# Characterization in *Pride & Prejudice*

**Context:** Austen provides few details of the characters’ physical characteristics. Elizabeth, notes Darcy at first, is “tolerable; but not handsome enough to tempt *me*” (11), and only later does he remark on her “pair of fine eyes in the face of a pretty woman” (25). Darcy is described as a “fine, tall person, handsome features, noble mien” (10). Instead, the characters become real through their dialogue, thoughts, and actions.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Assignment:** Build a character sketch of one of the following characters based on the character’s actions, words, thoughts, the responses of others to the character, and the narrator’s description. Use the graphic organizer on the back to record your observations. Be prepared to share your findings with the class, reading selections from the book where appropriate.

* Elizabeth
* Jane
* Mary
* Catherine (Kitty)
* Lydia
* Mr. Bennett
* Mrs. Bennett
* Charlotte Lucas
* Mr. Collins
* Mr. Wickham
* Mr. Darcy
* Mr. Bingley
* Miss Bingley
* Miss Darcy
* Col. Fitzwilliam
* Lady Catherine de Bourgh

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| --- | --- |
| What the character says | What the character thinks |
|  |  |
| CHARACTER: | |
| What the character does | What other characters say about the character |
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1. From “A Teacher’s Guide to the Signet Classics Edition of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)