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# ❁ VOLUME I ❁

## PRE-GRAMMAR | Preparation

*Prepare the student for understanding the Central One Idea by drawing upon his or her prior knowledge or experience.*

1.
  - a. List five good manners you have been taught and five bad manners you have been cautioned against. These might pertain to conversations, behavior at meals, treatment of others, behavior in certain public places, hygiene, hosting a social event, etc.
  - b. Why are rules of decorum important for society? How do they reveal the character of a person?
2. Recall a time when you formed an opinion about someone's character because of a negative first impression. Or, relate an instance when you formed an opinion about someone as a result of another person's misjudgment of him or her. Did your opinion change after you explored the truth about the person's character, or after you got to know him or her?

## *Chapters I-II (1-2)*

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### **GRAMMAR | Presentation**

*The student is presented with and discovers essential facts, elements, and features of the novel.*

#### **READING NOTES**

1. **"A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year."** (p. 4) – Mr. Bingley's inherited income from his father is 100,000 pounds, and he probably has other investments that generate an annual income of 4-5,000 pounds. Moreover, Mr. Darcy's annual income is 10,000 pounds. During the Regency Era, the annual expenses of a very great house averaged around 5-6,000 pounds per year. Yet even with an income of 1,000 pounds a year, a family could afford several female servants, a coachman, a footman, a couple carriages, and a pair of horses. During this period, there were less than 400 families whose annual income was 10,000 or more pounds.
2. **Netherfield Park** – the large country estate leased to Mr. Bingley
3. **establishment** (p. 4) – a place of residence; its furnishings and grounds
4. **quickness** (p. 5) – intelligence; quick-wittedness

## WORDS TO BE DEFINED

1. showing a strict regard for what is proper; meticulous
2. irritating, provoking
3. whim; impulsive change of mind or behavior
4. to do something one considers beneath one's dignity
5. a period of two weeks
6. uproar, as from a crowd

## WORDS TO BE DEFINED

### Definitions Bank

a period of two weeks	to do something one considers beneath one's dignity
irritating, provoking	whim; impulsive change of mind or behavior
uproar, as from a crowd	
showing a strict regard for what is proper; meticulous	

1. You are over **scrupulous** surely. I dare say Mr. Bingley will be very glad to see you, *adj.* (p. 4)
2. You take delight in **vexing** me. You have no compassion on my poor nerves. *v.* (p. 5)
3. Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and **caprice**, *n.* (p. 5)
4. Mrs. Bennet **deign**(ed) not to make any reply; but unable to contain herself, began scolding one of her daughters. *v.* (p. 6)
5. When is your next ball to be, Lizzy?  
To-morrow **fortnight**. *n.* (p. 6)
6. though when the first **tumult** of joy was over, she began to declare that it was what she had expected all the while, *n.* (p. 7)



*Read Chapters I-II, marking the text in key places according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."*

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Give four reasons why Mrs. Bennet is excited about Netherfield being taken.
2. List five characteristics of Mrs. Bennet revealed in Chapter I.
3. What is Mr. Bennet's reason for giving his daughter Lizzy (Elizabeth) preference over the others?
4. What is Mrs. Bennet's sole purpose in life?
5. *I do not believe Mrs. Long will do any such thing. She has two nieces of her own. She is a selfish, hypocritical woman, and I have no opinion of her.* (p. 6)  
Explain the presence of irony in Mrs. Bennet's statement.
6. What did Mr. Bennet do that put the household into a "tumult of joy"?

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. The man renting it is young. He is single. He has a large fortune. He will be there before Michaelmas.
2. Answers will vary: impatient; loud; anxious; shallow; ignorant; temperamental; easily discontented.
3. Mr. Bennet feels the others are "silly and ignorant like other girls" (p. 5), and Lizzy is more quick-witted than her sisters.
4. To have her five daughters married.
5. Mrs. Bennet contradicts herself. She harshly judges and criticizes Mrs. Long, but then finishes her statement by proclaiming she "has no opinion of her."
6. Mr. Bennet called on Mr. Bingley and made a formal introduction.

## SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Answers will vary. The narrator admits that the man in question may have no thoughts or intentions to marry, but he is still considered property of someone's daughter. As well, it is ironic that Mrs. Bennet appears to be the person arranging for the circumstances to arise that the young man will fall in love and eventually marry one of her daughters. The scene finally reveals that it is the young ladies who are desperately in want of a husband to secure their futures; and it is the man who is at liberty to choose whomever he wishes. The line also sets the tone for the novel in that it reveals that the men will possess the fortunes and the women will be subject to their choosing. The women will have little authority with regard to whom they will marry.
2. Mr. Bennet declares that he "respects her nerves," that they are his "friends," and that he knows them intimately because she has mentioned them for twenty years! Mr. Bennet is using sarcasm, but our sympathy is given to him as we realize that Mrs. Bennet's complaint happens quite frequently, revealing a questionable aspect of her character.

## LOGIC | Dialectic

*The student reasons with the facts, elements, and features of the novel; sorts, arranges, compares, and connects ideas – and begins to uncover and determine the Central One Idea.*

### SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.**

1. *It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.* (p. 1)  
This famous, yet somewhat ambiguous opening line could be perceived as an example of **irony**. Using examples from the scenes that follow in Chapter I, explain how Austen uses this playful line to portray a deeper, contradictory reality.
2. *"Mr. Bennet, how can you abuse your own children in such a way? You take delight in vexing me. You have no compassion on my poor nerves."*  
*"You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have heard you mention them with consideration these twenty years at least."* (p. 5)  
Explain Mr. Bennet's use of witty sarcasm.