

Pride and Prejudice Study Questions: Ch. 48-54 (10H)

Directions: Answer the following questions working with your seat partner. Each question is worth two points, one for accuracy and one for fullness of thought and references (either direct or summary) to the text. You will have the class period to complete this, submit the answers to turnitin.com before midnight tonight. Since this is an open book assignment, I am expecting high quality answers.

Chapter 48

1. After Lydia scandalously runs off with Wickham, Mr. Collins writes to the Bennets about the matter. What does he tell the Bennets? Use textual examples to answer these follow up questions:
 - a. What is Mr. Collins' TONE in the letter? Remember tone is derived from word choice.
 - b. What might this letter suggest about Austen's attitude about the clergy. (This would be a thematic concern.

Chapter 49

2. Mr. Bennet allows Lydia to marry Wickham (after he has demanded a large sum of money to do so). In essence, he decides that marriage to a scoundrel is better than a ruined reputation. What does this suggest about the values of the time?

Chapter 50

3. Elizabeth realizes that her opinion of Darcy has changed so completely that if he were to propose to her again, she would accept. She believes Lydia's behavior will make such a proposal extremely unlikely, and understands that it might cause Darcy to lose interest in her. Elizabeth accepts Darcy's potential rejection as being appropriate under the circumstances. What Regency Era rules concerning women's behavior does this reinforce?

Chapter 53

4. Why is it ironic that Mrs. Bennet is very sociable with Darcy, but very cold to Mr. Darcy when they come to dinner? Which of the three ironies is it? Would it be more than one?

All Chapters

5. Why do both Darcy and Elizabeth share guilt in the Lydia/Wickham affair? What competing concerns were they balancing?