

## Reading 1 Answers

1. Mr. Bennet and Mrs. Bennet seem unhappy with their marriage. It is always in the background of the story like a low-grade fever. Austen portrays it humorously, but at the same time, the effects of it are genuine.  
*The most noticeable feature of the Bennets' marriage is how unsuitable those two are. Mr. Bennet is wise, and Mrs. Bennet is irritable, gossipy, and shallow.*
2. Mr. Darcy is a very rich man who lives on a very large estate in Derbyshire. He and Elizabeth don't get along at first and have gotten off on the wrong foot.  
*Mr. Darcy is very wealthy and he doesn't make friends easily.*
3. Elizabeth has her father's wit and his ability to be amused by their acquaintances. Elizabeth is the person to laugh at her jokes.  
*Elizabeth can see people's foibles but is also perfectly capable of seeing her foibles and laughing at them.*
4. Jane has never spoken ill of anybody in her life and is always a positive person in people's lives. Mr. Bingley wants to be liked wherever he goes and make sure people do like him.  
*Mr. Bingley and Jane appear to be two peas in a pod. They're both very friendly and see the best in everyone.*
5. Charlotte says that happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance. It is better to know as little as possible of the defects of a person with whom you are to pass your life.  
*Charlotte states that happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance. She points out that you'll find all that out soon enough.*
6. Elizabeth thinks that Charlotte is just being funny. She says that Charlotte would never act in this way herself.  
*Elizabeth laughs at her and is sure that she's just being funny.*

## Reading 2 Answers

1. Miss Bingley doesn't like Elizabeth and has officially decided that she is a threat. Miss Bingley has jealousy and dislikes for one sister and much exceeded affection for the other.  
*Miss Bingley is a very particular type of woman. She is sort of the 18th-century version of the snotty cheerleader.*
2. Mr. Bennet sees Mrs. Bennet very clearly but is not a strong enough husband to be able to do anything about her embarrassing behavior. So he just mocks. Mrs. Bennet is an extremely outrageous person.  
*Mrs. Bennet is embarrassing. She is extremely uncultured and unclever, she wants her daughters married but she is the biggest roadblock.*
3. Elizabeth is insisting that to yield easily to the advice of a friend, even without compelling reasons, is a very good quality. Mr. Darcy disagrees with her.  
*Elizabeth prides herself on being a good judge of character.*
4. Darcy knows that marrying Elizabeth is a possibility in this Reading part but doesn't want to marry her because of her family being poor. He even makes a joke about her family being poor.  
*Darcy is not in love with Elizabeth- but he knows that it is in the realm of possibility.*
5. Darcy is proud because he has objective things to be proud of, but he is not vain. Darcy gives a candid list of his feelings. Elizabeth says that his defect is to hate everybody and he says that hers is willfully to misunderstand them.  
*Darcy was critical of Bingley being so easily influenced by the opinions of his friends. Elizabeth jumped to his defense and insisted that this was a very good quality.*

### Reading 3 Answers

1. Mr. Collins has recently been ordained as a pastor, but since this is the church of England, he is called a rector. Mr. Collins is always so in awe of Lady Catherine.  
*Mr. Collins is a fantastically funny character. He's pompous, tedious, ridiculous, and completely un-self-aware.*
2. Mr. Bennet is baiting him into being even more ridiculous, and Mr. Collins is certainly doing himself proud in that regard.  
*Mr. Bennet is simply amused by Mr. Collins. Mr. Bennet is content to just sit back and be amused.*
3. Elizabeth prides herself on being a good judge of character. She wants to make sure that she sees the whole person and what they are like before she makes assumptions about them.  
*Elizabeth prides herself on being able to read people's characters. She's much like her father in that she is an observer. Elizabeth thinks of herself as much more cynical and realistic.*
4. To Elizabeth, it appeared that, had her family agreed to expose themselves as much as they could during the evening, it would have been impossible for them to their parts with more spirit or finer success; and happy did she think it for Bingley and her sister that some of the exhibition had escaped his notice, and that his feelings were not of a sort to be much distressed by the folly which he must have witnessed. Elizabeth sees the ridiculously agonizing behavior of her family and is mortified. Mr. Bennet sees it as well but he's just completely amused.  
*Poor Elizabeth. That was a wretched evening. Mary pushed herself forward to sing and gave a painful performance. Mrs. Bennet asked her to stop and that was equally painful. At the end of the evening, Mrs. Bennet maneuvered it so that they had to wait an additional 15 minutes for their carriage after everyone else had gone. All in all, a grand slam of an evening.*