daughters uneasy. Lydia's voice was heard, the door opened and she ran into the room. Her mother welcomed her with delight, gave her hand to Wickham and wished them happiness. Lydia turned from sister to sister, asking for their congratulations. Elizabeth was disgusted and even Jane was shocked. Lydia was Lydia still.

At dinner she walked up to sit by her mother, saying,

'Oh! Jane, I shall sit here now and you must go lower, because I am a married woman.' She could not wait to see Mrs Philips, the Lucases and all their other neighbours, and to hear herself called

Mrs Wickham. After dinner she said to her mother,

'Well, mama, and what do you think of my husband? Is he not a charming man? I hope my sisters will be as lucky. They must go to Brighton. That is the place to get husbands.' She invited them all to visit her that winter.

'I am sure there will be balls,' she said. 'I shall get husbands for them before the winter is over.'

'I thank you,' said Elizabeth, 'but I do not like your way of getting husbands.'

One morning Lydia said to Elizabeth,



'Lizzy, I never told *you* of my wedding. You were not there when I told mama. Do you not want to hear?'

'No really,' answered Elizabeth. 'I do not think there can be too little said on the subject.'

That did not stop Lydia who started once more to tell the story of her wedding day, and how it had almost not happened. Her uncle was to give her away, [1] but had to see a man about business shortly before, and was almost late.

'Luckily he came back in time. I remembered later that if he had not come, the wedding could have taken place the same, for Mr Darcy would have been as good.'

'Mr Darcy!' repeated Elizabeth.

'Oh yes! He came there with Wickham, you know. But oh dear! I quite forgot I should not have said. I promised I would not. What will Wickham say?'

'If you promised, I will ask you no questions.'

'Thank you,' said Lydia, 'because if you did I would tell you all, and then Wickham would be angry.'

Elizabeth had to leave to think it over. Mr Darcy had been at her sister's wedding. What could it mean? She could find no explanation. Quickly taking some paper, she wrote a short letter to her aunt, asking for an explanation if it was possible. If not, she decided, she must find some other way of finding out the truth.

1. **give her away**：（在婚礼上）把她（新娘）正式交给新郎。

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. What important news is Elizabeth told in the letters she receives from Jane?

b. Who does Elizabeth speak to about the news? What is his reaction?

c. What do Elizabeth and the Gardiners do?

d. How does Mr Bennet feel? Who does he confess his feelings to and find consolation in?

e. Has Mrs Bennet grown more sensible and responsible after the latest events?

f. Have Lydia and Wickham changed at all?

g. Do all the Bennets welcome Lydia back home in the same way?

2 Look at the following sentences.

I wish Mr Darcy *didn't* know about Lydia and Wickham.

We use *wish + the past* to talk about something in the present or future that we regret or are sorry about.

The Bennets would rather Lydia *didn't* marry Wickham.

***would rather = would prefer* and is followed by the past simple even though we are talking about a present or future situation.**

Complete the following sentences.

a. 'Mr Collins isn't very intelligent,' thought Charlotte.
I wish .....

b. Mr Darcy knows all about Lydia's elopement with Wickham.
Elizabeth wishes .....

c. Lydia wants to tell Elizabeth all about her marriage.
Elizabeth would rather .....

d. Mr Gardiner doesn't want Mr Bennet to stay in London.
He'd rather .....

e. Mr Darcy is in love with Elizabeth.
He wishes .....

Thinking and writing

3 What do you think Lydia and Wickham's life will be like in the future? Do you think they will be really happy or not?

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE REGENCY PERIOD

The position of women in the Regency period was very different from that of today. While women of the lower classes worked either in the fields, at home, or were starting to work in the factories, middle or upper-class women were not supposed to work. It was a point of social pride that 'young ladies' should be taught by a governess, do a little drawing and as little domestic [1] work as possible. As we can see in Jane Austen's novels the ladies representing the lower gentry and the upper bourgeoisie spend their time in reading poetry, gossiping, [2] paying visits to each other, writing letters, doing a little painting, or playing the piano and singing at the most. They were not encouraged to do any sport but only a little walking and dancing. In extreme cases they could become governesses or companions as we can see in *Emma*, but this was very often an unrewarding [3]



Two Young Ladies in Calico taking an airing in a Phaeton by Humphry Repton.

1. **domestic** : 家庭的。
2. **gossiping** : 说长道短。
3. **unrewarding** : 不值得的。

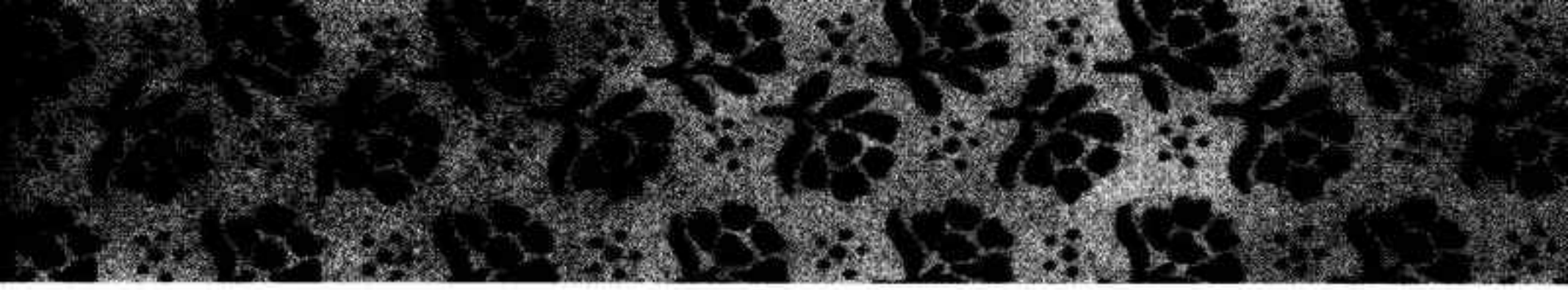
experience since they occupied a middle ground between the family and the servants and were badly treated by both.

The only way a woman could get her place in society was to marry and have her own household to manage. This explains why, although Mrs Bennet is often absurd and vulgar, it is clear that with five daughters who would be left without a home and with very little money after their father's death, this was indeed a serious business. Jane Austen and her sister Cassandra never got married, although it has been said that they were attractive women who both fell in love. The Austen women were fortunate in having a home, enough money to keep up a pleasant life style and a liberal family to support them. For less fortunate women, a 'good' marriage was the only honourable way of life.

In *Pride and Prejudice* Elizabeth disapproves of her friend Charlotte's marriage to Mr Collins, because it is not a marriage of love and respect.



Watercolour by Cassandra Austen of Fanny Knight, Jane Austen's niece.



Charlotte, however, feels that 'marriage... was the only honourable provision for well educated young women of small fortune, and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservation [1] from want.' [2] Her attitude is supported by that of many other characters in the novel.

In Jane Austen's day, people usually married someone more or less from their own social class. To marry into a different class and educational background could create problems, such as, for example, those between Mr and Mrs Bennet. Mr Bennet was a gentleman who married an uneducated woman from a lower social background who could never be a suitable companion for him. As a result he withdrew [3] from his family, leaving the education of his daughters to his wife. This explains the superficial and silly behaviour of Kitty and Lydia. Only Elizabeth and Jane's great moral propriety [4] enables them to marry the men they love despite the disadvantages of their connections.

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Was the position of women in the Regency period the same as that of today? Why/why not?

b. In what way could women keep or improve their position in society?

c. Who did people generally get married to?

d. Do people who marry today still pay the same attention to their partner's social class? What else do they consider?

1. **preservation**：庇护。
2. **want**：贫困。
3. **withdrew**：（此处指）他变得对家庭不关心。
4. **propriety**：恰当得体。



CHAPTER TEN

Elizabeth Learns the Truth

Elizabeth had the satisfaction of an answer soon. It read,

My dear niece,

I have just received your letter and must say that I was surprised at it. I did not think it necessary for you to ask for information. Your uncle also believed that you knew what was happening at the time. But let me explain. On the day I came home from Longbourn your uncle had an unexpected visit from Mr Darcy. He came to say that he had found your sister and Mr Wickham and had talked to them. The reason he gave was that it was his fault alone that Wickham's true character had been unknown. If he had been more open in the past, no young woman could have fallen in love with Wickham. Mr Darcy generously felt his mistaken pride was the

cause of all our unhappiness, and so he had to help us now. If he had another motive, I am sure it was a good one. When Mr Darcy spoke to Lydia, he offered to help her leave Wickham and come home, but she would not do so. She wanted no help, and would not hear of leaving Wickham. She was sure they would get married some day. Then he spoke to Wickham, and found he had no intention of marrying Lydia. Wickham told him he had to leave his regiment because of problems with money. Mr Darcy asked him why he had not married your sister. Mr Bennet was not very rich, but he and your uncle would have helped Wickham as much as they could. But Wickham, it seemed, still hoped to marry some young lady with a great fortune, perhaps in another part of England. Mr Darcy saw how desperate Wickham's situation was and understood that he would marry Lydia, if offered enough money. When Mr Darcy came to us, your uncle wanted to give him back the money he had paid Wickham, but he refused. They talked for a long time, but your uncle could do nothing. But, Lizzy, nobody must know of this. Only you, or perhaps Jane. That is all. I hope the story will cause you no displeasure. We saw Mr Darcy at the wedding and the next day he dined with us. Will you be angry with me, my dear Lizzy, if I now say how much I like him. His behaviour to us has been as pleasing as when we were in Derbyshire. His understanding and opinions all please me. He needs nothing but a little more liveliness and that his wife may teach him. But I must write no more. Yours,

M. Gardiner

Elizabeth did not know if she felt more pain or pleasure. Mr Darcy had done all this. He had had to meet the man he most wished to avoid, to talk to him and give him money. He had done this for her sister. Her heart said he had done it for her. But this hope lasted only a moment. He could not have, for a woman who had already refused him once, had become a relative of Wickham's! Oh, how she suffered to remember all the impudent [1] things she had said in the past. She was mortified, but she was proud of him.

The day of Wickham and Lydia's journey North came. Mrs Bennet was quite unhappy for several days until she heard that the housekeeper at Netherfield had received word her master was coming in a day or two.

'Well, well and so Mr Bingley is coming,' she said. 'So much the better. He is nothing to us, and I am sure I never want to see him again. But he is very welcome to come to Netherfield if he likes. And who knows what may happen?'

Jane had not been able to hear of his coming without blushing. When they were alone she assured Elizabeth that the news did not cause her pleasure or suffering. She was only glad he came alone because they would see less of him.

Over the next days Mrs Bennet talked of nothing else till Jane told Elizabeth she was beginning to be sorry that he was coming at all. She would be happy when his stay at Netherfield was over.

On the third morning after Mr Bingley's arrival he came to visit.

'There is a gentleman with him, mamma,' said Kitty. 'Who can it be? Oh! It looks just like the man who was with him before, Mr... What's his name? That tall, proud man.'

'Mr Darcy! and so it does.'

1. **impudent**：无礼的，放肆的。

Elizabeth Learns the Truth

Jane looked at Elizabeth with surprise. Both sisters were uncomfortable. Each felt for the other. Their mother talked on of her dislike for Mr Darcy and her decision to be polite to him only as Mr Bingley's friend.

When the gentlemen came in Elizabeth said as little to either as politeness would allow. She only looked once at Darcy who seemed as serious as usual. Bingley, she had seen for a moment, looking both pleased and embarrassed. He was received by Mrs Bennet with a politeness which made her daughters ashamed, especially when contrasted with the cold politeness to Mr Darcy, who after asking her how Mr and Mrs Gardiner were, said almost nothing. He seemed more thoughtful and less anxious to please than when they had last met. She asked after his sister, but could do no more.

'It is a long time, Mr Bingley, since you went away,' said Mrs Bennet.

He agreed.

'I began to be afraid you would never come back. A great many changes have happened since you went away. Miss Lucas is married. And one of my own daughters. Have you heard of it?' Bingley gave her his compliments. 'It is a delightful thing to have a daughter well married,' she continued.

Elizabeth was so ashamed she could not look up. How Mr Darcy looked she could not tell. She only felt better when she saw Bingley, attracted again by Jane's beauty, speak to her more and more. He found her as beautiful as last year and as agreeable, if more silent.

When the gentlemen got up to go, Mrs Bennet invited them to dinner a few days later.

Elizabeth was left to think about Mr Darcy's behaviour.

'Why, if he came only to be severe and silent and indifferent, did he come at all?' she thought. 'If he could still be pleasing to my uncle and aunt, why not to me?' Jane soon joined her with a happy look.

'Now,' said she, 'that this first meeting is over, I feel easy. I shall never be embarrassed again by his coming. I am glad he dines here. It will then be seen that we meet only in a friendly manner.'

At the dinner at Longbourn, Elizabeth observed Bingley's behaviour to her sister. He showed an admiration which made her think that Jane's happiness and his own would soon be settled, if he could decide alone. She looked at Mr Darcy, but he did not show his feelings. He was seated far from her, next to her mother. She could not hear any of their conversation, but she could see how little they spoke to each other, and how formal and cold was their manner. Her mother's impoliteness made the thought of what he had done for them even harder. She would have given anything to tell him that his kindness was known and felt by her and hoped the evening would bring them together.

After dinner she waited only for the men to return.

'If he does not come to me then,' said she, 'I shall forget him.'

The gentlemen came and she thought he looked as if he would have answered her hopes, but there was no place around the table where she and Jane were making tea and coffee. Darcy walked away. She followed him with her eyes, angry with herself for her feelings. A man who had once been refused! How could she expect a renewal [1] of his love? When he came up to her later she

1. **renewal** : 重新开始。

took the chance of saying,

'Is your sister at Pemberley still?'

'Yes. She will remain for some time.'

She could think of nothing more to say, and had no chance to speak to him alone that evening.

A few days later, Mr Bingley visited again, alone because his friend had left for London that morning for ten days. Mrs Bennet invited him to dine, and although it was not possible that day, he accepted the invitation immediately for the following day.

Over the next days Mr Bingley visited often. One day, Elizabeth walked into the drawing-room and saw her sister and Bingley standing close together speaking seriously. They quickly turned around and their faces told it all. They did not speak, till Bingley said a few words to Jane and hurriedly left the room. Jane immediately kissed her sister and told her she was the happiest woman in the world.

'It is too much!' she said. 'Far too much. Oh! Why is not everybody as happy? But I must go this minute to my mother. He has gone to my father already. Oh! Lizzy. How is it possible to be so happy?'

When Bingley returned he came up to her and asked her for the good wishes and affection of a sister. Elizabeth warmly expressed her delight.

When she could speak, Mrs Bennet said to her daughter,

'Oh! my dear, dear Jane, I am so happy! I am sure I shall not sleep all night. I always said it must be so. I was sure you could not be so beautiful for nothing.'

Wickham and Lydia were all forgotten. Jane was her favourite.

ACTIVITIES

1 Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Then correct the false ones.

	T	F
a. Elizabeth received a letter from her uncle.	☐	☐
b. Darcy took the blame for what happened to Lydia.	☐	☐
c. Mrs Gardiner thought that Darcy had another motive for helping Lydia.	☐	☐
d. Wickham didn't really want to marry Lydia.	☐	☐
e. Elizabeth considered the possibility that Darcy was still in love with her.	☐	☐
f. When Bingley and Darcy visited Longbourn Mrs Bennet was very rude to both of them.	☐	☐
g. Mrs Bennet knew that Darcy helped her daughter Lydia.	☐	☐
h. Bingley proposed to Jane.	☐	☐

2 A. Look back over Chapter 10 and find the antonyms to the following words.

a. humility .....

b. deterrent .....

c. agreed .....

d. sorrow .....

e. polite .....

f. elated .....

g. humble .....

h. rudeness .....

i. horrible .....

j. ugliness .....

B. Now use some of the words to fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

a. Mrs Gardiner believed that Darcy had another ..... for helping Lydia.

b. Darcy ..... to take back the money.

c. Elizabeth was ..... when she thought of what she had said to Darcy in the past.

d. Mrs Bennet received Darcy with a cold ..... which embarrassed her daughters.

e. Mrs Bennet said it was ..... to have a daughter well married.

3 Use *who / which / where / whose* to join up the following sentences.

a. At the ball Darcy made some unpleasant remarks about Elizabeth. His remarks were overheard by her.

.....

b. Mr Collins proposed to Elizabeth. Elizabeth's first reaction was to laugh.

.....

c. Elizabeth and the Gardiners went to Pemberley. They met Darcy there.

.....

d. Elizabeth talked about Darcy to the housekeeper of Pemberley. Her opinion of him was very good.

.....

e. When Elizabeth received the bad news about Lydia she told Darcy. He took the news very seriously.

.....

f. Mr Gardiner went to London. He found Lydia and Wickham there.

.....

g. Elizabeth read the letter. The letter was from her aunt.

.....



CHAPTER ELEVEN

Triumph over Pride and Prejudice

One morning, about a week later, the family were sitting in the dining room, when a carriage came up to the door. It was Lady Catherine de Bourgh. She entered the room with a manner more than usually unfriendly and sat down. After a moment she turned to Elizabeth and said,

'I hope you are well, Miss Bennet. That lady I expect is your mother.'

Elizabeth answered that it was.

'And that I expect is one of your sisters.'

Mrs Bennet said that it was. 'May I ask your ladyship if you left Mr and Mrs Collins well?' she asked.

'Yes, very well. I saw them last night.'

At *that* Lady Catherine got up and asked Elizabeth to walk with her in the garden where she said,

'You must understand, Miss Bennet, the motive for my journey.'

Elizabeth looked surprised and assured her that she was mistaken.

'Miss Bennet,' answered her Ladyship in an angry tone, 'you must know that it is in my character always to say what I think. I shall not change now. I was told a most scandalous [1] story two days ago. That you, that Miss Elizabeth Bennet, would probably soon marry Mr Darcy. I knew of course that it was not true, that he would never do such a thing. I decided to come here immediately to tell you of my feelings on the matter.'

'If you did not believe it true,' said Elizabeth, 'why did you come?'

'I came to hear you say it is not true. Has Mr Darcy made you an offer of marriage?'

'Your Ladyship has said that is impossible.'

'It should be so. But you may have made him forget how he should behave.'

'If I had, I would be the last person to say so.'

'Miss Bennet! Nobody speaks to me like this. You must understand me. This marriage can never take place. Mr Darcy is to marry my daughter. Now what have you to say?'

'If that is so, you can have no reason to imagine he will make an offer to me.'

Lady Catherine was silent for a moment and then said,

1. **scandalous** : 可耻的。

'From the beginning they were meant for each other.[1] It was the favourite wish of his mother and mine. Are they not to be married because of a young woman of no importance in the world?'

'Is there no other objection to my marrying Mr Darcy, but an agreement between his mother and you? Has Mr Darcy no choice in the matter? And if I am that choice, why may I not accept him?'

'I am ashamed of you. Is this your thanks for my attentions to you, you a young woman without family, connections or fortune.'

'Mr Darcy is a gentleman. I am a gentleman's daughter.'



1. **meant for each other**：天生一对。

'You are a gentleman's daughter. But who was your mother? Who are your uncles and aunts?'

'Whatever my connections may be,' said Elizabeth, 'if Mr Darcy does not object, they can be nothing to you.'

'Tell me now. Are you to marry him?'

'I am not.'

'And will you promise me never to marry him?'

'I will make no promise of the kind.'

'Miss Bennet. I know the story of your sister's marriage to Mr Wickham. Is such a girl to be Mr Darcy's sister?'

'You have now said everything possible to offend me. I have nothing more to say.' Elizabeth got up and they walked back to the house.

For many hours after Lady Catherine's departure, Elizabeth could not think clearly. She had said she would prevent their marriage. Would she now speak to Mr Darcy? With his idea of family pride, he might feel his aunt was not wrong. If in the next few days he wrote to Bingley saying that he could not return to Netherfield, she would understand. She would then stop thinking of him.

No letter came from Mr Darcy, but a few days later he came to Longbourn himself. Bingley, who wanted to be alone with Jane, had the idea of walking out together. They walked slowly behind while Elizabeth and Mr Darcy walked ahead. Now was the moment to speak.

'Mr Darcy,' Elizabeth began, 'I must thank you for your great kindness to my poor sister. Ever since I have known it, I have been anxious to tell you how grateful I am.'

'I am very sorry that you were informed of it. I did not

think Mrs Gardiner would tell you.'

'It was Lydia who spoke thoughtlessly.[1] Let me thank you again and again in the name of all my family.'

'If you will thank me,' he answered, 'thank me for yourself. Much as I respect your family, I thought only of you.'

Elizabeth was too much embarrassed to say a word. After a moment he said,

'You are too generous to play with my feelings. My affections and wishes are unchanged. If you feel the same as you did last April, tell me so immediately and I will be silent.'

Elizabeth, feeling all the anxiety of his situation, told him that her feelings had changed so much that she would now receive his proposal with gratitude and pleasure. The happiness this caused him was greater than any he had ever known. He spoke as intelligently and warmly as a man violently in love can do. Elizabeth could not look at him. She could only listen in delight as he told of his feelings for her.

They walked on, not knowing where. There was too much to be thought and felt and said. She soon heard that they could thank his aunt for their present happiness. She had visited him and told him of her conversation with Elizabeth.

'It taught me to hope,' said he, 'as I had never hoped before. I knew your character well enough to be certain that if you had decided against me, you would have told Lady Catherine so.'

Elizabeth blushed and laughed. 'Yes. After saying the worst things to your face, I could say them to your relatives too.'

'What did you say that was untrue? My behaviour to you was despicable.'

1. **thoughtlessly**：轻率地。

'We shall not disagree on who was more at fault,' said Elizabeth. 'Since then I hope we are both changed for the better.'

'I cannot so easily forget the things I said... my manners to you... your words when you said to me, "...had you behaved in a more gentleman-like manner..." You do not know how those words have made me suffer.'

'I had no idea you would feel them like that.'

'I can believe it. You thought me without any proper feeling, I am sure you did. I shall never forget your face when you said that I could not propose to you in any way that would make you accept me.'



'Oh! do not repeat what I said then. I have long been so ashamed of it.'

Darcy mentioned his letter. 'Did it,' said he, 'soon make you think better of me?'

She explained how she had felt and how, slowly, all her prejudices had disappeared.

They spoke about their meeting at Pemberley.

'I only wanted to show you that I was not angry about the past,' Darcy said. 'I hoped for your forgiveness. How soon I felt other wishes I cannot say, but I believe about half an hour after I had seen you.'

After walking a long way they found at last that it was time to be at home. Where could Bingley and Jane be? Darcy expressed his delight at the news his friend had given him. In picturing[1] Bingley's happiness, which would only be less than his own, he continued the conversation till they got home.

That night Elizabeth opened her heart to her sister who could not believe the news.

'You are not serious, Lizzy. This cannot be, to marry Mr Darcy! I know it is not true.'

'This is a bad beginning indeed! I am sure nobody else will believe me if you do not. But I am speaking the truth. He still loves me and we are to be married.'

'Oh Lizzy! It cannot be. I know how much you dislike him.'

'You know nothing of the matter. Perhaps I did not always love him as well as I do now. But that must all be forgotten.'

'I must believe you,' cried Jane. 'My dear, dear Lizzy, forgive the question, but are you quite sure that you can be happy with him?'

1. **picturing** : 想像。

'Quite. It is settled between us already that we shall be the happiest people in the world.'

'And do you really love him well enough? Oh Lizzy, do anything, but do not marry without affection. Are you quite sure that you feel what you should?'

When Jane was satisfied about the strength of Elizabeth's affection for Darcy she said, 'Now I am quite happy, for you will be as happy as myself.'

'Oh no!' cried Mrs Bennet the next morning. 'That disagreeable Mr Darcy is here again with our dear Bingley. What shall we do with him? Lizzy, you must walk out with him again.'

That evening when Mr Bennet left the drawing-room, Darcy got up and followed him. When he appeared again he smiled at Elizabeth and sent her to her father.

When Elizabeth came into the room, her father was walking around looking anxious.

'Lizzy,' said he, 'what are you doing? Have you not always hated this man?'

How she wished then that she had not expressed her former opinions so strongly! She tried to assure her father of her affection for Darcy.

'Lizzy,' said he, 'I know that you could never be happy unless you truly loved and respected your husband.'

Elizabeth explained the slow change of her feelings. She assured her father that Darcy had loved her for many months and that he was not the proud, disagreeable man she had thought. At last she told him what he had done for Lydia.

'Well, my dear,' he said, 'if this is true, then he is indeed the man for you.'

Later that night Elizabeth told her mother. On hearing the news, Mrs Bennet could not say a word. It was many, many minutes before she could understand. Finally she said,

'Dear me! Mr Darcy! Who would have thought it! And is it really true? Oh! My sweetest Lizzy! How rich and great you will be! Jane is nothing to it. I am so happy – such a charming man! So handsome! So tall! Oh my dear Lizzy, please apologise for my having disliked him so much before. I hope he will forget it. Dear, dear Lizzy. Three daughters married!'

Happy for all her maternal [1] feelings was the day on which Mrs Bennet saw her two oldest daughters married. How she delighted in visiting Mrs Bingley and talking of Mrs Darcy.

Mr Bennet missed his second daughter greatly. His affection for her often brought him to Pemberley.

Mr Bingley and Jane stayed at Netherfield only a year. To the satisfaction of the two sisters Mr Bingley then bought an estate only thirty miles from Pemberley.

Pemberley was Georgiana's home now and the attachment of the two sisters was just what Darcy had hoped. They learned to love each other very much.

Lady Catherine sent Darcy such an angry letter on hearing about the marriage that, for a time, all contact stopped.

With the Gardiners they were intimate. Darcy as well as Elizabeth really loved them and they were always grateful to the people who, by bringing her into Derbyshire, had united them.

1. **maternal** : 母性的。

A C T I V I T I E S

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Who comes to visit the Bennets?

b. What are her manners like?

c. Who does she ask to speak to?

d. Why does she come to Longbourn?

e. Who is Darcy supposed to marry?

f. What are Lady de Bourgh's objections to Elizabeth?

g. What is Elizabeth's reaction?

h. What is the direct outcome of Lady de Bourgh's visit?

i. How does the family react to Elizabeth's news?

2 Fill in the gaps to complete the summary and then put the paragraphs in the right order.

☐ Elizabeth realises that her [1]..... for Darcy have changed. Bingley and Darcy return to Netherfield. Bingley soon proposes to Jane who happily [2]..... and a few days later Darcy proposes to Elizabeth who accepts. At first her family are against the marriage as they believe that she doesn't like Darcy, but once they realise that this is not so, they are all very happy about the [3]..... .

☐ She dislikes him even more when she learns that it was Darcy who [4]..... Bingley to leave Netherfield because he didn't think that [5]..... with her inferior family connections was good enough for his [6]..... .

☐ The Bennets meet Mr [7]....., a dashing, young officer in the regiment stationed at Meryton. He flirts with Elizabeth and tells her that Mr Darcy's [8]..... promised him a living in the Church but that after his death the present Mr Darcy cut him off without a penny. Elizabeth is [9]..... by this news and her dislike of Darcy increases.

- ☐ To her surprise Darcy [10]..... to her, telling her that he loves her despite her family. Elizabeth refuses him explaining her motives. The next day Darcy gives her a [11]..... which explains that he didn't mean to cause her sister any suffering. He tells Elizabeth that Wickham's story isn't true and that Wickham in fact tried to [12]..... with Darcy's fifteen-year-old sister, to get his hands on her fortune. Luckily Darcy found out in time.
- ☐ Mr Gardiner goes to [13]....., finds the couple, and after settling a sum of [14]..... on them they marry. Only some time later does Elizabeth learn that it is thanks to Mr [15]....., who gave a substantial amount of money to Wickham, that her sister is married.
- ☐ When Mr Bingley comes to [16]..... Hall with his sisters and his proud, disagreeable [17]....., Mr Darcy, it is apparent to everyone that he has fallen in love with [18]....., the eldest of the Bennets' five daughters. However the group soon move back to [19]..... much to Jane's dismay.
- ☐ Elizabeth begins to realise that she has misjudged [20]..... . With her aunt and uncle she goes on a visit to the north of England and they visit [21]....., Darcy's estate. Much to Elizabeth's [22]..... they meet Darcy there, who although embarrassed himself, treats them with great kindness and consideration.
- ☐ The following day Elizabeth receives news that [23]..... has run off with Wickham but that they don't seem to have any intention of [24]..... . At that moment Darcy arrives and Elizabeth tells him the whole [25]..... .

Questions on the whole novel

3 Answer the following questions.

a. Which characters in the novel display the traits of pride and prejudice the title is based on? Are these traits more strongly present in some moments than others? If so, how and why do you think they change?

b. When Darcy first meets Elizabeth Bennet he says of her, 'she is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me...' Over time he changes his mind and falls in love with her. What qualities do you think attract him to her?

c. Elizabeth Bennet also changes her feelings both about Mr Darcy and Mr Wickham. Why? How does she explain her first reactions to them?

d. Can you trace the misunderstandings between Elizabeth Bennet and Darcy that keep them apart until the end of the novel?

e. The original title of the first version of *Pride and Prejudice* was *First Impressions*. Which title do you think better describes the novel? Give your reasons.

f. Elizabeth Bennet and her sister Jane are good friends, although they are very different. Describe the differences in their characters. Do they have basic similarities?

g. When Elizabeth hears of her friend Charlotte's marriage she feels that the intimacy between them has been destroyed. Why do you think that is so?

h. Many of the minor characters in the novel do not undergo any change. Mrs Bennet is as foolish at the end as she was at the beginning. Which characters change and come to understand things they did not understand in the beginning? Explain how.

i. How are the comic characters in the novel different from characters like Elizabeth or Darcy?

j. Do you find *Pride and Prejudice* a novel with a moral? If so what is it? Is it still relevant to your life in these times?

k. The values, morals and traditions of Jane Austen's society form the background of this novel. How are they different from those of today? How are they similar?

JANE AUSTEN AND THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

Although Jane Austen lived at the height of the Romantic movement, she has been called a neo-classicist and a traditionalist for the balance she maintains between reason and feelings, her realistic description of people and her great sense of irony.

Her belief in the importance of reason and sense is clearly seen in all her novels. Those characters who lack these qualities, like Mrs Bennet and her daughter Lydia are ridiculed.

However, Jane Austen also criticises those characters in whom reason dominates over feeling, like Mr Bennet.

Moderation [1] and control are important to Jane Austen. It is important to have feelings, but also to be able to control them. Jane Bennet almost loses Mr Bingley because she does not show her feelings enough. Mr Darcy is described as cold and proud until he begins to change. In the end when Elizabeth tells her sister she is to marry Darcy, Jane says, 'And do you really love him quite well enough? Oh, Lizzy! do any thing rather than marry without affection.' When this is contrasted with Charlotte Lucas telling Elizabeth that she is not romantic, it can be seen that Jane Austen does not disapprove of the concept of romantic love, but only of its extremes.

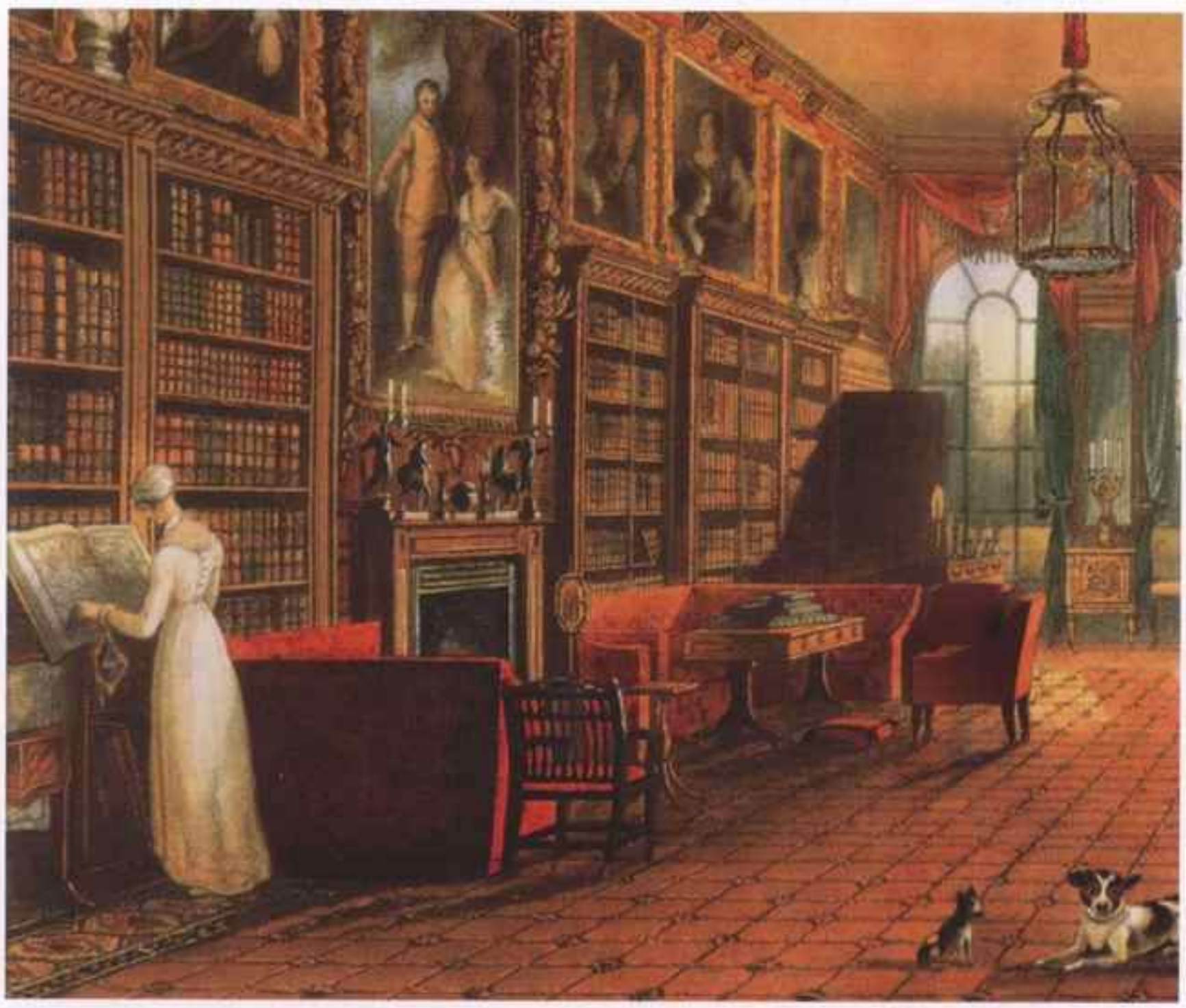
Jane Austen's style, too, is an example of elegance, clarity and precision. [2]

The plots of her novels exploit the intricacies [3] of character

1. **moderation** : 节制。
2. **precision** : 精确。
3. **intricacies** : 错综复杂。

interaction. She seems to observe people with amused and good-humoured detachment [1] and her work is often satirical [2] but never too harsh in judgement.

The use of different registers [3] for the different characters helps the reader understand their psychology as we can see, for instance, in the pedantic [4] monologue of Mr Collins's proposal to Elizabeth



The library at Cassiobury Park, Hertfordshire.

1. **detachment** : 超脱。
2. **satirical** : 讽刺的。
3. **registers** : 某特定行业或场合使用的语言。
4. **pedantic** : 迂腐的。

which sounds more a sermon [1] than a courtship. [2]

Jane Austen's care for details have made critics compare her to a miniaturist. [3]

Today she is considered one of the great masters of the English novel.

1 Answer the following questions.

a. Which elements make Jane Austen be considered a neo-classicist and a traditionalist in literature in spite of the period she lived in?

b. What are the characteristics of her style?

c. What are her plots based on?

d. What does the use of different registers contribute to?

e. How is Jane Austen considered today?

1. **sermon** : (牧师) 布道。
2. **courtship** : 求爱。
3. **miniaturist** : 微型画画家。

EXIT TEST

Focus on context

1 **Are the following statements true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.**

	T	F
a. Jane Austen was born in 1875 in Steventon, Hampshire.	☐	☐
b. She came from a rich upper-class family.	☐	☐
c. She lived most of her life in the country.	☐	☐
d. She started writing to entertain her family.	☐	☐
e. She published six novels in her lifetime.	☐	☐
f. *Pride and Prejudice* was based on an earlier novel called *First Impressions*.	☐	☐
g. The Prince Regent didn't like *Pride and Prejudice* and wrote her a letter of complaint.	☐	☐
h. She was just 42 when she died.	☐	☐

Focus on content

2 **Answer the following questions about the story.**

a. Why is Mrs Bennet so excited when she hears that Mr Bingley is moving to Netherfield?

.....

b. What is Elizabeth's first impression of Mr Darcy?

.....

c. How does Mr Darcy feel during Elizabeth's stay at Netherfield?

.....

d. What do Mr Bingley's sisters think of Jane and Elizabeth?

.....

e. Why will Mr Collins inherit Longbourn after Mr Bennet's death?

.....

f. According to Mr Wickham, how has he been wronged by Mr Darcy?

.....

g. What are Mr Collins's three reasons for wanting to marry Elizabeth?

.....

h. What do Mr and Mrs Bennet think of the proposal?

.....

i. What is Elizabeth's first impression of Lady Catherine de Bourgh?

.....

j. What shocking information does Colonel Fitzwilliam reveal to Elizabeth?

.....

k. How does Elizabeth react to Mr Darcy's proposal?

.....

l. What reasons does Mr Darcy give for having convinced Mr Bingley against marrying Jane?

.....

m. What does he reveal about Mr Wickham's true character?

.....

n. How does Elizabeth feel when she sees Mr Darcy at Pemberley?

.....

o. How does Lydia disgrace the family?

.....

p. What surprising information does Mrs Gardener give her in her letter?

.....

q. What effect does this have on Elizabeth?

.....

r. What is Lady Catherine de Bourgh's motive for visiting Longbourn?

.....

s. How does Mr Darcy's second proposal arise, and how is it received?

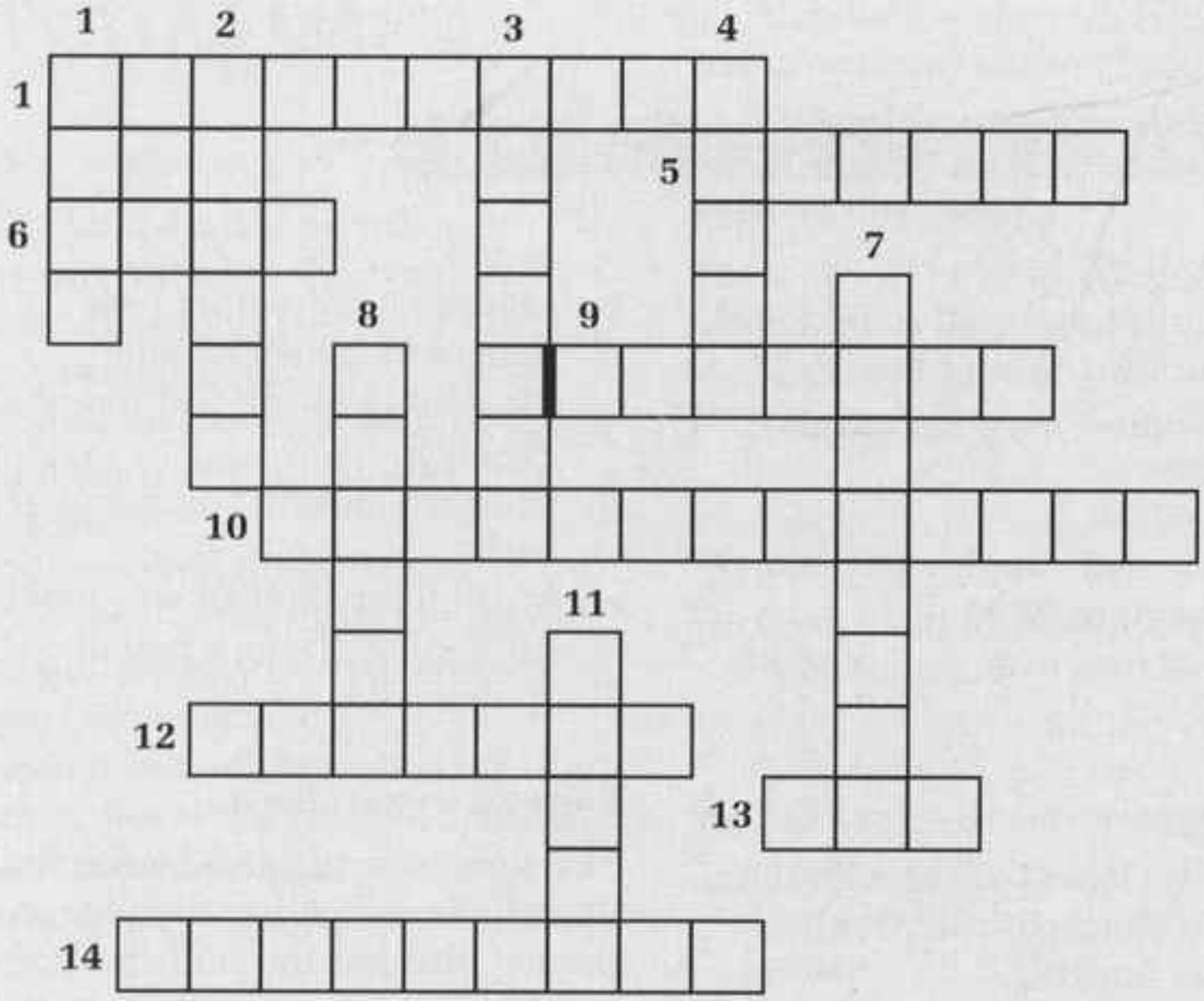
.....

t. How do the Bennet family react to Elizabeth's news?

.....

Focus on vocabulary

3



Across

1. Vile, contemptible.
5. Reduce.
6. Very wealthy, has a lot of money.
9. Person employed to manage another's property.
10. Area, district in a town or village.
12. Compliment someone.
13. Rented a property.
14. Socially acceptable behaviour.

Down

1. Have the courage.
2. Not very healthy.
3. Speaking critically.
4. Run away and marry secretly.
7. Vehicle with four wheels which is usually pulled by horses.
8. ..... Green, a place in Scotland where many couples get married secretly.
11. Took his ....., said goodbye.

Pride and Prejudice

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES AND EXIT TEST

KEY TO THE ACTIVITIES

Page 14 - exercise 1

a. Mr Bingley rented Netherfield Park.
b. He's from the north of England.
c. He's rich.
d. He's single.
e. There are five.
f. She hopes that Bingley will marry one of her daughters.
g. She wants him to go and visit Mr Bingley.

Page 21 - exercise 1

a. Because he wants to surprise them.
b. Her main concern is to get all her daughters married.
c. He's young, handsome with a simple, friendly manner.
d. He returns with his two sisters, his brother-in-law and a friend.
e. They are upper class.
f. He's tall and handsome with a noble appearance and at the beginning everybody looks at him with admiration.
g. Because of his proud and unfriendly manners.
h. He thinks that she's only tolerable.
i. She thinks that they're handsome and well educated, but proud and conceited.

Page 21 - exercise 2

a. People accused Mr Darcy of being proud.
b. Mrs Bennet dreamt of her daughters marrying well.
c. Mr Bennet didn't feel like visiting Bingley.
d. The girls insisted on going to the ball.
e. Mr Bingley himself was looking forward to giving a ball at Netherfield.

Page 22 - exercise 3

The tone is ironic and humorous. The conversation between Mr and Mrs Bennet also has the same humorous and ironic tone.

Page 22 - exercise 4

A.

a. single **b.** property **c.** flatter
d. permission **e.** favourable
f. simple **g.** noble **h.** disagreeable
i. handsome **j.** fault

B.

a. property **b.** permission
c. favourable **d.** single **e.** handsome
f. fault

Page 23 - exercise 5

discovers/learns - let - fortune - daughters - sisters - Darcy - manners - dance - handsome

Page 31 - exercise 1

a. two daughters
b. Charlotte
c. only Jane and Elizabeth
d. she has a good figure and beautiful eyes
e. a relative will inherit his estate
f. to see the officers
g. she thinks it's going to rain
h. to look after her sister

Page 32 - exercise 2

a. They are a family particularly intimate with the Bennets.
b. They talk about the ball, Mr Bingley and Darcy.
c. Because he had offended her at the ball by saying that she was only tolerable.
d. He discovered the beautiful expression of her eyes, her figure and playful manner. He wants to know her better.
e. They are well-off, but when Mr Bennet dies all the estate will be left to a distant male relative and the Bennet daughters will have nothing.

Page 32 - exercise 3

a. Mrs Bennet hoped that Jane would stay at Netherfield all night.
b. Elizabeth declared that she wasn't going to leave until Jane was well.
c. Mrs Bennet told Charlotte that she had begun the evening well.
d. Mrs Hurst said that she didn't think that Jane would ever marry with such relatives.
e. Jane said that she had been feeling ill all day.
f. Miss Bingley feared Darcy would marry Elizabeth.

Page 33 - exercise 4

What the Bingley sisters say about Elizabeth's:
manners – *mixture of pride and impertinence*
conversation – *none*
style – *none*
beauty – *none*
appearance – *wild*
propriety – *country town indifference*
what Charles Bingley said about Elizabeth – *she looked very well*
Darcy's remarks about Elizabeth's eyes – *brilliant with exercise*

Page 34 - exercise 5

Their opinions of Elizabeth:
MR BENNET – *intelligent*
MRS BENNET – *not as handsome as Jane, not as good humoured as Lydia*
MR BINGLEY – *very pretty, looked very well*
MR DARCY – *at first only tolerable then notices beautiful eyes, light, pleasing figure, playful manners, eyes brilliant with exercise*
MR BINGLEY'S SISTERS – *manners are a mixture of pride and impertinence, no conversation, no style and no beauty*

Page 35 - exercise 1

night/ better/ mother/ daughters/ breakfast/ danger/ home/ invited/ parlour/ ill/ depend/ coldly/ attention/ thanking/ kindness/ ridicule

Page 43 - exercise 1

a. Because Elizabeth sent her a note asking her to visit.
b. Because of the inferiority of her connections.
c. Because she wants Elizabeth to leave.
d. To stop the conversation between Darcy and Elizabeth.
e. Because he is beginning to feel the danger of giving Elizabeth too

much attention.

f. He's Mr Bennet's cousin.

g. He wants to forget the disagreement that has been in the past between their two families and he would like to help the Bennet girls.

h. He's tall and heavy-looking, about twenty-five. He's extremely formal and is rather ridiculous.

i. She's Mr Collins's patroness.

j. They're interested in seeing the officers in Meryton.

Page 43 - exercise 2

a. had welcomed
b. had been talking
c. had received
d. had been
e. had been staying
f. hadn't found

Page 44 - exercise 3

appearance – *gentleman-like*
name – *Mr Wickham*
profession – *officer in regiment*
how he is looked at by Darcy – *with surprise*
his reaction at seeing Darcy – *he changes colour*

Page 44 - exercise 4

Open answer.

Page 53 - exercise 1

a. False – Wickham goes to sit by Elizabeth.

b. False – He was treated badly by Darcy.

c. True

d. False – He loses the card game.

e. False – She smiles when she hears this news.

f. True

g. True

h. False – She criticises him.

i. True

Page 53 - exercise 2

a. Her opinion is good. She finds his conversation agreeable. She is shocked when she hears about Darcy's behaviour towards him.

b. *Possible answer:* He was worried about his friend marrying someone so much inferior.

c. Because he could hear her mother's conversation about Jane's future marriage with Bingley.

Page 54 - exercise 3

a. on **b.** by **c.** On **d.** On **e.** While/by **f.** Without **g.** at

Page 55 - exercise 4

A.

a. exciting
b. surprised
c. interested
d. amused
e. embarrassing

B.

Open answer.

Page 55 - exercise 5

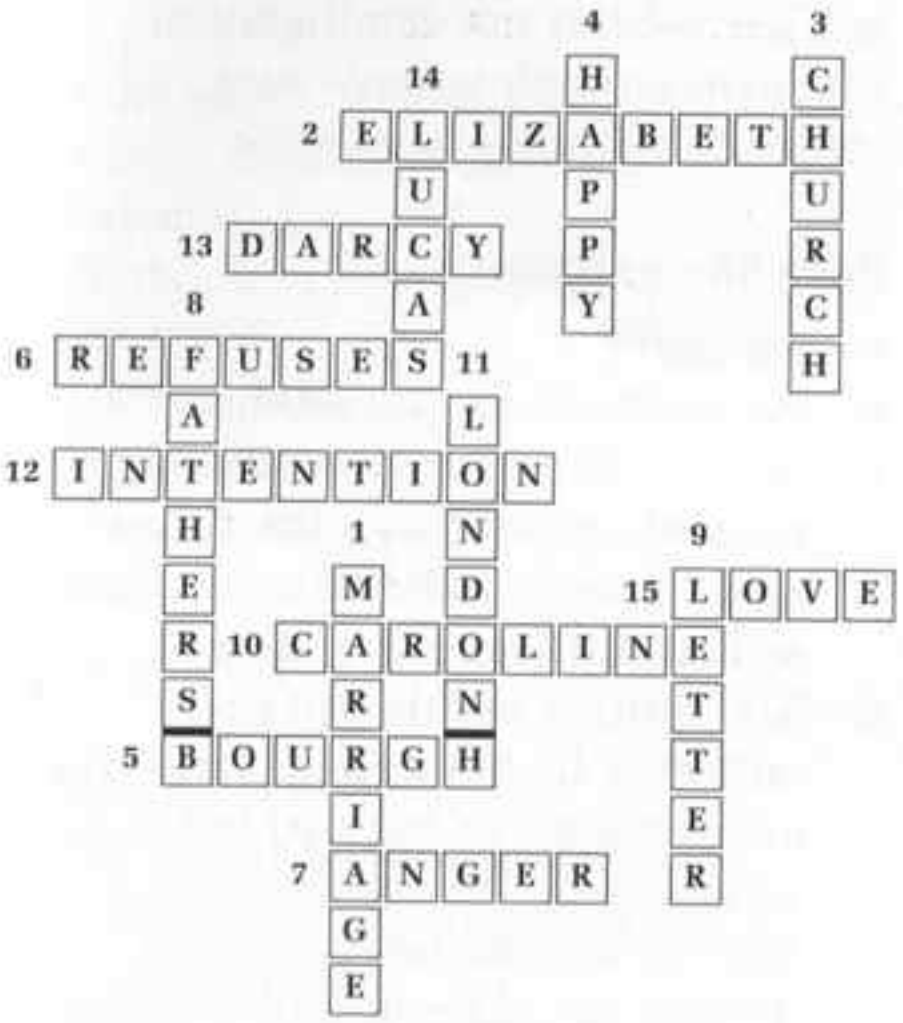
Open answer.

Page 56 - exercise 1

day / speak / surprised / immediately / feelings / amusement / house / partner / motives / serious / stop

Page 67 - exercise 1

1. marriage **2.** Elizabeth **3.** Church **4.** happy **5.** Bourgh **6.** refuses **7.** anger **8.** father's **9.** letter **10.** Caroline **11.** London **12.** intention **13.** Darcy **14.** Lucas **15.** love



Page 68 - exercise 2

a. *Possible answer*: He is very sincere in what he says to the point of saying that the most important reason he has for getting married is because his patroness wants him to! He shows no spontaneity, sensitivity or passion during his declaration which seems to be much more a business than marriage proposal.
b. Open answer.
c. Open answer.
d. Open answer.

Page 68 - exercise 3

Mr Collins – *completely insensitive; very serious; determined to find a wife.*
Elizabeth – *polite in her refusal to Mr Collins; very determined; she won't give in to her mother; she cares about her friend Charlotte and is sad about her marriage to Mr Collins, not because she's jealous but because she wants better for her friend.*
Mr Bennet – *sense of humour seen in the ultimatum he gives to Elizabeth; loves his daughter and wants the best for her; not simply to 'marry her off' to the first person interested.*
Mrs Bennet – *totally insensitive to Elizabeth's feelings regarding Mr Collins. Simply wants to marry her daughters off; it doesn't matter to her if they're happy or not.*

Page 69 - exercise 4

a. made/laugh
b. asked/to tell
c. asked/to call
d. let/decide
e. made/think
f. asked/to write back
g. had asked/to marry
h. made/believe

THE SOCIAL CONTEXT IN JANE AUSTEN'S TIME

Page 71 - exercise 1

a. aristocracy, lesser gentry, professional people, farmers, domestic servants and country and town workers
b. aristocracy – inherited wealth and estates; lesser gentry – inherited wealth usually in the form of land
c. a fixed code of accepted rules for behaving, dressing, courting and travelling

Page 72 - exercise 1

Who the Gardiners are – *Elizabeth's aunt and uncle; Mrs Bennet's brother and his wife*
What Mr Gardiner is like – *intelligent; gentleman-like; more educated and with a better character than his sister*
What Mrs Gardiner is like – *agreeable; intelligent; elegant*
What Mrs Gardiner gives her nieces – *presents*

How long the Gardiners stay at Longbourn – *a week*
What Mrs Gardiner warns Elizabeth about – *not to fall in love with Wickham as he has no fortune and couldn't make her happy*

Page 84 - exercise 1

a. Jane is invited to stay with the Gardiners in London.
b. Because she sees the attraction between Wickham and Elizabeth and thinks that he could not make Elizabeth happy.
c. Elizabeth goes to visit Charlotte and Mr Collins at Rosings.
d. She's not very impressed. She finds her rude and overbearing. At the dinner she behaves politely but is less full of admiration and flattery than the others.
e. She learns that it was Darcy and not Miss Bingley who had caused Bingley to leave Netherfield, thus causing Jane's unhappiness.
f. She feels angry and upset.

Page 84 - exercise 2

a. had had/wouldn't have been
b. had told/would have gone
c. wouldn't have been surprised/had given
d. would have left/had not changed
e. had known/would have suffered
f. hadn't been/wouldn't have lacked

Page 85 - exercise 3

Mrs Gardiner's relationship with her nieces seems to be based on real friendship and mutual respect. She is genuinely interested in her nieces' welfare as can be seen in her advice to Elizabeth and her invitation to Jane, after seeing that she is unhappy.

The girls (or at least the two eldest) do not have the same intimacy with their mother, who is not intelligent or sensitive enough to have such intimacy with her daughters.

Page 95 - exercise 1

a. Mr Darcy.
b. He wants to propose to her.
c. He says that there are objections against her mother's family and also the behaviour of her mother, father and younger sisters.
d. She refuses because of the suffering he has caused Jane and also because of his past behaviour to Wickham. She is also offended that he says he has proposed despite her inferior connections.
e. He defends his behaviour and is mortified by her refusal.
f. A letter.
g. He explains that Wickham wasted the money and opportunities offered to him by Darcy and then tried to elope with Darcy's younger sister, partly for her fortune and partly to get his revenge on Darcy.
h. He explains that there were too many objections against her family and their behaviour and that he had seen Bingley in love many times in the past and he didn't believe that Jane was in love with him.
i. She's shocked, ashamed, mortified.

Page 95 - exercise 2

a. were/wouldn't seem
b. had expressed/would have been
c. had made/wouldn't have been
d. sees/will be
e. lived/would be
f. had... wanted/would have helped
g. comes/will treat

Page 96 - exercise 3

A.
a. 2; b. 3; c. 5; d. 6; e. 1; f. 7; g. 4

B.

a. take after
b. took... breath away
c. taken in
d. took... into his confidence
e. took to
f. took... along
g. took... down a peg or two

Page 96 - exercise 4

Open answer.

Page 97 - exercise 1

a. False – They returned in May.
b. False – She was happy to have Jane at home.
c. True
d. False – She was very surprised.
e. False – She was very unhappy because she was still in love with him.
f. False – She only told him that she liked Darcy better now that she knew him better.

Page 109 - exercise 1

a. Because Mrs Gardiner has friends there.
b. Pemberley is Mr Darcy's estate. They go there because Mrs Gardiner wants to see it.
c. Because she talks so well of her master, saying that he is never unkind and isn't proud.
d. She meets Darcy.
e. They're both embarrassed.
f. He's very kind and courteous.
g. He wants to introduce Elizabeth to his sister.
h. She realises that she isn't proud, only shy.

Page 109 - exercise 2

a. Never should it be said that the Miss Bennets ran after the officers.
b. In vain did Elizabeth and Jane speak to Kitty.
c. Scarcely had a month passed when Elizabeth received a letter from her aunt.
d. Never in her life had she seen his manners so little formal.
e. Nothing but compliments did Darcy say.
f. Under no circumstances would Darcy have permitted her to invite her relatives if he had married her.

Page 110 - exercise 3

Open answer.

Page 121 - exercise 1

a. In the first letter she learns that Lydia has run off with Wickham and in the second letter she is told that it doesn't seem that they intend to marry.
b. Darcy arrives at that moment and she tells him the bad news. He is very shocked and concerned.
c. They immediately return to Longbourn.
d. Mr Bennet feels that it is his fault – he has not taken enough interest in the education of his daughters and this is the consequence. He confesses his feelings to Elizabeth who comforts him.
e. No, not at all. As soon as she hears of the marriage she is excited at the prospect of showing her married daughter to the neighbourhood.
f. No, they haven't.
g. Mr Bennet is rather severe, the sisters are uneasy while Mrs Bennet is delighted.

Page 121 - exercise 2

a. I wish he were/was intelligent.
b. Elizabeth wishes he didn't know about Lydia's elopement with Wickham.

c. Elizabeth would rather Lydia didn't tell her about her marriage.
d. He'd rather Mr Bennet didn't stay in London.
e. He wishes she was in love with him.

Page 122 - exercise 3

Open answer.

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE REGENCY PERIOD

Page 125 - exercise 1

a. No, the position of women in the Regency period was very different. Middle and upper-class women did not work and spent their time reading poetry, paying visits to each other, painting, playing the piano and singing. They did no sport – just a little walking and dancing.
b. The fact that women didn't work meant that they had to make a 'good' marriage in order to have a good place in society.
c. People generally got married to people from their own social class.
d. Open answer.

Page 132 - exercise 1

a. False – She received the letter from her aunt.
b. True
c. True
d. True
e. True
f. False – She was rude only to Darcy.
g. False – She didn't know this.
h. True

Page 132 - exercise 2

A.
a. pride **b.** motive **c.** refused
d. pleasure **e.** impudent **f.** mortified
g. proud **h.** politeness **i.** delightful
j. beauty

B.
a. motive **b.** refused **c.** mortified
d. politeness **e.** delightful

Page 133 - exercise 3

a. At the ball Darcy made some unpleasant remarks about Elizabeth **which** were overheard by her.
b. Mr Collins proposed to Elizabeth **whose** first reaction was to laugh.
c. Elizabeth and the Gardiners went to Pemberley **where** they met Darcy.
d. Elizabeth talked about Darcy to the housekeeper of Pemberley **whose** opinion of him was very good.
e. When Elizabeth received the bad news about Lydia she told Darcy **who** took the news very seriously.
f. Mr Gardiner went to London **where** he found Lydia and Wickham.
g. Elizabeth read the letter **which** was from her aunt.

Page 143 - exercise 1

a. Lady Catherine de Bourgh.
b. She's rude and unfriendly.
c. She asks to speak to Elizabeth.
d. She comes to find out if it is true that Elizabeth is going to marry Darcy.
e. Lady de Bourgh's daughter.
f. She's a woman of no importance without family, connections or fortune.
g. She's offended and angry.
h. Darcy learns about the visit and he begins to hope that Elizabeth has changed her mind.
i. At first they are all shocked and surprised as they all believe that she doesn't like Darcy, but when

they learn the truth they are all very happy for her. Mrs Bennet is immediately delighted that her daughter is making such a good marriage.

Page 143 - exercise 2

order of paragraphs: 8-3-2-4-7-1-5-6

1. feelings **2.** accepts **3.** marriage
4. persuaded **5.** Jane **6.** friend
7. Wickham **8.** father **9.** shocked
10. proposes **11.** letter **12.** elope
13. London **14.** money **15.** Darcy
16. Netherfield **17.** friend **18.** Jane
19. London **20.** Darcy **21.** Pemberley
22. embarrassment **23.** Lydia
24. marrying **25.** story

Page 145 - exercise 3

Open answers.

JANE AUSTEN AND THE ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

Page 148 - exercise 1

a. The balance she maintains between reason and feelings, her realistic description of people and her great sense of irony.
b. Her style is elegant, clear and precise.
c. Her plots are based on character interaction.
d. It contributes to the understanding of the characters' personalities.
e. One of the great masters of the English novel.

KEY TO THE EXIT TEST

Focus on context

a. F – She was born in 1775.
b. F – They were upper class but they weren't rich.
c. T
d. T
e. F – Four novels were published in her lifetime. Two were published after her death.
f. T
g. F – He liked *Pride and Prejudice* very much and wrote her a complimentary letter.
h. T

Focus on content

a. Mrs Bennet is so excited because Mr Bingley is very rich and single and she hopes that he will marry one of her daughters.
b. Although handsome, she immediately finds him proud and disagreeable. She is offended when she overhears his conversation with Mr Bingley.
c. Mr Darcy's admiration of Elizabeth starts to increase rapidly and he soon realises that he has never been so attracted to anyone before.
d. They like Jane very much but do not regard Elizabeth very highly. They are very critical of her and the rest of the Bennet family.
e. There is a law that states that the property can only be inherited by a man. Since Mr and Mrs Bennet do not have any sons, Longbourn will go to their closest male relative.
f. Mr Wickham states that Mr Darcy's father provided generous instructions as to his welfare in his will and that the son, upon his

father's death, decided not to abide by them.

g. (i) He thinks marriage is correct for a man of the Church;
(ii) He believes that it will make him very happy;
(iii)Lady Catherine de Bourgh has requested that he gets married.

h. Mr and Mrs Bennet have quite opposite opinions. Mrs Bennet informs Elizabeth that she must marry Mr Collins while the father is adamant that she shouldn't.

i. Elizabeth finds her questions intrusive and impolite.

j. Colonel Fitzwilliam reveals that Mr Darcy is congratulating himself on having 'saved' a friend of his (Mr Bingley) from an unfortunate marriage.

k. At first she is very shocked and feels the compliment that a man of his status is proposing to her. However, as the conversation develops she becomes very angry.

l. He states that although the 'low connections' of the family did come into consideration, he truly believed that Jane was not in love with Mr Bingley.

m. He reveals that Mr Wickham, at first, declined the offer to go into the Church and was given money to study law. After that money was spent on other things he contacted Mr Darcy to request the position in the Church. Mr Darcy also discloses that Mr Wickham tried to marry his young sister to gain her fortune.

n. She is ashamed of the impropriety of her being there and she is also, subsequently surprised by his politeness to her and her aunt and uncle.

o. Lydia's elopement with Mr Wickham not only disgraces herself but the whole family because a good reputation is essential.

p. Mrs Gardener tells Elizabeth that the situation was resolved entirely by Mr Darcy.

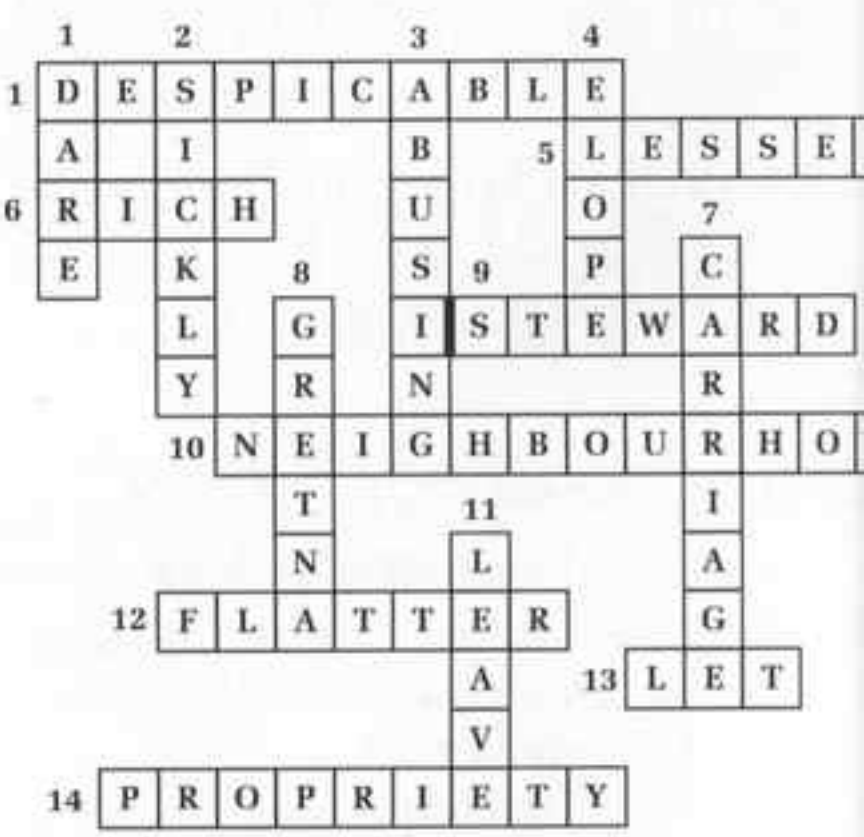
q. Since receiving Mr Darcy's letter and seeing him at Pemberley, Elizabeth had started to understand how wrong she had been. Upon learning this new information her admiration and shame are increased even more.

r. Lady Catherine de Bourgh has heard a rumour that Elizabeth will marry her nephew and comes to refuse her consent, expecting that Elizabeth will obey her.

s. Mr Darcy returns to Longbourn after a visit from his aunt but before he has the opportunity, Elizabeth expresses her gratitude for his help with Lydia. Elizabeth accepts his proposal.

t. Initially both Jane and Mr Bennet are worried – they do not believe that Elizabeth can love Mr Darcy – once convinced by Elizabeth, they are happy for her. Mrs Bennet, instead, immediately changes her opinion of him, thinking only of his wealth.

Focus on vocabulary



BLACK CAT
有声名著
阶梯阅读

Pride and Prejudice

傲慢与偏见



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Level 6

Frankenstein
科学怪人

Pride and Prejudice
傲慢与偏见

Robinson Crusoe
鲁滨逊漂流记

A Tale of Two Cities
双城记

The Problems of Cell 13
十三号死刑牢房

The Murders in the Rue Morgue and The Purloined Letter
莫尔格街凶杀案

Tess of the d'Urbervilles
德伯家的苔丝

Emma
爱玛

The Scarlet Letter
红字



绅士淑女的爱情

有五个待嫁千金的班纳特太太热衷于钓金龟婿。新来的邻居彬格莱和他的好友达西，潇洒俊朗，身家丰厚。班纳特太太刻意安排一切，务求女儿得到他们的欢心……

小说表达了奥斯汀对社会和婚姻的洞见。奥斯汀语言精湛，值得细细品味；人物刻画栩栩如生；善用讽刺笔法，开首第一句，“凡是有钱的单身汉，总想娶位太太，这已经成了一条举世公认的真理”，亦已成经典。

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