An easy, engaging lesson to start a study of Pride and Prejudice!

**Pride and Prejudice - First Impressions**

**Lesson aim and objectives**

This lesson will look at the opening chapter of Jane Austen’s Pride and Prejudice. The main focus will be the importance of first impressions both for the characters and for us as readers. Students will be asked to consider how first impressions establish the main themes of the novel and consider the role of the omniscient narrator and her relationship to the reader.

Having watched the opening programme of the BBC’s 1995 production of Pride and Prejudice ask the students to consider the nature and importance of first impressions to Meryton society. This will provide a focused starter for the lesson.

Read the first chapter.

Divide the class into small investigative groups. Their first task is to analyse the way that Mr and Mrs Bennet are introduced. What are our first impressions of them? How are our opinions formed? Students should gather evidence to support their impressions using the worksheet.

Next the class should look at the role and position of the narrator.
- Is the narrator opinionated or detached?
- Male or female voice?

Whole class discussion to feedback observations.

Use these observations to introduce the idea of SATIRE and recap IRONY.

Students should spend a short time reviewing their observations and consider how Jane Austen is satirising her contemporary society.

Last feedback slot to ensure whole class understanding of the key idea of satire. Refer back to the focus that was articulated at the beginning of the lesson about first impressions. Most students will say that the characters are quick to judge and do so based upon superficial observations; they should now draw a comparison with the work that they have done in this lesson - surely they too have made harsh judgements based upon very scant evidence. Does this alter their relationship with the narrator? Is this the experience that they would expect from reading a novel?
# First Impressions of Pride and Prejudice

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**What is the role of the narrator?**

**Examples of satire**