

British Literature Unit Study Series

Pride and Prejudice

by Jane Austen

Grades 7-12

PARTS OF PLOT STRUCTURE

The plot is the sequence of events within the story and the organization of these elements so that they generate interest, suspense and surprise for the reader. It is sometimes called the narrative structure and it involves the following parts:

Climax

This is the highest point of tension. It could range from a 'life or death' situation to a tense emotional moment and we realise who or what is going to win the conflict.

Rising Action

The protagonist faces one or more challenges. The issue begins to worsen and these complications move the plot towards the climax, creating suspense.

Falling Action

These are the actions that help to unravel, solve or deal with the problem that leads us towards the resolution. It may sometimes involve a surprise twist.

Exposition

The reader learns background information needed to understand the story. The setting is established and characters and conflict are introduced.

Resolution

The final outcome of the conflict, whether it is resolved or unresolved. The tension is broken and the reader feels a sense of closure although it may not end positively.



TYPES OF CHARACTERS

PROTAGONIST

The protagonist is the main character in a story. They are the one who faces the main challenges, develops strengths and learns lessons.



They make key decisions that influence the plot of the story. They might be a hero, antihero, tragic hero, villain protagonist or supporting protagonist.

ANTAGONIST

The antagonist is any character who creates opposition for the protagonist.



They often make poor moral choices and are used to create conflict within the story.

Antagonists are conventionally presented as villains, though this is not always the case.

SUPPORTING



A supporting character is not the main focus of the story, but plays an important role in helping or supporting the protagonist in times of need.

They are usually mentioned enough in the story to be more than a minor character. Some might also support the antagonist in creating conflict.

MINOR



Minor characters are not usually developed in much detail but authors use them to play small but necessary roles or to create contrast.

They can provide catalysts for change by creating drama to move the plot forward before disappearing from the story without consequence.

TYPES OF CONFLICT

The plot structure of a story is usually shaped around a conflict involving the protagonist. This conflict might be internal (within themselves) or external (against another force). Some common types of conflicts include the following:

Person Vs. Person



The protagonist faces a conflict with another person (usually an antagonist).

Person Vs. Self



The protagonist faces an internal struggle within themselves.

Person Vs. Society



The protagonist's beliefs and desires differ from the 'norm' or they aren't accepted into society for some reason.

Person Vs. Nature or
Environment



The protagonist faces threats to their survival or safety within the natural environment.

Person Vs. Supernatural
Power



The protagonist faces a supernatural force such as gods, ghosts, aliens, fate or religion.

*It is a truth universally
acknowledged, that a single
man in possession of a good
fortune, must be in want of a
wife.*

*— Jane Austen
Pride and Prejudice*





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As *Pride and Prejudice* was set in England at the turn of the 19th century, many words found on its pages are no longer in common use today. The definitions of most can be deduced by reading the sentence, but that isn't always the case. Language is ever-evolving, but there is such beauty in these old words.

Vocabulary Words:

Chapters 1-7

- **scrupulous:** characterized by extreme care and great effort
- **caprice:** a sudden desire
- **circumspection:** the trait of being cautious and sensible
- **mien:** a person's appearance, manner, or demeanor
- **fastidious:** giving careful attention to detail
- **supercilious:** having or showing arrogant superiority
- **pedantic:** marked by a narrow focus on or display of learning
- **stricture:** severe criticism

Chapters 8-13

- **indolent:** disinclined to work or exertion
- **panegyric:** a formal expression of praise
- **celerity:** a rate that is rapid
- **expostulation:** an exclamation of protest, opposition, or criticism
- **alacrity:** liveliness and eagerness
- **approbation:** official acceptance or agreement
- **laconic:** brief and to the point
- **iniquitous:** characterized by injustice or wickedness
- **overture:** a tentative suggestion to elicit the reactions of others
- **precipitate:** done with very great haste and without due deliberation
- **asperity:** harshness of manner



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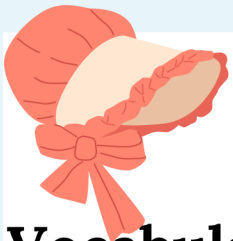
Vocabulary Words:

Chapters 14-20

- **affability:** a disposition to be friendly and approachable
- **vouchsafe:** grant in a condescending manner
- **veneration:** a feeling of profound respect for someone or something
- **obsequious:** attempting to win favor from influential people by flattery
- **redress:** act of correcting an error or a fault or an evil
- **taciturn:** habitually reserved and uncommunicative
- **hauteur:** overbearing pride with a superior manner toward inferiors
- **probity:** complete and confirmed integrity
- **dissemble:** hide under a false appearance

Chapters 21-34

- **assiduous:** marked by care and persistent effort
- **concurrence:** a state of cooperation
- **rectitude:** righteousness as a consequence of being honorable and honest
- **transient:** lasting a very short time
- **hackneyed:** repeated too often; overfamiliar through overuse
- **ablution:** the act of washing oneself, as for ritual purposes
- **avarice:** extreme greed for material wealth
- **trepidation:** a feeling of alarm or dread
- **deportment:** the way a person behaves toward other people
- **controvert:** prove to be false or incorrect
- **inured:** made tough by habitual exposure
- **prodigious:** great in size, force, extent, or degree
- **officious:** intrusive in a meddling or offensive manner
- **ardent:** characterized by intense emotion



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Vocabulary Words:

Chapters 35-46

- **verdure:** green foliage
- **remonstrance:** the act of expressing earnest opposition or protest
- **pecuniary:** relating to or involving money
- **accede:** agree or express agreement
- **profligacy:** the trait of spending extravagantly
- **chagrin:** strong feelings of embarrassment
- **voluble:** marked by a ready flow of speech
- **querulous:** habitually complaining
- **petulance:** an irritable feeling
- **acrimony:** a rough and bitter manner
- **palliation:** easing the severity of a pain without removing the cause

Chapters 47-61

- **sanguine:** confidently optimistic and cheerful
- **invective:** abusive language used to express blame or censure
- **dilatory:** wasting time
- **copse:** a dense growth of trees, shrubs, or bushes
- **connubial:** relating to marriage or the relationship between spouses
- **austerity:** excessive sternness
- **simper:** smile in an insincere, unnatural, or coy way
- **rapacious:** excessively greedy and grasping
- **brook:** put up with something or somebody unpleasant
- **sagacity:** forming opinions by distinguishing and evaluating
- **epithet:** a defamatory or abusive word or phrase
- **arrear:** an unpaid, overdue debt

“Yes, vanity is a weakness indeed. But pride—where there is a real superiority of mind, pride will be always under good regulation.”

- Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice



Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen



Character Map

Fill out this character map and make connections.

Mr. Collins

Charlotte
Lucas

Lydia Bennett

George
Wickham

Mr.
Bennett

Mrs.
Bennett

Elizabeth Bennett

Georgiana
Darcy

Jane Bennett

Charles Bingley

Fitzwilliam Darcy

Caroline
Bingley

“Yes, vanity is a weakness indeed. But pride—where there is a real superiority of mind, pride will be always under good regulation.”

- Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

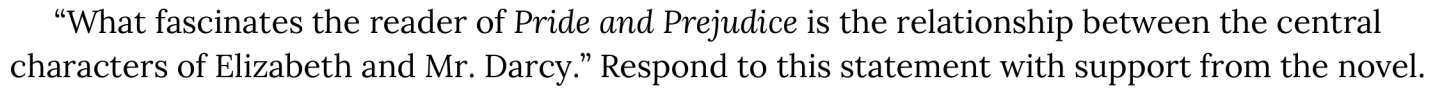


“Throughout the novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen uses a variety of techniques to entertain her readers and provide commentary on the society of her day.” How does she do this? Support your answer and give examples from the text.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

“Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us.”

- Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*



"I am only resolved to act in that manner, which will, in my own opinion, constitute my happiness, without reference to you, or to any person so wholly unconnected with me." - Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

Name: _____

BOOK CONNECTIONS

Describe connections that you find between your book and your own real life experiences.

“Angry people are not always wise.” – Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

The diagram features a central illustration of an open book with the title "Pride & Prejudice" written on the right page. Six empty rectangular boxes are arranged around the book, connected to it by lines, providing space for the user to describe connections between the book and their own real life experiences. The boxes are arranged in two columns of three, with the top two boxes connected to the top of the book and the bottom three boxes connected to the bottom of the book.



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *Pride and Prejudice*.

① Why is the title important?

② How does Jane Austen reveal character?

③ Name some themes in the novel and how they relate to the plot and characters.

④ Name some symbols and how they relate to the plot and characters.

⑤ Is Elizabeth Bennett consistent in her actions?

⑥ Do you find the characters likeable? How or why not?

⑦ What is the primary purpose of *Pride and Prejudice*?

⑧ How essential to the story is the setting? Why?



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *Pride and Prejudice*.

① Why is Lizzy Mr. Bennett's favorite daughter?

② Why does Charlotte Lucas marry Mr. Collins?

③ Compare and contrast Mr. Darcy and Mr. Wickham.

④ What is Lizzy's first impression of Darcy? Why?

⑤ Why does Lizzy reject Darcy's first proposal?

⑥ According to Darcy, what makes a woman accomplished?

⑦ What role do letters play in the novel?

⑧ After Lizzy rejects Mr. Collins' proposal, what is revealed about the character's views of marriage?



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Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about *Pride and Prejudice*.

- ① How is the novel a critique of the social norms of its time?

- ② How do Mr. and Mrs. Bennett differ?

- ③ What is entailment, and what role does it play?

- ④ Who is Lady Catherine, and how does she affect the plot?

- ⑤ Trace the development of Lizzy's feelings for Mr. Darcy.

- ⑥ Trace the development of Darcy's feelings for Lizzy.

- ⑦ What role does revenge play in the novel?

- ⑧ What makes this book so popular and endearing? What are your thoughts on the story?

Fiction Book Report:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Plot Summary:

Setting:

Main Characters:



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Themes and Symbolisms:

Conflicts:

Conclusion:

