

Pride and Prejudice chapter-by-chapter

Chapter 1 - 2 – the ironic tone of the novel is set. The overriding conflict is set up: five dowryless Bennet daughters need to find husbands before Mr. Bennet dies and the property falls to Mr. Collins.

Theme – Social commentary about marriage and the rigid class structure of eighteenth century England is hinted at.

Chapter 3: The ball at Netherfield

Chapter 4 – Jane and Elizabeth's conversation about Darcy and Bingley

Chapter 5 – Introduction of the Lucases and Charlotte

Chapter 6 – Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst visit Longbourn. Lizzy notices their superciliousness.

Charlotte says Jane needs to be more forthcoming about her feelings for Bingley.

Charlotte expresses her opinion about marriage and compatibility.

Gathering at the Lucases' home; Lizzy plays and sings; Mary plays sings; Darcy comments on Elizabeth's "fine eyes" and "pretty face."

Ch. 7 – Lydia and Kitty's visit to Mrs. Phillips

Mrs. Bennet wants Jane to get sick in the rain going over to Netherfield, which she does and has to stay there for a couple of weeks.

Elizabeth tramps through the mud to see her sister

Ch. 8 - Miss Bingley and Mrs. Hurst mock Elizabeth for walking two miles in the mud to visit her sister, calling it “a most country town indifference to decorum.” Mr. Darcy is intrigued and says that the fresh air only heightened the beauty of Elizabeth’s complexion.

Darcy, Bingley, and Miss Bingley openly discuss the Bennets’ class, which they say diminishes their “chances of marrying men of any consideration in the world.”

Mrs. Hurst and Miss Bingley parrot back everything Darcy says.

Ch. 9

Bingley shows he is likeable, although not too discerning, when he says, “When I’m in the country, I never wish to leave, and when I am in town, it is pretty much the same.”

Ch. 9 –Mrs. Bennet makes a fool of herself in front of people. It is mentioned that Lydia had gone “into public at an early age.”

Go over the custom of the **debutante**. (Marriage is seen as a market!)

Ch. 10; Darcy finds himself “bewitched,” and “were it not for the inferiority of her connections eh should be in some danger.”

Ch. 10 Miss Bingley flirting shamelessly with Mr. Darcy

p. 205 (my book) – Darcy and Elizabeth engage in verbal sparring.

Ch. 12 – Jane and Elizabeth go home to Longbourn.

Ch. 13 – Explanation of the entailment.

Mr. Collins’ letter to Mr. Bennet asking to “visit” with the intention of marrying one of his daughters.

Elizabeth asks, “Can he be a sensible man?”

Ch. 14 – Why is Lady Catherine de Bourgh in the novel?

Ch. 15 – Mr. Collins is “getting a living” at Hunsford.

He first plans to propose to Jane, but as Mrs. Bennet says Jane is practically engaged, he shifts his focus to Elizabeth.

Ch. 16 – Mr. Wickham gossips against Darcy—claims he cheated Wickham out of a living. Elizabeth believes him, and her esteem of Darcy further drops.

Ch. 17 Elizabeth and Jane converse about Wickham and Darcy

Ch. 18 Ball at Netherfield

Pivotal scene – Elizabeth says, “That would be the greatest misfortune of all! To find a man agreeable whom one is determined to hate.”

Verbal sparring between Elizabeth and Darcy; Elizabeth baits Darcy about Wickham.

Miss Bingley stands up for Darcy

Elizabeth thinks about Jane and Bingley being married, Mary sings and makes a pedantic fool of herself, Mrs. Bennet makes a fool of herself by gossiping that Jane is about to be engaged to Mr. Bingley

Ch. 19 ; Mr. Collins’ proposal to Elizabeth, (“My reasons for marrying” speech, p., 228)

Elizabeth turns him down , p. 230

Ch. 20 Mr. Bennet discusses Mr. Collins’ proposal with Elizabeth; he assures her that he does not want her to marry someone whom she cannot love or respect.

Ch. 21 Letter to Jane from Miss Bingley that Darcy and Bingley have left

Ch. 22: Collins proposes to Charlotte, and she accepts (235-237)

Ch. 23 Jane becomes increasingly more worried, but she does not show it.

Ch. 24 Pivotal scene in which Elizabeth discusses her disappointment in humanity and “the inconsistency of all human characters.” (This was on the first quiz).

Ch. 25 – Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner (Mrs. Bennet’s sister) introduced. They are foils of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet

Mr. Gardiner was a friend of the late Mr. Darcy (Darcy’s father)

Ch. 26 Mr. Gardiner warns Elizabeth about Mr. Wickham.

The marriage of Collins and Charlotte

Jane goes to London and spends a week there without hearing from Miss Bingley (she is snubbed!)

Ch. 27 Elizabeth goes to London with her aunt and uncle (Gardiners).

Wickham becomes interested in Miss King, who has 10,000. Mrs. Gardiner calls him “mercenary.”

Elizabeth, becoming increasingly bitter, She has a serious conversation with Mrs. Gardiner about marriage: “Pray, my dear aunt, what is the difference in matrimonial affairs,

between the mercenary and the prudent motive? Where does discretion end and avarice begin?"

Ch. 28 Elizabeth visits the parsonage at Hunsford, home of Mr. Collins and Charlotte.

Elizabeth, while there, meets Lady Catherine and her daughter Anne for the first time. Anne is sickly, weak, and pale. (It is revealed that Lady Catherine wants her daughter to marry Mr. Darcy, who is her cousin.)

Ch. 29 – visit to Lady Catherine's.

Lady Catherine makes rude remarks about the Bennet sisters' lack of a governess and the fact that all five girls are "out" at once.

It is revealed that Elizabeth is 20 - - which she states, only after being pressed, as "I am not 21."

Ch. 31 Darcy and Colonel Fitzwilliam come to Rosings, Lady Catherine de Bourgh's estate (they are both Lady Catherine's nephews).

Ch. 32 – Elizabeth confronts Darcy about his and Bingley's leaving Netherfield so soon.

Colonel Fitzwilliam likes Elizabeth, but he cannot afford to have any marital intentions toward her.

Ch. 30 - Elizabeth keeps running into Mr. Darcy.

Elizabeth gets into a crying fit over the “objections” Darcy had to Bingley’s marrying Jane. (She is crying not just for the personal injustice to her beloved sister, but because of the injustice of the entire social structure)

Ch. 34 - Darcy’s proposal to Elizabeth – “In vain have I struggled. It will not do.” (Basically says that in spite of his better judgment, he loves Elizabeth and wants her to marry him.”

She refuses.

Ch. 35 – Darcy’s letter to Elizabeth explaining his actions in regards to Bingley and Jane .

Lizzy’s realization on p. 276 about Wickham.

Ch. 39 - Lydia’s increasingly reckless behavior

Ch. 40 (reread) Jane as Elizabeth’s confidante.

Ch. 41 Lydia goes with Mrs. Forster to Brighton (military base). Elizabeth urges Mr. Bennet not to let Lydia go.

Ch. 42 – Elizabeth’s comment on her parents’ marriage

Ch. 43 – Elizabeth goes to Pemberley (Darcy’s estate) with her aunt and uncle Gardiner. Darcy is not at home.

p. 292 Darcy’s housekeeper, Mrs. Reynolds, reveals Darcy’s good character. Elizabeth has some regrets, seeing the estate

and hearing Mrs. Reynolds' comments, about refusing Darcy's proposal

ch. 45 – Miss Caroline Bingley insults Elizabeth to Darcy; Georgiana, Darcy's sister, does not participate.

Ch. 46 Elizabeth receives a letter from Jane about Lydia's having run away with Wickham. Elizabeth feels faint (p. 305). Darcy is genuinely concerned and asks her how he can help her.

This chapter shows the fruition of all of the Bennets' poor parenting.

Ch. 47 Lydia's letter to Harriet Forster (essentially boasting thoughtlessly, despite having ruined all of her sisters' marriage prospects)

Ch. 48 – Mr. Collins' letter (gloating)

At end of chapter, Mr. Bennet becomes a bit more asserting as a father, laying down some rules for Kitty, although it's too late to help Lydia

Ch. 49 Mr. Gardiner sends a letter saying that Wickham married Lydia and hints that he was paid off to do it; Mr. Bennet thinks Mr. Gardiner paid Wickham's gambling debts and gave him money, but he didn't!

Ch. 50 Letter from Mr. Gardiner to Mr. Bennet to say that Wickham's gambling debts have been paid in full.

Ch. 51 –Lydia’s wedding. Lydia is audacious enough to flaunt her being the first to marry!

Ch. 52 – Mrs. Gardiner’s letter to Elizabeth revealing that it was Darcy who saved Lydia and the family from shame

Ch. 53 Darcy and Bingley come to visit; Darcy acts quiet and detached, sending Elizabeth into further turmoil

Ch. 55 Bingley proposes to Jane (since Jane is the eldest, for reasons of form, Darcy may have wanted to allow his friend to make his proposal first, to let Bingley and Jane have their moment, or Darcy may be a little gun-shy after being turned down once!)

Ch. 56 Lady Catherine orders Elizabeth not to accept Darcy’s imminent proposal . Elizabeth says she will promise nothing of the sort.

Ch. 58 Elizabeth and Darcy come to a complete understanding between one another. They are to be married!

Ch. 59 Jane urges Elizabeth not to marry Darcy if she does not love him. Mr. Bennet says the same. Elizabeth confesses that she does indeed love Darcy.

Ch. 60 – Darcy’s letter to Lady Catherine.

Darcy’s letter to Mr. Collins

Ch. 61 –Denouement (resolution)