

Name _____

Love and Intrigue: Chapters 21-40 of Pride and Prejudice

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Mr. Darcy's character undergoes significant transformation from his first to his second proposal to Elizabeth. In his first proposal, he is marked by pride, criticism of Elizabeth's family, and a sense of superiority. However, in his second proposal, he is sincere, heartfelt, and humble. This transformation reflects his personal growth and self-awareness. It also highlights his genuine love for Elizabeth, as he is willing to set aside his pride for her.
2. Lydia's elopement poses a grave threat to the Bennet family's reputation, as it could lead to social disgrace and ruin. Mr. Darcy's intervention to locate and persuade Mr. Wickham to marry Lydia demonstrates his commitment to helping the Bennet family and preserving their honor. This event underscores the themes of reputation and societal expectations, emphasizing the consequences of actions on family standing.
3. Societal expectations play a significant role in the characters' decisions regarding marriage proposals. Mr. Bingley's proposal to Jane reflects the desire for a suitable match in terms of wealth and social standing, while Mr. Collins' proposal to Elizabeth is influenced by the idea of marrying for practicality rather than love. These proposals highlight the tension between societal norms and personal feelings in the characters' lives.
4. Elizabeth's journey of self-discovery is a central theme in the novel, and her realization of her own prejudices is a turning point in her character development. As she reads Mr. Darcy's letter, she confronts her preconceived notions about him and begins to acknowledge her own faults. This realization sets the stage for her personal growth and the eventual evolution of her relationship with Mr. Darcy.

