Juxtaposition

**Juxtaposition:** putting two different, contrasting or opposite ideas next to one another

What do you make of Darcy’s behaviour here? What impression do you get of him?

Mr Darcy stood near them in silent indignation at such a mode of passing the evening, to the exclusion of all conversation, and was too much engrossed by his own thoughts to perceive that Sir William Lucas was his neighbour, till Sir William thus began.

“What a charming amusement for young people this is, Mr Darcy! There is nothing like dancing after all. I consider it as one of the first refinements of polished societies.”

“Certainly, Sir; and it has the advantage also of being in vogue amongst the less polished societies of the world. Every savage can dance.”

Sir William only smiled.

What does this contrast show about Mr Darcy?

- Mr Darcy’s thought that the girls should not be allowed to dance at Lucas Lodge, because it disrupts conversation is juxtaposed with his rudeness to Sir William Lucas who tries and fails to engage Darcy in conversation in Chapter 6.

Manners and manners

To this speech Bingley made no answer; but his sisters gave it their hearty assent, and indulged their mirth for some time at the expense of their dear friend’s vulgar relations.

What was juxtaposed in the sentence?

- ‘dear friends’ and ‘vulgar relations’ are juxtaposed. Austen implies that Jane cannot be dear to them or they would not chuckle about her family ‘for some time.’
- This is an example of bathos.

What is juxtaposed here?

... she [Miss Bingley] gave a great yawn and said, ‘How pleasant it is to spend an evening in this way! I declare after all there is no enjoyment like reading! How much sooner one tires of anything than of a book! When I have a house of my own, I shall be miserable if I have not an excellent library.’

No one made any reply. She then yawned again, threw aside her book, and cast her eyes round the room in quest of some amusement;
What does Austen suggest about Miss Bingley?

• Miss Bingley’s professed enthusiasm for reading is juxtaposed by her immediately putting the book down. This suggests that she claims to be interested in books only because she knows it is what society and Mr Darcy expects. It’s possible that she’s also keen to appear more intellectual than she really is.