



Pride and Prejudice student worksheets

Designed for Years 9-12, these student-facing worksheets support close reading, thematic understanding, essay preparation, and creative engagement with Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

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1. Big ideas worksheets

Big idea 1: Pride & Prejudice: Misjudgement and Growth

1. What first impressions shape Elizabeth's view of Darcy?
2. What assumptions does Darcy make about Elizabeth's family?
3. How do pride and prejudice affect their behaviour?
4. How do both characters grow by the end of the novel?

Quote task: Find a quotation that shows a moment of misjudgement.

Big idea 2: Love & Marriage: Choice vs Expectation

1. Why is marriage so important in the novel's society?
2. Compare Charlotte Lucas's views on marriage with Elizabeth's.
3. Which marriages are presented as successful? Why?

Extension: Is Austen more critical of romantic or practical marriages?

Big idea 3: Class, Rank & Social Mobility

1. How does social class shape characters' opportunities?
2. Identify two examples of class prejudice.
3. What does Austen suggest about true worth?

Task: Create a class ladder placing five key characters.

Big idea 4: Reason vs Emotion

1. When does Elizabeth act emotionally rather than rationally?
2. How does Darcy struggle between feeling and judgment?
3. Why is balance between reason and emotion important?

Short response: Which character best balances reason and emotion?

Big idea 5: Reputation, Gender & Social Pressure

1. Why is reputation especially important for women?
2. How does Lydia's behaviour threaten the Bennet family?
3. How does Austen criticise double standards?

Quote analysis: Find a quote that shows social pressure.



Big idea 6: Family, Influence & Upbringing

1. How do Mr and Mrs Bennet influence their daughters differently?
2. Compare the Bennet parents with the Gardiners.
3. How does family shape character?

Reflection: Which family provides the best guidance?



2. Character study worksheets

ELIZABETH BENNET

1. List three defining traits of Elizabeth.
2. Identify two moments where she misjudges others.
3. How does she change across the novel?

Creative task: Write Elizabeth's thoughts after reading Darcy's letter.

MR FITZWILLIAM DARCY

1. How is Darcy first presented to the reader?
2. What causes his transformation?
3. Is Darcy proud, shy, or both?

Task: Create Darcy's emotional arc.

JANE BENNET

1. How does Jane view other people?
2. How does her temperament differ from Elizabeth's?
3. Is Jane too trusting?

Short task: Write Jane's response to Bingley's departure.

GEORGE WICKHAM

1. Why is Wickham initially appealing?
2. How does he manipulate appearances?
3. What role does he play in the novel's conflict?

Task: Identify warning signs Elizabeth ignores.

LYDIA BENNET

1. How does Lydia behave differently from her sisters?
2. Why is her elopement dangerous?
3. What lesson does Austen teach through Lydia?

Extension: Is Lydia foolish or a victim of upbringing?



3. Theme pathways

THEME: PRIDE & PREJUDICE

1. Define pride and prejudice in your own words.
2. Identify characters who display each.

Paragraph task: Explain how misjudgement drives the plot.

THEME: LOVE & MARRIAGE

1. Rank the marriages in the novel from happiest to least happy.
2. Justify your ranking with evidence.

Task: Write a paragraph on Austen's message about marriage.

THEME: CLASS & SOCIAL PRESSURE

1. How does class limit personal choice?
2. How does Elizabeth challenge class expectations?

Reflection: Does class still matter today?



4. Close reading and quote analysis

QUOTE ANALYSIS 1

“Till this moment, I never knew myself.”

1. What realisation does Elizabeth have here?
2. Why is self-knowledge important in the novel?
3. How does this moment change the story?

QUOTE ANALYSIS 2

“My good opinion once lost is lost forever.”

1. What does this quote reveal about Darcy?
2. How does Darcy’s view change later?

Short task: Rewrite this quote in modern language.



5. Essay and creative preparation

ESSAY PREPARATION

Choose one question:

1. How does Austen show the dangers of first impressions?
2. *Pride and Prejudice* explores growth through self-knowledge. Discuss.

Planning scaffold:

- Thesis
- 3 key ideas
- Key quotations
- Techniques

CREATIVE RESPONSE PREPARATION

Choose one:

- Elizabeth's diary after Darcy's first proposal
- Darcy's private reflection after his rejection
- A missing conversation between Jane and Elizabeth

Planning:

- Voice
- Theme focus
- Key details from the novel
- Intended effect on reader