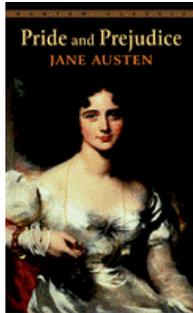


10<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading and Questions (girls formerly in 102 and 103)

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen – it is very important that everyone reads the same edition of *Pride and Prejudice*. Please purchase this edition:



**Category:** Fiction - Classics  
**Imprint:** Bantam Classics  
**Format:** Paperback  
**Pub Date:** December 1983  
**ISBN:** 978-0-553-21310-2 (0-553-21310-5)  
**Pages:** 352

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw – any edition is fine

We ask that students please have their own copies of the books, and not use the library, so that they can have a book to use (and annotate) in class.

### Discussion Questions for *Pride and Prejudice*

1. The title of Jane Austen's first draft of *Pride and Prejudice* was *First Impressions*. What is Elizabeth's first impression of Darcy? On what information does she base her impression? Do you think it is possible to meet someone new without prejudging him or her in some way? Have your own first impressions of others proven accurate?
2. In what ways is Elizabeth out of place in her own family? How do they limit what she can do with her "lively mind"? What do Darcy and Pemberly represent to Elizabeth? To what extent do you think family makes a person who he or she is? How does family influence the way others think of that person?
3. "...people themselves alter so much, that there is something new to be observed in them forever," observes Elizabeth. Do you think this is true? Do any characters in this novel change substantially? What do Darcy and Elizabeth learn from each other about themselves?
4. Who in this novel is "proud"? How is this pride displayed? How does pride stand in the way of happiness for this character or characters?
5. What social, financial, and romantic functions does marriage serve in the world of this novel? How well do the various marriages that take place fulfill these functions? What benefits and disadvantages does marriage have in our society? What are some differences and similarities between Austen's era and contemporary times? How do you think our world compares to Austen's in this regard?
6. Do you think if Elizabeth were transported to our world today she would still be a remarkable woman? Why or why not?

## Discussion Questions for Pygmalion

Note the following lines from *Pygmalion*. What significance does each quote have and how does it contribute to the story? What key passages can you find?

1. "A woman who utters such depressing and disgusting sounds has no right to be anywhere – no right to live. Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech: that your native language is the language of Shakespeare and Milton and The Bible: and don't sit there crooning like a bilious pigeon." (Act I)
2. "You see, she'll be a pupil; and teaching would be impossible unless pupils were sacred." (Act II)
3. "What is middle class morality? Just an excuse for never giving me anything." (Act II)
4. "You see, we're all savages, more or less. We're supposed to be civilized and cultured – to know all about poetry and philosophy and art and science, and so on; but how many of us even know the meanings of these names? What do you know of poetry?"
5. "What does he know of art or science or anything else? What the devil do you imagine I know of philosophy?" (Act III)
6. "You certainly are a pretty pair of babies, playing with your live doll." (Act III)
7. "(She speaks) too perfectly. Can you show me any English woman who speaks English as it should be spoken? Only foreigners who have been taught to speak it speak it as well." (Act III)
8. "Let her speak for herself. You will jolly soon see whether she has an idea that I haven't put into her head or a word that I haven't put into her mouth. I tell you I have created this thing out of the squashed cabbage leaves of Covent Garden; and now she pretends to play the fine lady with me." (Act V)
9. "The great secret, Eliza, is not having bad manners or good manners or any other particular sort of manners, but having the same manners for all human souls: in short, behaving as if you were in Heaven, where there are no third-class carriages, and one soul is as good as another." (Act V)