**Pride and Prejudice**

Comparing attitudes to love and marriage

**Task A**

For each of the following extracts 1–10

1. identify who is speaking (Note: this may be the author)
2. to (or about) whom
3. about what or on what occasion.

**Task B**

Each character has his or her idea of what is most likely to lead to a successful marriage. With reference to the extracts, what do:

1. Mr Bennet
2. Jane
3. Charlotte

think are the most important things to make sure of before you marry someone?

4. What words or phrases in the extracts suggest that Mr Collins and Charlotte have similar ideas about marriage?

5. Focussing on extracts 1 and 8, explain the similarities and differences between Mrs Bennet’s and Lady Catherine’s views on marriage.

6. Look closely at extracts 3 and 7. What are the main differences between Lydia and Charlotte?
KEY EXTRACTS

1. ‘It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.’

2. ‘And now nothing remains for me but to assure you in the most animated language of the violence of my affection.’

3. ‘Without thinking highly either of men or of matrimony, marriage had always been her object; it was the only honourable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune, and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservative from want.’

4. ‘I am not romantic you know. I never was. I ask only a comfortable home; and considering Mr Collins character, connections, and situation in life, I am convinced that my chance of happiness with him is as fair, as most people can boast on entering the marriage state.’

5. ‘In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.’

6. ‘[If] you were aware… of the very great disadvantage to us all, which must arise from the public notice of Lydia’s unguarded and imprudent manner; nay, which has already arisen from it, I am sure you would [not let her go].’

7. ‘But can you think that Lydia is so lost to everything but love of him, as to consent to live with him on any other terms than marriage?’

8. ‘While in their cradles we planned the union; and now, at the moment when the wishes of both sisters would be accomplished, in their marriage, to be prevented by a young woman of inferior birth, of no importance in the world, and wholly unallied to the family!’

9. ‘Oh, …! Do any thing rather than marry without affection.’

10. ‘He is rich, to be sure, and you may have more fine clothes and fine carriages than Jane. But will they make you happy? … I know you could be neither happy nor respectable, unless you truly esteemed your husband …’
**Task A**

For each of the following extracts 1–10 fill in the gaps to show:

1. who is speaking or commenting
2. who they are talking to or about.

Choose from:
Jane, Charlotte Lucas, Mr Collins, Mr Bennet, Mrs Bennet, Mr Darcy, Elizabeth, Lady Catherine, Mr Gardiner and Lydia. (Some names can be used more than once.)

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**Task B**

Each character has his or her idea of what is most likely to lead to a successful marriage. Using the extracts in brackets, explain what:

1. Mr Bennet (Extract 10)
2. Jane (Extract 9) and
3. Charlotte (Extract 4)

think are the most important things to be sure of before you marry someone.

4. Read extracts 2, 3 and 4. Explain why Mr Collins and Charlotte are well suited.

5. Consider extracts 1 and 8 closely. What are the main differences between Mrs Bennet’s and Lady Catherine’s views on marriage?

6. Look closely at extracts 3 and 7. What are the main differences between Lydia and Charlotte?
KEY EXTRACTS

1. ‘It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.’

The author is writing about ______________, explaining why she is so excited when Mr Bingley moves into the area.

2. ‘And now nothing remains for me but to assure you in the most animated language of the violence of my affection.’

__________ to Elizabeth, at the end of his proposal.

3. ‘Without thinking highly either of men or of matrimony, marriage had always been her object; it was the only honourable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune, and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservative from want.’

The author is writing about ______________, explaining why she is marrying Mr Collins.

4. ‘I am not romantic you know. I never was. I ask only a comfortable home; and considering Mr Collins character, connections, and situation in life, I am convinced that my chance of happiness with him is as fair, as most people can boast on entering the marriage state.’

__________ explaining herself to Elizabeth.

5. ‘In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.’

__________ opening lines when he proposes to ____________.

6. ‘If you were aware … of the very great disadvantage to us all, which must arise from the public notice of Lydia’s unguarded and imprudent manner; nay, which has already arisen from it, I am sure you would [not let her go].’

__________ trying to persuade ________ not to allow Lydia to go to Brighton.

7. ‘But can you think that Lydia is so lost to everything but love of him, as to consent to live with him on any other terms than marriage?’

_______________ to ______________, about Lydia’s elopement.
8. ‘While in their cradles we planned the union; and now, at the moment when the wishes of both sisters would be accomplished, in their marriage, to be prevented by a young woman of inferior birth, of no importance in the world, and wholly unallied to the family!’

___________ to ___________ when she suspects her engagement to Darcy.

9. ‘Oh, …! Do any thing rather than marry without affection.’

_________ to ___________ after she finds out about her engagement to Darcy.

10. ‘He is rich, to be sure, and you may have more fine clothes and fine carriages than Jane. But will they make you happy? … I know you could be neither happy nor respectable, unless you truly esteemed your husband …’

___________ to ___________ when he knows about her engagement to Darcy.
ANSWER SHEET

Task A – who said what, to whom, when

1. ‘It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.’
   Author describing Mrs Bennet’s views on marriage, explaining why she is so excited when Mr Bingley moves into the area.

2. ‘And now nothing remains for me but to assure you in the most animated language of the violence of my affection.’
   Mr Collins to Elizabeth, at the end of his proposal.

3. ‘Without thinking highly either of men or of matrimony, marriage had always been her object; it was the only honourable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune, and however uncertain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservative from want.’
   Author describing Charlotte Lucas’s views and her reasons for marrying Mr Collins

4. ‘I am not romantic you know. I never was. I ask only a comfortable home; and considering Mr Collins character, connections, and situation in life, I am convinced that my chance of happiness with him is as fair, as most people can boast on entering the marriage state.’
   Charlotte explaining herself to Elizabeth.

5. ‘In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you.’
   Mr Darcy’s opening lines when he proposes to Elizabeth.

6. ‘If you were aware… of the very great disadvantage to us all, which must arise from the public notice of Lydia’s unguarded and imprudent manner; nay, which has already arisen from it, I am sure you would [not let her go].’
   Elizabeth trying to persuade Mr Bennet not to allow Lydia to go to Brighton.

7. ‘But can you think that Lydia is so lost to everything but love of him, as to consent to live with him on any other terms than marriage?’
   Mr Gardiner to Elizabeth, discussing what to do about Lydia’s elopement.

8. ‘While in their cradles we planned the union; and now, at the moment when the wishes of both sisters would be accomplished, in their marriage, to be prevented by a young woman of inferior birth, of no importance in the world, and wholly unallied to the family!’
   Lady Catherine to Elizabeth when she suspects her engagement to Darcy.

9. ‘Oh…! Do anything rather than marry without affection.’
   Jane to Elizabeth after she finds out about their engagement.

10. ‘He is rich, to be sure, and you may have more fine clothes and fine carriages than Jane. But will they make you happy? … I know you could be neither happy nor respectable, unless you truly esteemed your husband …’
    Mr Bennet to Lizzie after their engagement is revealed

Task B

Each character has his or her own idea of what is most likely to lead to a successful marriage.

1. Mr Bennet – respect for partner ‘esteem’
2. Jane – love/liking ‘affection’
3. Charlotte – knowing enough about their character, friends/relations, job/position to be sure you are of a similar class/status, he is respectable, and you will be content in the arrangements.
4. What words or phrases in the extracts suggest that Mr Collins and Charlotte have similar ideas about marriage?
   Collins: ‘hand unworthy’/’establishment I can offer’  Charlotte: ‘comfortable home’/ ‘situation in life’

5. Consider extracts 1 and 8 closely. What are the main differences between Mrs Bennet’s and Lady Catherine’s views on marriage?
   Both are calculating and may leave love out of the equation. Lady C: marriages should be arranged as a means of retaining social status; Mrs B: assumes all young men want to marry, ‘must be in want of a wife’

6. Look closely at extracts 3 and 7. What are the main differences between Lydia and Charlotte?
   Charlotte: sees marriage as an honourable provision – wants to be respectable; Lydia: no regard for society’s rules, no sense of what’s ‘right’ – swept away by love.