**Pride and Prejudice: Examining Terms**

Characters describe Darcy after the Assembly Ball (Chapter 5)

* Mrs. Bennet says: “If he had been so very agreeable he would have talked to Mrs. Long. But I can guess how it was; everybody says that he is ate up with pride, and I dare say he had heard somehow that Mrs. Long does not keep a carriage, and had come to the ball in a hack chaise.”
* Charlotte Lucas says: “His pride does not offend me so much as pride often does, because there is an excuse for it. One cannot wonder that so very fine a young man, with family, fortune, everything in his favor, should think highly of himself. If I may so express it, he has a right to be proud.”
* Elizabeth responds: “That is very true…and I could easily forgive his pride if he had not mortified mine.”
* Mary observes: “Pride…is a very common failing I believe. By all that I have ever read, I am convinced that it is very common indeed, that human nature is particularly prone to it, and that there are very few of us who do not cherish a feeling of self-complacency on the score of some quality or other, real or imaginary. Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us.”

A Netherfield conversation (Chapter 11)

* When Darcy, the Bingleys, and Elizabeth talk at Netherfield, Darcy tells Elizabeth, “It has always been the study of my life to avoid those weaknesses which often expose a strong understanding to ridicule.” Elizabeth replies, “Such as vanity and pride.” Darcy responds, “Yes, vanity is a weakness indeed. But pride – where there is a real superiority of mind, pride will always be under good regulation.”

Wickham on Darcy’s pride (Chapter 16)

* Wickham says Darcy’s pride “has often led him to be liberal and generous – to give his money freely, to display hospitality, to assist his tenants, and relieve the poor. Family pride, or filial pride, for he is very proud of what his father was, have done this. Not to appear to disgrace his family, to degenerate from the popular qualities, or to lose the influence of the Pemberley House, is a powerful motive. He has also brotherly pride which with some brotherly affection makes him a very kind and careful guardian of his sister.”

The first mention of prejudice (chapter 18)

* Elizabeth is dancing with Darcy at the Netherfield Ball. She says, “I remember hearing you once say, Mr. Darcy, that you hardly ever forgave, that your resentment once created was unappeasable. You are very cautious, I suppose, as to its being created.” Darcy replies, “I am.” Elizabeth asks, “And you never allow yourself to be blinded by prejudice?” Darcy says, “I hope not,” and Elizabeth reponds, “It is particularly incumbent on those who never change their opinion to be secure of judging properly at first.”

Questions

* Which characters see pride as a positive quality? Explain.
* Which characters see pride as a negative quality? Explain.
* Which characters exhibit pride? How?
* Which characters exhibit prejudice? How?
* How do you define pride? Prejudice?
* What do you see as causes of prejudice? How does this compare to your 4th answer?