

ENGLISH 12

COURSE MANUAL

ENG401_19A



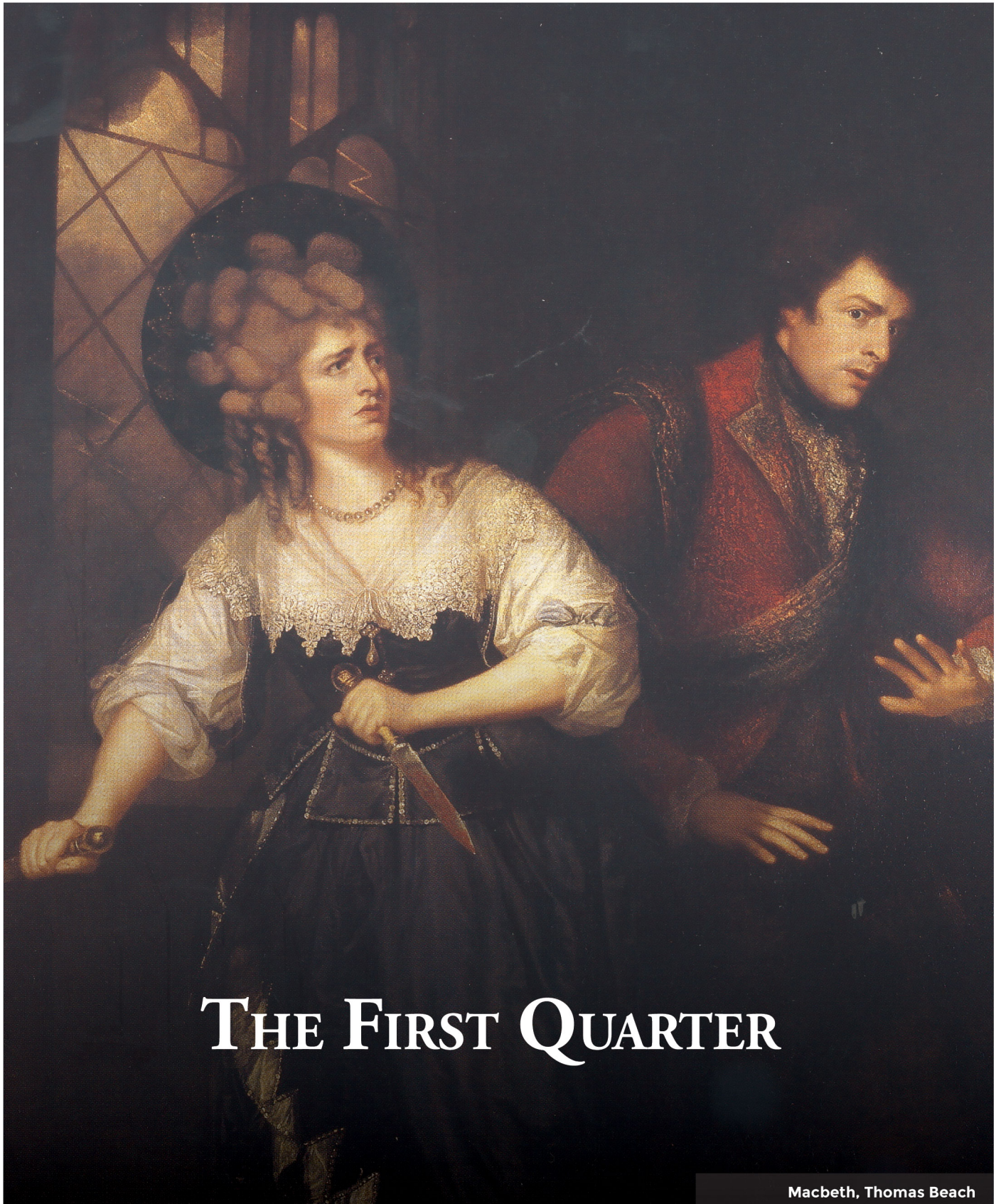
LESSON PLANS - TESTS - ANSWER KEYS - QUARTER REPORT FORMS

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**An Attendance Record, Exercises, and Tests Follow the Answer Keys
Quarter Report Forms are at the End of the Course Manual**



THE FIRST QUARTER

Macbeth, Thomas Beach

WEEK SEVEN



Continue reading the book for your Book Analysis.

Highlight or underline sentences or paragraphs which may be of help for the two Book Analysis essays on Character and Conflict.



Begin outlining for the Book Analysis.

Day 1

Read "The Development of English Drama," pp. 137-140.

We are going to begin reading and studying *Macbeth*.



If you have the Signet edition, read "Prefatory Remarks" in the *Macbeth* text, pp. vii-xxi).
Read "Introduction" in the *Macbeth* text, pp. xxii-xxxiii.

Day 2

Listen to the Week 7 lecture on *Macbeth* for interesting background about Macbeth.



Read *Macbeth*, Act I, Scenes 1-3.

COMMENTARY:

Scene 1: The atmosphere, mood, and tone of this brief scene command the attention of the audience. Thunder and lightning punctuate the strange conversation of three witches who are planning when and where to meet with Macbeth.



Scene 2: In this scene, dialogue reveals antecedent action, action that happened before the action of the play, establishing the heroism in battle of Macbeth and Banquo and the treachery of the thane of Cawdor, whose title and property are to be awarded to Macbeth.

Scene 3: Here the real action begins. The witches hail Macbeth as thane of Glamis, thane of Cawdor, and future king. They tell Banquo that his heirs will be kings, though he will not. When the King's messenger announces Macbeth's new title of Thane of Cawdor, Macbeth is shaken by the witches' prophetic power. His asides subtly reveal his ambition.

Exercise 7-1: Answer the following questions. (Answers for questions in this Lesson Plan are found in the *Macbeth* Reading Questions Answer Key at the back of this Course Manual.)

If you write the answers to the *Macbeth* questions, you are likely to remember them. Simply answering them in a vague way in your brain will not help you to answer test questions or to write an essay.



Scene 1:

1. The opening scene establishes an atmosphere of foreboding: What does the riddle “Fair is foul, and foul is fair” hint about coming events?


Scene 2:

2. In Scene 2, the Sergeant recounts Macbeth's actions in battle.
 - a. What images does he associate with Macbeth?
 - b. From the sergeant's description, how would you characterize Macbeth?

Scene 3:

3. During Scene 3, what prophecies do the witches make for Macbeth and Banquo?
4. When Macbeth enters in Scene 3, why does he say, “So foul and fair a day I have not seen”?

Day 3

 Read *Macbeth*, Act I, Scenes 4-7.

COMMENTARY:

Scene 4: The important point in this scene is that Duncan, the King, announces that his son Malcolm shall be his heir. In an aside, Macbeth reflects upon the news about an heir to the throne; this is an unexpected obstacle. Macbeth hastens from the court to inform his wife that they are to be honored by a royal visit.

Scenes 5 and 6: These scenes focus attention on the behavior and character of Lady Macbeth. In Scene 5, she emerges as a woman of cunning and strength. She considers what she herself must do to make her husband king and tells her husband what he must do: look innocent and leave the rest to her. In Scene 6, she is the gracious hostess, welcoming the King as a guest in her home.

Scene 7: Macbeth's state of mind is revealed in his soliloquy. He is tempted but hesitant: "I have no spur/ To prick the sides of my intent but only/ Vaulting ambition..." Lady Macbeth spurs him on and helps to plot Duncan's murder.

**Exercise 7-2:** Answer the following questions on *Macbeth*.**Scene 4:**

1. Before Macbeth returns home, what indications are there that he already has some evil purpose in mind? (Some indications come from previous scenes).

Scene 5:

2. When Lady Macbeth reads Macbeth's letter in Scene 5, her reactions to the letter show that she is eager for her husband to be king. What are her criticisms of Macbeth?
3. How do Lady Macbeth's speeches characterize her?

Scene 6:

4. How does Lady Macbeth greet her guests in Scene 6?

Scene 7:

5. With "double trust" (Scene 7, line 12), Duncan comes to Macbeth's house. Name three relationships that bind Duncan and Macbeth.
6. In Scene 7, Macbeth is on the verge of giving up his plan to murder Duncan. How does Lady Macbeth encourage him?

Poster of Thomas Keene in *Macbeth*, 1884



Day 4



Exercise 7-3: Review Act I by answering the following questions. □

1. The play opens with the witches conversing on the heath.
 - a. What atmosphere and tone are created in this short opening scene?
 - b. How does the line “Fair is foul, and foul is fair,” later echoed in Scene 3, foreshadow the events of the entire act?
2. We first hear about Macbeth in Scene 2, through the speeches of the wounded sergeant as he reports to Duncan.
 - a. What initial impression are we given of Macbeth?
 - b. In what ways is this impression confirmed in Scene 3?
 - c. In what ways is it not confirmed?
3.
 - a. Compare the reactions of Macbeth and Banquo to the witches and their predictions.
 - b. How does the presence of Banquo in this act help create a sharper impression of Macbeth?
 - c. In what ways is Banquo “lesser than Macbeth and greater”?
4.
 - a. Is there any evidence in this act that Macbeth had previously entertained the possibility of becoming king?
 - b. If so, what does this indicate about the role the witches play in influencing Macbeth’s thoughts and actions?
5.
 - a. What are Lady Macbeth’s reactions when she receives Macbeth’s letter in Scene 5?
 - b. How do her reactions compare with those of Macbeth earlier, when he hears the witches’ prophecies and when he learns he has been made thane of Cawdor?
 - c. What impression do you form of her character in the remaining scenes of this act?



Macbeth and the Witches, Francesco Zuccarelli

6. Study carefully Macbeth's soliloquy at the beginning of Scene 7.
 - a. What do we learn about Macbeth's state of mind from this speech?
 - b. What is his conflict?
 - c. How does he describe Duncan's character?
 - d. What is the effect of Lady Macbeth's arguments?
7. Shakespeare ends Act One with Macbeth and Lady Macbeth plotting the murder of Duncan.
 - a. How exactly do they plan to kill him?
 - b. What is the dramatic effect of concluding the act by letting us see the murder plot as it crystallizes?

Day 5

Read *Macbeth*, Act II, Scenes 1 and 2.

**COMMENTARY:**

Scene 1: This scene contains the famous dagger scene. The conditions under which Macbeth “sees” the dagger are important: darkness, the solitude, the feeling of guilt, and the nervousness of anticipation. The speech leads from a fair degree of lucidity and clarity of mind to a distracted sort of rambling that continues until the bell brings him back to reality.

Scene 2: This scene is perhaps the most intense and dramatic in the play. Macbeth emerges from the bedchamber and tells Lady Macbeth he has committed the murder. His words show he is still in a state of dazed confusion. Lady Macbeth is cool and efficient.



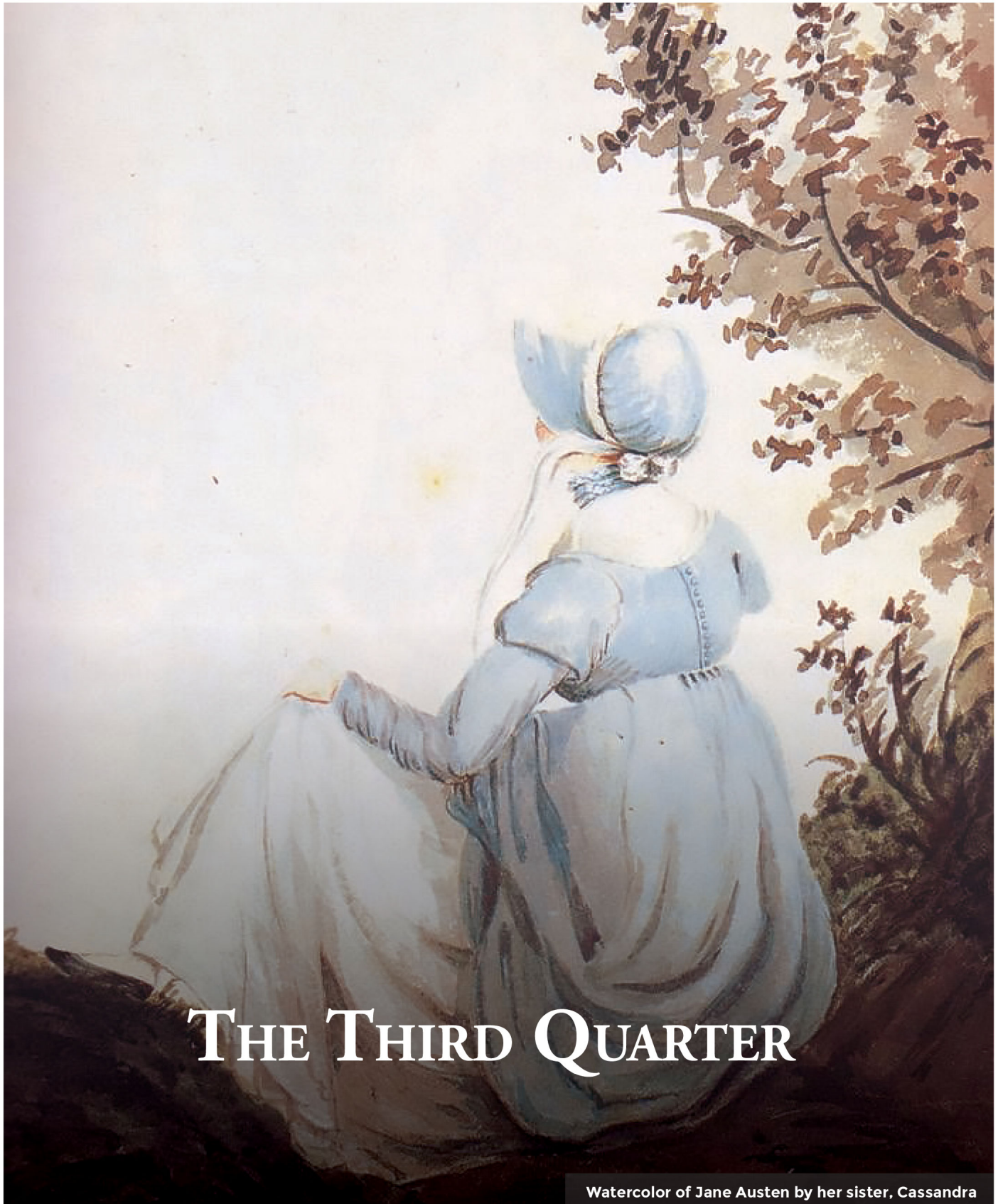
Exercise 7-4: Answer the following questions.

**Scene 1:**

1. At the beginning of Act II, how does Banquo show that he is already on guard and fears for his life?
2. What sign do you see that, even before the murder, Macbeth is losing touch with reality?

Scene 2:

3. In Scene 2, why is Macbeth still in possession of the murder weapons?
4. What happens to the daggers?
5. Both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth comment on the stains of Duncan's blood. Compare their reactions.



THE THIRD QUARTER

Watercolor of Jane Austen by her sister, Cassandra

WEEK TWENTY-THREE



Continue reading the book for your Book Analysis: *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *Silas Marner*, or *Out of the Silent Planet*.

Highlight or underline sentences or paragraphs which may be of help for the two Book Analysis essays on Character and Theme.

Day 1

Answer the following questions.

Chapter 58

1. Describe how Darcy responds to Elizabeth's thanking him for helping Lydia.
2. How does Darcy introduce the subject of his intentions in regard to Elizabeth?
3. What does Elizabeth say in reply to Darcy?
4. How has Darcy's knowledge of Lady Catherine's confrontation with Elizabeth helped Darcy to have hope about Elizabeth?
5. How do Darcy and Elizabeth deal with their former misunderstandings?
6. Why does Darcy believe that he cannot forget his past?
7. What credit does Darcy give to Elizabeth for his change from pride?

Chapter 59

8. How do Darcy and Elizabeth manage during the evening of their engagement when no one else knows?
9. How does Jane greet the news of Elizabeth's engagement?
10. Though Mr. Bennet consents to Darcy's request to marry Elizabeth, what is his concern?
11. How does Mrs. Bennet react to the news of Elizabeth's engagement?

Chapter 60

12. How does Elizabeth account for Mr. Darcy's interest and affection for her?
13. How do Miss Bingley, Miss Darcy, and Mr. Collins react to the news of Darcy's engagement to Elizabeth?



Chapter 61

- 14. Summarize the concluding observations on the following characters: Kitty, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Bingley and Jane, Mary, Lydia and Wickham, Miss Bingley, Miss Darcy (Georgiana), Lady Catherine, and the Gardiners.

Days 2-3

CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*

To many people, *Pride and Prejudice* is just a light novel of manners, written by a lady born in the eighteenth century. However, this book is actually a deeply relevant novel that explores many issues important for understanding the human experience, and for us as Catholics in responding to the situations of our common life in this world. Chief among these topics are Austen’s perspectives on virtue and vice in our social habits, and her depiction of moral virtue and its effect on marriage.

These two topics are closely intertwined. As the title suggests, primary focus is placed on the vices of pride and prejudice, and their opposing virtues, magnanimity (the quality of being generous and noble especially in the matter of forgiveness and mercy) and right judgment. These qualities

play a very important role in the shaping of relationships and communities in the novel.

Both of these vices are present in the characters of Elizabeth and Darcy, and both are revealed upon their first meeting. Darcy’s pride, his self-complacency and contempt of others, and his prejudice against strangers prevent him from making any attempt at good manners on his introduction to Meryton society, which in turn leaves a bad first impression with that society in general, and with Elizabeth in particular.¹ Elizabeth, on the other hand, wounded in her own pride by Darcy’s disregard for her, and proud of her abilities to see through him, allows her prejudice against him to fester and develop



Watch the Video available on SetonOnline



Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, Hugh Thomson

¹ Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (New York: Bantam Dell, 2003), 7-9. All subsequent references will be from this edition and henceforth shall be cited parenthetically in the text by page number.

into what could almost be called a hatred of him [Chapters 34 and 35] (161, 167). This obviously does not bode well for the future, and in fact, as the novel progresses, we see just how serious the consequences of this beginning turn out to be.

Through both their continued pride and prejudice, Darcy and Elizabeth continue to offend each other, despite their interest in one another, right up to the moment of Darcy's proposal at Hunsford [Chapter 34] (162, 166), after which episode, both individuals are forced to take stock of their behavior and reconsider their attitudes. With honest introspection, they both come to realize the pride and prejudice with which they have been acting. In a later conversation with Elizabeth, Darcy points out the following:

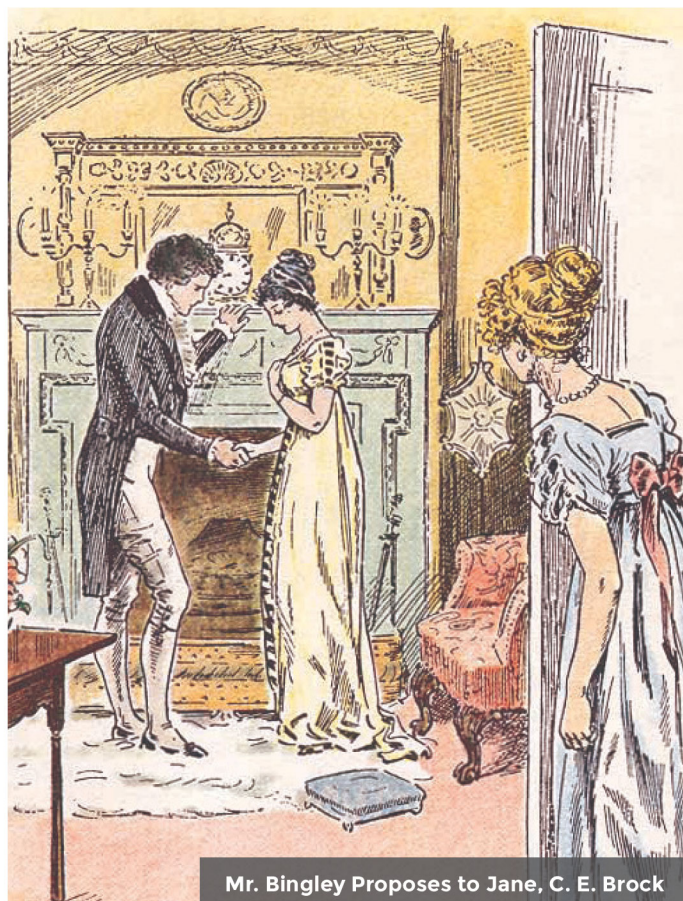
As a child I was taught what was right, but I was not taught to correct my temper. I was given good principles but was left to follow them in pride and conceit. Unfortunately, an only son, I was spoilt by my parents, who though good themselves, allowed, encouraged, almost taught me to be selfish and overbearing, to care for none beyond my own family circle, to think meanly of the rest of the world. [Chapter 58] (317)

Elizabeth herself, shortly after reading Darcy's enlightening letter, realizes that she has been "blind, partial, prejudiced, absurd" (178). She remonstrates with herself:

"How despicably have I acted!" she cried. "I, who have prided myself on my discernment!—I, who have valued myself on my abilities! who have often disdained the generous candour of my sister, and gratified my vanity in useless or blameable distrust.... I have courted prepossession and ignorance, and driven reason away." (178-179)

With admission of their faults, Darcy and Elizabeth are converted to a new practice of the virtues of humility, charity, and right judgment, which practice frees them to really love each other, and to live "happily ever after," as in fact they come to do [Chapter 50 and 52] (265-266, 279). In other words, by the end of the story Darcy and Elizabeth have learned how vital virtue is for the strength and happiness of their relationship.

The importance of virtue only becomes more clear when we compare Darcy and Elizabeth's relationship with the other prominent relationships in the novel, the most notable example being that of Mr. and Mrs. Bennet. Throughout the entire story, Mr. and Mrs. Bennet continually provide an example of an unwise marriage. Having married in high spirits on the basis of good looks alone, they spend their lives getting on one another's nerves, with hardly any attempt to understand one another or modulate their bad habits and bad attitudes [Chapter 42] (202). Mr. Bennet has little patience for Mrs. Bennet's silliness, and disrespects her in front of their children and the community at large [Chapter 42] (203). Mrs. Bennet has no discretion, and nags Mr. Bennet with little regard for time or place. Each loses his temper with the other



Mr. Bingley Proposes to Jane, C. E. Brock

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