**“First Impressions”**

Jane Austen wrote her first version of *Pride and Prejudice* at the age of twenty-three, calling it *First Impressions*. Her father was unsuccessful in having it published. Nineteen years later, she revised the novel, and it was published under its present title. The notion, if not the title, of “first impressions” remains important in the novel. Jane Austen, like modern authors, uses a combination of direct and indirect characterization. Most often she uses indirect characterization first, so that the reader must form his or her own first impression of the character before a direct statement is given. You must determine whether comments about a character can be accepted at face value or must be interpreted in terms of the person commenting.

**Reminders/Definitions:**

Direct Characterization: The author makes a statement, a direct analysis, about the character.

Indirect Characterization: Requires more perception and includes what a character thinks, says, and does; what other characters think and say about the character; and how the characters react to the original character.

**Indirect Characterization:**

Reread the fifth and sixth paragraphs of chapter 3, beginning “Mr. Bingley was good looking and gentlemanlike.” These paragraphs contain indirect characterization of Darcy and Bingley. Fill in the spaces below with appropriate words and phrases.

1. Darcy
   1. First impression
   2. Reasons for this impression
   3. Next impression
   4. Reasons for the change
2. Bingley
   1. First impression
   2. Reasons for this impression
3. Do you agree with these impressions? Why or why not?

**Direct Characterization:**

Read the fourteenth paragraph of chapter 4, beginning “Between him and Darcy there was a very steady friendship.” Fill in the spaces below with appropriate phrases based on the text.

1. Author’s comments about Darcy
2. Author’s comments about Bingley
3. Do these comments match your first impressions?