RAISING ACHIEVEMENT · PRIDE AND PREJUDICE · DRILL 1

I dearly love a laugh

Elizabeth Bennet

Today: how Austen presents Elizabeth’s wit in her teasing of Darcy

30 minutes

Do Now

Know

1. Who rents Netherfield Park?
2. What does “inclination” mean?
3. Which of Elizabeth’s friends later marries Mr Collins?
4. In which county is Longbourn?
5. What does “divert” mean in “do divert me”?

Do Now: answers

Know

1. Who rents Netherfield Park?
   Mr Bingley

2. What does “inclination” mean?
   A wish or liking to do something

3. Which of Elizabeth’s friends later marries Mr Collins?
   Charlotte Lucas

4. In which county is Longbourn?
   Hertfordshire

5. What does “divert” mean in “do divert me”?
   Amuse or entertain

Focus reminder

Know

What a plan for the Pride and Prejudice question needs

Answer the question in one sentence: that is your thesis.

Find two or three short quotations in the extract. Ask what the narrator and the characters each believe, because Austen often lets us see more than they do.

Take Points 2 and 3 from other chapters, so that your plan covers the novel as a whole.

Say why: what did Austen want her first readers to notice or question?

Elizabeth and Darcy at Netherfield

Read

Jane Austen · 1813 · Chapter 11

"Mr. Darcy is not to be laughed at!" cried Elizabeth. "That is an uncommon advantage, and uncommon I hope it will continue, for it would be a great loss to me to have many such acquaintance. I dearly love a laugh."

"Miss Bingley," said he, "has given me credit for more than can be. The wisest and the best of men, nay, the wisest and best of their actions, may be rendered ridiculous by a person whose first object in life is a joke."

"Certainly," replied Elizabeth—"there are such people, but I hope I am not one of them. I hope I never ridicule what is wise or good. Follies and nonsense, whims and inconsistencies do divert me, I own, and I laugh at them whenever I can.

"Perhaps that is not possible for anyone. But it has been the study of my life to avoid those weaknesses which often expose a strong understanding to ridicule."

"Such as vanity and pride."