***Pride and Prejudice* Focused Reading Guide**

Be ready to discuss the following for each section:

Chapters 2-7

* The natures of Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy
* Impressions of the Bennet sisters
* Developing relationship between Jane and Bingley
* Darcy’s attitude toward Elizabeth and her response
* New characters
	+ Lord Lucas
	+ Lady Lucas
	+ Charlotte Lucas (Elizabeth’s best friend)
* Necessity of marrying well, societal expectations of women
* The nature of Mr. Bingley’s sisters

Chapters 8-13

* Evidence of the class system as seen through Miss Bingley
* Darcy’s view of young ladies as opposed to Mr. Bingley’s view
* Miss Bingley’s flirtation with Darcy
	+ Elizabeth’s response
* Have we misjudged Darcy?
* The nature of Mr. Collins

Chapters 14-18

* The nature of Mr. Collins’ benefactress (patron)
* Continuing development of Mr. Collins’ character
* The character of Mr. Wickham
* New information about Mr. Darcy
* Unfolding events at the Netherfield Ball
* Elizabeth’s attitudes toward Darcy and Wickham

Chapters 19-24

* Mr. Collins’ proposal to Elizabeth
* Marriage conventions; gender conventions
* Differences in reactions to this proposal between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet
* Bingleys’ departure from Netherfield
* Charlotte and Mr. Collins’ engagement
* Jane and Elizabeth’s reactions to the Bingleys’ departure
* Jane and Elizabeth’s attitudes toward Charlotte’s engagement

Chapters 25-30

* New characters
	+ The Gardiners
* Jane’s trip to London
* Mrs. Gardiner as the voice of reason
* Changing nature of Elizabeth’s friendship with Charlotte
* Use of letters
* Elizabeth’s attitude toward the Bingley sisters
* New developments with Mr. Wickham
* Elizabeth’s visit to Hunsford
* The visit to Rosings Park
* Character of Lady Catherine
* Austen’s use of satire through Lady Catherine

Chapters 31-35

* Relationship between Mr. Collins and Lady Catherine
* Darcy’s relationship with his aunt
* Darcy’s explanation of his behavior at the ball
* Darcy’s information about Bingley
* Elizabeth’s changing perspective
* Darcy’s surprising question
	+ Elizabeth’s response
* Use of letters
* Darcy’s explanations

Chapters 36-41

* Elizabeth’s response to Darcy’s letter
* Elizabeth’s change in attitude
* Differences between how Collins sees his relationship with Lady Catherine and how the reader sees it
* Mr. Collins’ attitude toward his marriage as opposed to his wife’s attitude
* Elizabeth’s hesitation in revealing these events to Jane
* News of Mr. Wickham
* Focus on Lydia. Why?
* Elizabeth’s hesitation in revealing what she has learned about Wickham and Darcy
* Mrs. Bennet’s reaction to the loss of Mr. Bingley
* Lydia’s trip to Brighton
* Elizabeth’s attitude toward his trip as opposed to her father’s attitude

Chapters 42-25

* The Bennets’ marriage as seen through Elizabeth
* Elizabeth’s upcoming trip with her aunt and uncle
* Trip to Pemberly
* Mr. Darcy from another viewpoint
* Elizabeth’s embarrassment. Why important?
* Differences in Darcy’s manner. Why?
* Darcy’s sister
* Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner’s interpretation of Mr. Darcy’s attention to Elizabeth
* Reasons for Elizabeth’s gratitude toward Darcy
* Miss Bingley’s remarks about Elizabeth’s sisters
* Miss Bingley’s jealousy

Chapters 46-49

* Shocking news. Why?
* Elizabeth’s responsibility for this news?
* Effect on any relationship with Mr. Darcy
* Mr. Bennet’s reaction to the crisis
* Mrs. Bennet’s reaction to the crisis
* Lydia’s reaction
* Change in Mr. Bennet as a result of the crisis
* News from London

Chapters 50-54

* Mr. Bennet’s regrets
* Neighbors’ views of Lydia’s marriage
* Mrs. Bennet’s view of the shameful situation
* Mr. Bennet’s anger
* Wickham’s plans?
* Lydia’s response to all of this
* Lydia’s offer to her sisters?
* Surprising news about Lydia’s wedding
* Darcy’s involvement
* Circular events of the novel
* Mrs. Bennet’s response to Darcy
* Jane and Mr. Bingley??
* How is conversation made difficult for Elizabeth and Darcy
* Bingley’s proposal

Chapters 55-57

* Mr. Bennet’s assessment of Jane and Bingley’s upcoming marriage
* Jane’s inability to see the reality of things
* Lady Catherine’s manner
* Reason for visit
* Elizabeth’s handling of the old bat
* Note conversation on pages 303-304. Wider significance?
* What has provoked this visit?
* Information from Mr. Collins

Chapters 58-61

* At last! How does “IT” happen?
* Jane’s reaction to the news?
* Mr. Bennet’s hesitation
* Reactions of Mr. Bennet
* Mr. Darcy’s reluctance?
* The other Bennet girls?
* Lydia’s marriage
* Lady Catherine’s reaction