# Analyzing Themes in *Pride & Prejudice*

**Directions**: Review the quotation assigned to you and answer the questions below. Feel free to bring in other quotes relevant to the theme. Be prepared to discuss.

* Who says it, and in what context?
* What point does Austen seem to be making? How are we supposed to read it?
* Taking into consideration the novel as a whole, how would you characterize Austen’s worldview? Particularly, what does she seem to believe about human nature?

**Quotations from Pride & Prejudice, Volume III**

1. “The rooms were lofty and handsome, and their furniture suitable to the fortune of their proprietor; but Elizabeth saw, with admiration of his taste, that it was neither gaudy nor uselessly fine; with less of splendor, and more real elegance, than the furniture of Rosings.” (234)
2. “But above all, above respect and esteem, there was a motive within her of goodwill which could not be overlooked. It was gratitude. Gratitude not merely for having once loved her, but for loving her still well enough to forgive all the petulance and acrimony of her manner in rejecting him, and all the unjust accusations accompanying her rejection.” (252)
3. “If gratitude and esteem are good foundations of affection, Elizabeth’s change of sentiment will be neither improbable nor faulty.” (265)
4. “Unhappy as the event must be for Lydia, we may draw from it this useful lesson: that loss of virtue in a female is irretrievable—that one false step involves her in endless ruin—that her reputation is no less brittle than it is beautiful—and that she cannot be too much guarded in her behaviour towards the undeserving of the other sex.” (274)
5. “That they should marry, small as is their chance of happiness, and wretched as is his character, we are forced to rejoice!” (289)
6. “It was an union that must have been to the advantage of both—by her ease and liveliness, his mind might have been softened, his manners improved; and from his judgment, information, and knowledge of the world, she must have received benefit of greater importance.” (297)
7. “But how little of permanent happiness could belong to a couple who were only brought together because their passions were stronger than their virtue, she could only conjecture.” (297)
8. “*She* blushed, and Jane blushed; but the cheeks of the two who caused their confusion suffered no variation of color . . . They seemed each of them to have the happiest memories of the world. Nothing of the past was recollected with pain.” (300)
9. “We all love to instruct, though we can teach only what is not worth knowing.” (327)
10. “And this . . . is the end of all his friend’s anxious circumspection! of all his sister’s falsehood and contrivance! the happiest, wisest, most reasonable end!” (330)
11. “In spite of his being a lover, Elizabeth really believed all his expectations of felicity to be rationally founded, because they had for basis the excellent understanding and super-excellent disposition of Jane, and a general similarity of feeling and taste between her and himself.” (331)
12. “Till I have your disposition, your goodness, I never can have your happiness.” (333)
13. “For what do we live, but to make sport of our neighbors, and laugh at them in our turn?” (346)
14. “The conduct of neither, if strictly examined, will be irreproachable; but since then, we have both, I hope, improved in civility.” (349)
15. “Think only of the past as its remembrance gives you pleasure.” (350)
16. “You showed me how insufficient were all my pretensions to please a woman worthy of being pleased.” (351)
17. “Darcy was not of a disposition in which happiness overflows in mirth; and Elizabeth, agitated and confused, rather *knew* that she was happy, than *felt* herself to be so.” (354)
18. “I know that you could be neither happy nor respectable, unless you truly esteemed your husband, unless you looked up to him as a superior. Your lively talents would place you in the greatest danger in an unequal marriage.” (359)