between the lines

A lesson written for every student in the room

FREE LESSON SAMPLER

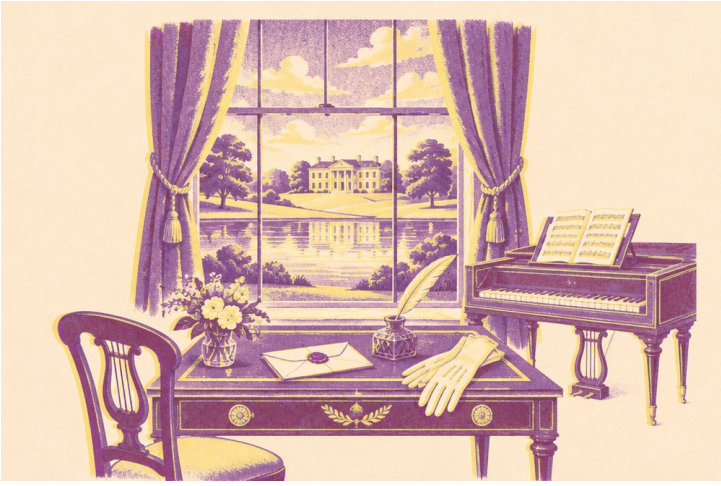
Pride and Prejudice: Mr and Mrs Bennet

How does Austen present Mr and Mrs Bennet's marriage in Chapter 1?

Lesson 3 of 34 from the scheme of learning

Teacher notes, slides and student pages at all three levels

Written for the AQA specification



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What is in this sampler

This is one complete lesson from our Pride and Prejudice scheme for Literature Paper 1, Section B. It comes exactly as it appears in the full scheme, so you can teach it next week and see how our lessons work.

Teacher notes	Timings with slide numbers, Do Now answers, the exploded quotation, the hinge question and what each answer tells you, the task at three levels, a model and notes on misconceptions and adapting the lesson (next pages).
Slides	The editable PowerPoint deck for Lesson 3, with teacher notes on every slide (separate file).
Student pages	The lesson's pages from the student booklet: one question, with the Securing, Strengthening and Soaring support side by side (at the end of this document).

How every lesson works

Know	Do Now from memory, vocabulary, then the reading. The five Do Now questions build on what students learned in Lessons 1 and 2 of the full scheme.
Apply	Explode one quotation together; a hinge question checks understanding.
Master	One shared task, with Securing, Strengthening and Soaring support; then a model and an exit ticket. Most Master tasks are What–How–Why paragraphs, and some are creative or other forms: in this lesson, a speech.

Three levels of support

Every student answers the same question in every lesson. What changes is the support on the page, so the whole class does the same lesson:

Securing	The most support: a word bank, a choice of quotations, a worked example and sentence starters. For students working towards a grade 4.
Strengthening	Prompts for What, How and Why, a paragraph planner and a checklist. For students working at grades 5 and 6.
Soaring	A debatable statement, prompts to think further and an argument planner. For students aiming at grades 7 to 9.

The names describe the support, never the student. The hinge question shows who might start where, and students move between levels from lesson to lesson.

In the full scheme

- 34 lessons like this one, with editable slides and a teacher handbook (lesson notes, unit map, assessment guide and knowledge bank)
- A student booklet with every lesson and all three levels of support, plus the same lessons as one pack per level
- Six weeks of independent practice homework at three levels

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- Four Feedback Loop progress checks with whole-class feedback sheets and improvement tasks
- An exam-style end-of-unit essay with a teacher guide, level guidance and annotated model answers
- A Soaring stretch booklet for students aiming at the top levels
- A catch-up sheet for every lesson, for students who missed it
- An inclusion guide: pre-teaching, SEND, EAL and pupil premium notes for every lesson
- The revision workbook and the model answer pack, to print for every student
- Every licence for the scheme also includes its 30 Raising Achievement drills for intervention sessions

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Lesson 3: Mr and Mrs Bennet

SEQUENCE 1: CONTEXT AND CHAPTERS 1 TO 8 · 60 MINUTES

How does Austen present Mr and Mrs Bennet's marriage in Chapter 1?

By the end of the lesson, students can

- Explain how Austen shows a marriage of two different minds in Chapter 1
- Analyse the sarcasm of "I have a high respect for your nerves" and Mrs Bennet's exclamations
- Write a one-minute speech in Mrs Bennet's voice that answers Mr Bennet's jokes

Lesson at a glance

Time	Phase	What happens	Slides
0–8	Know	Do Now: five quick questions on Lesson 1 and on context. Students self-mark from the answer slide.	2–3
8–18	Know	Pre-teach "sarcasm", "scrupulous", "vexing" and "compassion". Set the scene: Mr Bingley has taken Netherfield and Mrs Bennet wants her husband to call on him. Read the extract aloud, with two voices, while students follow, then ask: who is teasing whom?	4–6
18–28	Apply	Explode the quotation together. Think aloud about how polite words can mock, then students annotate their copy. Before you reveal any notes, students try the four empty boxes on the first explode slide, on their own or after you model one box.	7–8
28–33	Apply	Hinge question on mini-whiteboards. Use the answers to decide who starts on which level of support.	9–10
33–53	Master	Students write Mrs Bennet's one-minute speech to her husband, using their level of support in the student booklet. Share the model speech in the last five minutes; ask two students to read theirs aloud.	11–12
53–60	Master	Exit ticket. Collect and sort into three piles to plan the start of the next lesson.	13

Do Now answers

1	What is an entail?	A legal arrangement that keeps an estate in one family line, passing it to a male heir
2	Who will inherit Longbourn when Mr Bennet dies?	His cousin, Mr Collins
3	What do we call the money a woman brought to her marriage?	Her portion
4	In the novel's first sentence, who really wants a husband with a good fortune?	The families with daughters, not the man himself
5	What did militia regiments do in the wars with France?	They defended the country at home and moved from town to town

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Vocabulary

sarcasm	saying the opposite of what you mean, in order to mock someone
scrupulous	very careful about doing what is right and proper
vexing	making someone annoyed or upset
compassion	kind concern for someone who is suffering

Reading

Chapter 1: Mr and Mrs Bennet

Mr Bingley, a young man of large fortune, has taken Netherfield Park, a big house near the Bennets' home at Longbourn. Mrs Bennet wants her husband to call on him first, so that the family can be introduced. The extract starts with Mr Bennet's first words and ends with his last.

> "You are over scrupulous surely. I dare say Mr. Bingley will be very glad to see you; and I will send a few lines by you to assure him of my hearty consent to his marrying which ever he chooses of the girls; though I must throw in a good word for my little Lizzy."
>
> "I desire you will do no such thing. Lizzy is not a bit better than the others; and I am sure she is not half so handsome as Jane, nor half so good humoured as Lydia. But you are always giving her the preference."
>
> "They have none of them much to recommend them," replied he; "they are all silly and ignorant like other girls; but Lizzy has something more of quickness than her sisters."
>
> "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."

Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice (1813), Chapter 1

Word help **consent**: agreement · **preference**: liking one more than the others · **abuse**: speak badly of

Explode the quotation

Method

Sarcasm. Mr Bennet sounds polite and means the opposite, so the compliment is a joke at his wife's expense.

Zoom in

The abstract noun "respect" is a formal word for a courtesy, and the adjective "high" makes it grander. It is attached to "nerves", which she mentions in every complaint.

"I have a high respect for your nerves"

Effect

Readers laugh at the joke and see that Mrs Bennet does not. "They are my old friends" and "these twenty years at least" make the teasing a long habit.

Purpose

Austen sets a quick, dry mind against a slow, anxious one, and the marriage shows in the way they talk past each other.

Hinge question

Mr Bennet says, "I have a high respect for your nerves". What is he doing?

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A. Sounding polite while he mocks the way his wife complains. (the right answer)

B. Showing that he is sincerely worried about her health.

C. Agreeing with her, to end the argument.

What the answers tell you

B has taken the polite words at face value: point to “They are my old friends” and “these twenty years at least” and ask whether a worried husband would say that. C has heard the soothing tone and missed that he does not stop teasing: ask what he says in his next speech. These may be your students who start on Securing.

Why the answer is right

He uses polite words about the thing she always complains of, and then jokes that her nerves are old friends. The compliment is sarcasm.

Master task: speech

You are Mrs Bennet. Write a one-minute speech (120 to 150 words) to Mr Bennet, persuading him to call on Mr Bingley. Use at least two of her arguments from Chapter 1 and answer one of his jokes.

Securing aiming for a 4

A frame for each part of the speech, lines from the chapter and a word bank.

“Only think what an establishment it would be for one of them”

“Sir William and Lady Lucas are determined to go”

“You take delight in vexing me”

Strengthening aiming for grades 5 to 6

Prompts for each part of the speech and a success checklist.

Open with a command, as Mrs Bennet does, telling him that he must go

Give two reasons from the chapter: the fortune, the chance for one of the girls, or the Lucases going first

Answer one of his jokes, as if he had meant it seriously

Use an exclamation or a question, as she does, to show how worked up she is

End by blaming him for her trouble, so that the speech shows how she sees their marriage

Soaring aiming for grades 7 to 9

Write the speech so that Mrs Bennet’s argument has real sense in it, because she has five daughters and a husband whose joking cannot help them. The reader should also see why the narrator calls her “a woman of mean understanding”. Then add one sentence saying what Chapter 2 reveals that makes the speech unnecessary.

Model speech

Mr Bennet, I will not be teased out of this. You must call on Mr Bingley, and you must do it first. Sir William and Lady Lucas are determined to go, and they visit no newcomers. If you wait, the Lucases will have him at dinner before we have been introduced.

A young man of large fortune! Only think what an establishment it would be for one of our girls. You say you have a high respect for my nerves. Then spare them, and go.

You take delight in vexing me, and I am sure I do not know why. I have five daughters to think of, sir, and you have only your library. Mr Bingley will fall in love with one of them, I am certain of it. So I ask you once more: will you call on him, or must we sit at home and watch the Lucases?

What makes it work

- Opens with a command and a reason from the chapter, as Mrs Bennet does
- Uses three of her arguments: the Lucases going first, the fortune and the chance that he will fall in love with a daughter

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