

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

SCENES TO THEMES

Elizabeth walking to Netherfield

Summary: After Jane becomes sick on her way to the Netherfield Estate from taking a horse instead of the carriage during a rainstorm, there were mixed reactions among the Bennet family. Mrs. Bennet was pleased that her master plan of Jane being able to spend more time with Mr. Bingley worked, but Elizabeth was more concerned with her sister's health. Correspondingly, Elizabeth defies her mother's orders, and decides to walk the three miles to Netherfield. After Lizzie arrived, her presence wasn't received well as her dirty and disheveled dress was not standard at the estate. Miss Bingley and the others allowed Elizabeth to stay, but showed their disgust behind her back.

Significance: Elizabeth's defiant and independent character is demonstrated by this scenario, and especially how this clashes with the wishes of her mother, Mrs. Bennet. She is headstrong and caring, especially towards her sister Jane which can be further developed throughout the novel as she cares deeply about her older sister's feelings. Upon Elizabeth's arrival, she is received by Mr. Darcy and Miss Caroline Bingley, who especially had a sense of disgust in Elizabeth's battered, muddy clothes. Elizabeth is indifferent to this reception though, and her non-superficial character is demonstrated to Darcy, who

then has his first feelings of attraction to her. The pure motivation to protect her family overrule her own vanity despite the division of social class between the characters and the expectation to act gracious in their presence.

Elizabeth's trip to Pemberly

Summary: Whilst on a vacation with her relatives, Elizabeth's Aunt and Uncle decide to visit her failed love interest Mr. Darcy's estate. With little to no chance of Darcy currently residing in this estate, Elizabeth agrees to visit Pemberley. While at the estate, Darcy surprises the Bennets and Gardeners by arriving a day earlier than predicted. Conflicted on her true feelings for Darcy, Elizabeth is torn apart by the stress of their interaction. On the contrary, comfortable within the walls of his own estate, Darcy's behavior becomes unlike anything ever seen before, becoming a man filled with charisma and charm.

Significance: Throughout the book, Elizabeth remains very assertive and knows exactly what she is going to say as the independent woman she is. Upon being surprised by Darcy's presence, Elizabeth is brought back by a wave of emotions which she cannot quite distinguish. After judging Darcy severely throughout the entire book, Elizabeth cannot quite distinguish her feelings for him. This leads to our first encounter where she is seen as indecisive and not as dominant as we have previously seen. Elizabeth, now viewed as small and inferior to Darcy, can't even handle talking to him in a civil way. Pemberley, which allows Darcy to finally distinguish his true colors which had previously been masked by class and social status, is keen to furthering Elizabeth's understanding of Darcy and proving her previous misconceptions wrong. This shows us that Elizabeth is not perfect and can even be misled by prejudice against those who she ends up admiring.

First Ball

Summary: Mr. Bingley and Darcy arrive at the ball as Elizabeth and her family are all already present. Elizabeth notices that Mr. Darcy's demeanor is not favorable, and she judges him from afar. She is with her sister Jane as she overhears Darcy and Bingley discussing the women at the ball. Bingley asks Darcy his opinion of the women in the room, and if he would consider dancing with any of them, and Darcy says that Jane is the "the only handsome girl in the room". Bingley brings up Elizabeth and calls her beautiful as well, and Darcy says that she is "tolerable" and not "handsome enough" to tempt him.

Significance: As a result of this encounter, Elizabeth became prejudiced against Darcy, and Darcy was prejudiced against Elizabeth. This instance set up Elizabeth's whole impression of Darcy, and as a result she was not in favor of him or his character. Darcy insults Elizabeth before even getting to know her, while Elizabeth makes her own opinion of his character without getting to know who he truly is. Darcy then begins to fall in love with Elizabeth, but she strongly dislikes Darcy because of his behavior- she ends up with a bias against him, and this impacts her perception of him involving future endeavors and events (ie. Wickham speaking negatively of Darcy, Darcy proposing to her, etc.)

Darcy's Proposal to Elizabeth

Summary: When Darcy arrives at Hunsford, where Elizabeth is staying at the time, he speaks to Elizabeth where he then proposes to her. To which Elizabeth harshly rejects him, describing how he is a rude, conceited, and untrustworthy man for tearing Jane and Mr. Bingley's relationship apart and for treating Wickham so poorly. He is then stunned by this reaction, as he believed she would accept his proposal, but later tries to explain himself through a letter.

Analysis: *turning point*

When Mr. Darcy proposes to Elizabeth, he uses his guilt and regret as evidence for why he has been so hesitant to show his affection for Elizabeth. Darcy reveals his prejudice

against the Bennet family and Elizabeth's outspoken character. Nonetheless, his proposal demonstrates a shift in his character, where he expresses vulnerability beyond his full comprehension. Darcy lets go of his pride, his sense that his wealth and character make him superior to Elizabeth and the Bennet family, in recognition of his overwhelming admiration. However, his pride in successfully courting Elizabeth is insulted once Elizabeth rejects the proposal. Elizabeth's response once again demonstrates her strong morals and defiance to pleasing others/society

Mr. Collins' Proposal

Summary: Mr. Collins visits his cousins, the Bennets, with the intention of choosing one for a bride to alleviate the family's distress due to Mr. Collins' inheritance of the Bennet estate, and to comply with the desires of his benefactor Lady Catherine de Bourgh. After spending time at the Longbourn estate Mr. Collins decides that Elizabeth is the most suitable of the Bennet daughters for him to accept as a wife. Upon making his intentions known to Elizabeth, however, she promptly rejects his "affections", in spite of the security such a marriage would offer her family, and no other offers for her being apparent. Presuming to have some deep understanding of the arts of women, Mr. Collins continues varying the language of his request until there can be no reasonable doubt that Elizabeth has no intention of accepting Mr. Collins' hand. The subsequent response to Elizabeth's actions are conclusive in that she won't be made to marry Mr. Collins, if with much dismay on the part of her mother.

Analysis: Mr. Collins' attempts at a proposal show a typical manner in which one might assume to be engaged during the time period. The fact that he fails to accept Elizabeth's refusal of his advances displays the societal tendency toward misogyny and the disregard for the desires of women in that time period. Elizabeth's perseverance in asserting her desires illustrate the strength of and illuminate the rebellious nature of her character. Even when faced with potential poverty and, though unlikely, spinsterism Elizabeth still stands by her belief that marriage to Mr. Collins would be wrong for her. The pressure from her mother helps to describe the depth of the sacrifice Elizabeth made, and its impact on her family beyond its impact on her as an individual.

Mr. Darcy's Letter to Elizabeth

Summary: Mr. Darcy elucidates the intentions for Mr. Bingley rejecting Jane Bennet, in which he felt Jane did not demonstrate any true affection or the desire for the formation of a genuine connection on Jane's behalf. Additionally, he expresses that he felt it was inappropriate and a mistake for Mr. Bingley to engage in a marriage with the Bennet family, as they do not possess an equitable amount of wealth and stability, a social encumbrance. Mr. Darcy also narrates the truth that he had provided for Mr. Wickham ensuing his father's death, however, Mr. Wickham had proposed to elope with Mr. Darcy's sister Georgina, which ultimately caused the strain in their relationship and caused hatred to arise on Mr. Darcy's behalf.

Analysis: Mr. Darcy finally sets his pride aside and instead chooses honesty when formally rejected by Elizabeth. He exemplifies his true character instead of the persona he puts on for other people – that he is standoffish, pompous, careless, etcetera. This is a great step forward for his character as he reveals his true interest in Elizabeth, as previously, he never would have “broken character,” so to speak, for anyone else. His transparent nature in this letter breaks stereotypes of the time period, as men were only defined by their wealth and women were only defined by their beauty, but as the two come together, their ideals that stray from societal norms allow them to communicate in an honest manner unknown for the time, building their relationship's strength.

Elizabeth and Darcy marry

Summary: A lot of things stood in the way of Darcy and Elizabeth's marriage at first. These include their different classes and just them not really bonding well overall. Eventually, Darcy and Elizabeth marry and go on to live in Pemberley. After their marriage, family and friends try to reconcile with the couple and others not so much. Lady Catherine still did not approve of their marriage and Lydia was just happy that she would have a rich sister who could potentially pay for a new house for her and Wickham. The Gardiners remained close to Lizzie and Darcy, Georgiana and Lizzie bonded and Miss Bingley continued to resent the couple.

Significance: Love is the most important element in a marriage to Elizabeth, which is why she denied Darcy the first time. She values love and cannot marry someone without that emotional connection. Darcy was prideful, arrogant, cold, closed off, and would make rude comments about her family's social class. In the end, when they both realized the misunderstanding between them and their flaws, they got to know each other even more over time and they finally understood love.

MUDBOUND

6 Scenes to Themes

Pappy's burial

Jamie and Henry are burying their father Pappy, who died through suffocation at the hands of Jamie. He is being buried in a plot not far from the Mudbound farmhouse. This is occurring not long after his death and they are in a hurry because storm clouds are approaching and they want to get the body in the ground before the rain falls. Jamie feels differently than his brother Henry because he knows the truth of who his father is and what he and his friends did to Ronsel. This moment is important because it reveals the tension between the two brothers and this sibling rivalry is a main conflict in the novel. This moment also highlights Henry's obliviousness, not only to his father's cause of death but also to the relationship that exists between Jamie and Laura. While Jamie does feel some satisfaction in burying his father because that will close that chapter of his life, yet he also feels pain on multiple levels – for the beating he took, the guilt he has over sleeping with Laura, and the traumatic pain of seeing what he did to Ronsel Jackson.

Henry + Laura's courtship and his proposal

Henry and Laura's relationship began with the same expectation that manifested itself throughout their marriage- Laura was somewhat dependent on a stable marriage to Henry, and Henry was aware of his greed for possession of her. Both past a stage in their life for a youthful, prosperous marriage, Henry and Laura each recognized that this might be their last chance at love, although Henry's charm saved him from having doubts. They saw their early relationship as mutually beneficial, while still appealing to the

honeymoon bliss. After some time in their relationship, Henry announced his untimely departure for an unknown duration, leaving Laura with worry, doubt, and self-defeat. Then, after a two-month break, Henry returns with an abrupt and matter-of-fact proposal, assured that Laura would seize the opportunity at marriage. While she recognizes Henry's arrogant certainty, Laura still accepts the proposal, taking the steps to fulfill the life she dreamed of having. Her ideal marriage with Henry, however, juxtaposes with Laura's admiration for Henry's brother, Jaime. The two have a carefree, instantaneous bond. The dance they share represents the new realm of potential Laura could have in her life, but still chooses to settle for a reliable future with Henry.

Arriving at Mudbound and the piano **att... youre struggling... run run run run run**

Going with the theme of expectations in Mudbound, as Laura and the family arrive at their perfect home, they realize the house has been sold to another family. Laura's dreams and blissful intentions are crushed, once again prompted to settle for the reality paved before her. The family then has to settle to live on the farm, a barely inhabitable, dirty, small shack. When Pappy protests about where he is going to sleep, he suggests Laura gets rid of her piano. The physical move to Mudbound not only marks a shift in Laura's adult life, leaving her family home of 30 years, but it also prompts a shift in her mental life. Laura argues with Pappy and Henry to defend her piano for her own sentimental sake and the future success of her daughters. Her unexpected defiance shocks her husband and father in law, proving that she is less apt to settle for what they would want.

Vera Atwood, Laura, and the miscarriage

One day early in Laura's pregnancy, Vera Atwood walked over to the McAllan house in a rage, only Laura and her daughters being home. Vera explained how she planned to kill Carl, her husband who had sexually assaulted her first daughter Renie in the past and has now started abusing her other daughter Alma. Frantic, she shakes Laura repeatedly, pleading with her to help her to town to file a police report. However, Laura denies helping Vera, concerned about her own wellbeing. The stress of Vera's situation causes Laura to have a miscarriage. She later reflects on all the possibilities that could have avoided this ending- if she let Henry evict the Atwoods, if Henry was home, if it was not Florence's day off, and ultimately if they had not moved to Mudbound. Laura's miscarriage sparks her realization of the life she truly wants to have and the life she wants to escape. Laura remarks that in her life at the farm, she is restricted by mere expectations of what she has to do to provide for her family and nothing more. The pregnancy she lost symbolizes one of the final common link she shares with Henry and their mutual

relationship

Ronsel and Jaime in the sawmill

Over the novel, Jaime and Ronsel develop a secret friendship where they bond over similar experiences and troubles from their times at war. They often met to drink in the sawmill behind the McAllan property so no one could see their bonding. However, later in the novel, Jaime finds Ronsel as a victim of a white supremacist attack in the sawmill, being prepared to be lynched for sleeping with a white woman in Germany. Jaime enters the sawmill right before the group of men plan to hang him. Among the group is Pappy, who throughout the altercation mocks and pries Jaime about whether he would kill a man up close, and whether he would choose a white man or a black man. The event at the sawmill reflects Jaime's resilient character, willing to defy social norms for an unexpected friendship he has maintained. Pappy's character also plays a crucial part in the sawmill. He is the one who found the picture of Resl and her son, and must have gathered the group of Klan members to violate Ronsel. Pappy also possesses the internal conflict of protecting his son's image, hence his own image, or disbanding his son to side with Ronsel. In a compromise, Pappy decides that Jaime will determine Ronsel's punishment, proving Pappy's selfishness and manipulative nature to hold such control over a group of people, able to draw the attention away from his son yet still punishing Jaime as well.

Pappy's death

Pappy's death remains an allusion throughout the whole novel, knowing the ending but still uncertain of how it is achieved. The multiple narrations likewise add the effect of uncertainty as to who kills him. In the middle of the story, Pappy references the one time he killed someone, gloating about the fact that Jaime is not brave enough to kill someone face-to-face. In a rage from his childhood trauma, and the pain Pappy caused to him and Ronsel, Jaime killed his father after the night at the sawmill. As a final remark,

Jaime wakes his father up, ensuring that Pappy knows who killed him and proving he can look his victims in their face- a final win for Jaime. Furthermore, in one of the final chapters Henry reveals that he did not mourn his father. Both brothers, unknowing to each other, feel a sense of closure and relief with Pappy's death, able to move on with their lives in more self-beneficial ways.

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developed throughout the novel as she cares deeply about her older sister's feelings. Upon Elizabeth's arrival, she is received by Mr. Darcy and Miss Caroline Bingley, who especially had a sense of disgust in Elizabeth's battered, muddy clothes. Elizabeth is indifferent to this reception though, and her non-superficial character is demonstrated to Darcy, who then has his first feelings of attraction to her. The pure motivation to protect her family overrule her own vanity despite the division of social class between the characters and the expectation to act gracious in their presence.

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Analysis: Mr. Collins' attempts at a proposal show a typical manner in which one might assume to be engaged during the time period. The fact that he fails to accept Elizabeth's refusal of his advances

displays the societal tendency toward misogyny and the disregard for the desires of women in that time period. Elizabeth's perseverance in asserting her desires illustrate the strength of and illuminate the rebellious nature of her character. Even when faced with potential poverty and, though unlikely, spinsterism Elizabeth still stands by her belief that marriage to Mr. Collins would be wrong for her. The pressure from her mother helps to describe the depth of the sacrifice Elizabeth made, and its impact on her family beyond its impact on her as an individual.

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Elizabeth and Darcy marry

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