

YEAR 10 ENGLISH C.A.P. TASK 1

Pride & Prejudice

Due: 11 April 2024 | Words: 300

Learning Intention: To appreciate how texts are constructed differently for different purposes, audiences, and contexts.

Below are two extracts from the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, which was written by Jane Austen and published in 1797.

YOUR TASK: Read both extracts and answer the questions at the end. You may work in pairs or groups to discuss the answers, but hand in your answers individually - save in a word doc and email to me.

Extract 1 – the opening chapter of the novel. The main character’s parents, the Bennets, are discussing a rich new bachelor, Mr. Bingley, who has just moved into their area.

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.

However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.

"My dear Mr. Bennet," said his lady to him one day, "have you heard that Netherfield Park is let at last?"

Mr. Bennet replied that he had not.

"But it is," returned she; "for Mrs. Long has just been here, and she told me all about it."

Mr. Bennet made no answer.

"Do you not want to know who has taken it?" cried his wife impatiently.

"You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it."

This was invitation enough.

"Why, my dear, you must know, Mrs. Long says that Netherfield is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north of England; that he came down on Monday in a chaise and four to see the place, and was so much delighted with it, that he agreed with Mr. Morris immediately; that he is to take possession before Michaelmas, and some of his servants are to be in the house by the end of next week."

"What is his name?"

"Bingley."

"Is he married or single?"

"Oh! Single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!"

"How so? How can it affect them?"

"My dear Mr. Bennet," replied his wife, "how can you be so tiresome! You must know that I am thinking of his marrying one of them."

"Is that his design in settling here?"

"Design! Nonsense, how can you talk so! But it is very likely that he may fall in love with one of them, and therefore you must visit him as soon as he comes."

"I see no occasion for that. You and the girls may go, or you may send them by themselves, which perhaps will be still better, for as you are as handsome as any of them, Mr. Bingley may like you the best of the party."

"My dear, you flatter me. I certainly have had my share of beauty, but I do not pretend to be anything extraordinary now. When a woman has five grown-up daughters, she ought to give over thinking of her own beauty."

"In such cases, a woman has not often much beauty to think of."

"But, my dear, you must indeed go and see Mr. Bingley when he comes into the neighbourhood."

"It is more than I engage for, I assure you."

"But consider your daughters. Only think what an establishment it would be for one of them. Sir William and Lady Lucas are determined to go, merely on that account, for in general, you know, they visit no newcomers. Indeed you must go, for it will be impossible for us to visit him if you do not."

Extract 2 – from later in the novel. The main character's sister Lydia (15), is telling her sister Mary (17) about how much fun she had that morning:

...Lydia, in a voice rather louder than any other person's, was enumerating the various pleasures of the morning to anybody who would hear her.

"Oh, Mary," she said, "I wish you had gone with us, for we had such fun! As we went along, Kitty and me drew up all the blinds, and pretended there was nobody in the coach; and I should have gone so all the way, if Kitty had not been sick; and when we got to the George, I do think we behaved very handsomely, for we treated the other three with the nicest cold luncheon in the world, and if you would have gone we would have treated you too. And then, when we came away, it was such fun! I thought we never should have got into the coach. I was ready to die of laughter. And then we were so merry all the way home! We talked and laughed so loud, that anybody might have heard us ten miles off."

Context Questions

1. Why do you think there is such an emphasis on marriage in the first extract?
2. What is unusual about how married people (Mr & Mrs Bennet) address each other?
3. Why is Mrs Bennett so insistent that her husband should visit Mr Bingley?
4. Note the words 'merry' and 'handsomely' in Lydia's speech. How does she use these words differently from the way we would use them today?
5. What kinds of things did Lydia enjoy doing? Are these the types of things 15-year-old girls would enjoy doing today? What do you think has changed?
6. Considering your answers above, write a short summary of the impact of **context** on the way a text is written.

Audience Questions

1. Who would the main audience of *Pride and Prejudice* originally have been? (In terms of historical era but also age, gender, wealth, education etc)

2. Who would be the **audience** for a series of text messages between two young people making plans to go out? What assumptions could you make about their background (age, gender, wealth, education etc) and when and where in the world they live?
3. What are the major differences you can think of between these 2 audiences?
4. Considering your answers above, write a short summary of the impact of **audience** on the way a text is written. Think about things like how formal or informal the writing is, the text structure/order of ideas, the style of vocabulary chosen, topics discussed, and punctuation/grammar.

Purpose Questions

1. Why do you think Jane Austen wrote her novel? Give at least 2-3 possible reasons or motivations.
2. Why would a young person write a text message to their friend? Give 2-3 possible reasons.
3. Would you ever use semicolons in a text message or an email? Why or why not (think purpose, audience, context)?
4. What impact has instantaneous communication (e.g. texting and email) had on the way people use language and punctuation? Why has it made these changes?
5. Considering your answers above, write a short summary of the impact of **purpose** on the way a piece of writing is written. Think about things like how formal or informal the writing is, the text structure/order of ideas, topics discussed and the style of vocabulary chosen?

Marking Rubric

A = WOW! B = Meets expectations well C = Satisfactory D = On the way

Performance Standard	A	B	C	D
<p>Answers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly explains the significance and impact of context, audience and purpose on text construction. • Thorough, detailed and thoughtful answers • Examples used to support assertions. 				
<p>Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers are in complete sentences • Writing is fluent and sophisticated • Work is proofread and edited well with few or no mistakes in spelling, grammar, capitalisation or punctuation. 				