**DESCRIBING PEOPLE**

**TASK 1 – Reading comprehension**

**Read the descriptions of the characters from *Pride and Prejudice* byJane Austenand answer the questions.**

(Source: <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/pride/characters/>)

**Elizabeth Bennet**

The second daughter in the Bennet family, and the most intelligent and quick-witted, Elizabeth is the protagonist of *Pride and Prejudice*and one of the most well-known female characters in English literature. Her admirable qualities are numerous—she is lovely, clever, and, in a novel defined by dialogue, she converses as brilliantly as anyone. Her honesty, virtue, and lively wit enable her to rise above the nonsense and bad behavior that pervade her class-bound and often spiteful society. Nevertheless, her sharp tongue and tendency to make hasty judgments often lead her astray; *Pride and Prejudice* is essentially the story of how she and her true love, Darcy overcome all obstacles—including their own personal failings—to find romantic happiness. Elizabeth must not only cope with a hopeless mother, a distant father, two badly behaved younger siblings, and several snobbish, antagonizing females, she must also overcome her own mistaken impressions of Darcy, which initially lead her to reject his proposals of marriage. Her charms are sufficient to keep him interested, fortunately, while she navigates familial and social turmoil. As she gradually comes to recognize the nobility of Darcy’s character, she realizes the error of her initial prejudice against him.

**Fitzwilliam Darcy**

The son of a wealthy, well-established family and the master of the great estate of Pemberley, Darcy is [Elizabeth](http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/pride/character/elizabeth-bennet/)’s male counterpart. The narrator relates Elizabeth’s point of view of events more often than Darcy’s, so Elizabeth often seems a more sympathetic figure. The reader eventually realizes, however, that Darcy is her ideal match. Intelligent and forthright, he too has a tendency to judge too hastily and harshly, and his high birth and wealth make him overly proud and overly conscious of his social status. Indeed, his haughtiness makes him initially bungle his courtship. When he proposes to her, for instance, he dwells more on how unsuitable a match she is than on her charms, beauty, or anything else complimentary. Her rejection of his advances builds a kind of humility in him. Darcy demonstrates his continued devotion to Elizabeth, in spite of his distaste for her low connections, when he rescues Lydia and the entire Bennet family from disgrace, and when he goes against the wishes of his haughty aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, by continuing to pursue Elizabeth. Darcy proves himself worthy of Elizabeth, and she ends up repenting her earlier, overly harsh judgment of him.

**Jane Bennet and Charles Bingley**

Elizabeth’s beautiful elder sister and Darcy’s wealthy best friend, Jane and Bingley engage in a courtship that occupies a central place in the novel. They first meet at the ball in Meryton and enjoy an immediate mutual attraction. They are spoken of as a potential couple throughout the book, long before anyone imagines that Darcy and Elizabeth might marry. Despite their centrality to the narrative, they are vague characters, sketched by Austen rather than carefully drawn. Indeed, they are so similar in nature and behavior that they can be described together: both are cheerful, friendly, and good-natured, always ready to think the best of others; they lack entirely the prickly egotism of Elizabeth and Darcy. Jane’s gentle spirit serves as a foil for her sister’s fiery, contentious nature, while Bingley’s eager friendliness contrasts with Darcy’s stiff pride. Their principal characteristics are goodwill and compatibility, and the contrast of their romance with that of Darcy and Elizabeth is remarkable. Jane and Bingley exhibit to the reader true love unhampered by either pride or prejudice, though in their simple goodness, they also demonstrate that such a love is mildly dull.

1. What are Elizabeth's most notable virtues? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Which characteristic does Elizabeth have to overcome in the novel? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Did Elisabeth and Darcy enjoy an immediate mutual attraction? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Which of the following adjectives DO NOT accurately describe Elizabeth: playful, haughty, witty, lively, and snobbish? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Write down at least five adjectives to describe Darcy’s character. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. What trait does Darcy have to get over to be with Elizabeth? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. Where did Mr. Bingley and Jane Bennett first meet? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What are their principal characteristics? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**TASK 2 – Find the words in the text to match the following definitions:**

1. behaviour showing high moral standards =
2. behaving in a way that shows you think you are better than other people because you are from a higher social class =
3. amusingly clever in perception and expression =
4. direct and outspoken =
5. the appearance or quality of being arrogantly superior and disdainful =
6. having a passionate and quick-tempered nature =
7. likely to cause disagreement or argument =
8. the fact of being able to exist or live together in harmony =
9. having or showing a negative opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge =
10. lacking interest or excitement =

**TASK 3 – Listening comprehension**

**Listen to the following conversation and try to figure it out whether the sentences below are true (T) or false (F):**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5Wl_6dzkDs>

*(YouTube: How would you describe your personality? – Cityline)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **T/F** |
| 1. Gretha thinks she is extroverted. |  |
| 1. The second speaker is a perfectionist. |  |
| 1. Gretha needs a full social calendar. |  |
| 1. The third speaker describes herself in detail. |  |
| 1. The interviewer likes a plan. |  |
| 1. The second speaker is the most creative in the team. |  |
| 1. Marjorie likes fancy dresses. |  |

**TASK 4.1 – Match the adjectives with their definitions.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. \_\_\_ | 1. reliable | 1. showing feelings of liking or love |
| 2. \_\_\_ | 1. well-behaved | 1. showing a feeling of eagerness |
| 3. \_\_\_ | 1. affectionate | 1. becoming angry and annoyed easily |
| 4. \_\_\_ | 1. mature | 1. behaving in a way that is accepted as correct |
| 5. \_\_\_ | 1. self-reliant | 1. enjoying mixing with other people |
| 6. \_\_\_ | 1. tactful | 1. able to make decisions quickly and confidently |
| 7. \_\_\_ | 1. sociable | 1. nervous and uncomfortable with other people |
| 8. \_\_\_ | 1. bad-tempered | 1. worth depending upon |
| 9. \_\_\_ | 1. enthusiastic | 1. being keen to get on in life |
| 10. \_\_\_ | 1. decisive | 1. careful not to say or do anything that could upset someone |
| 11. \_\_\_ | 1. shy | 1. needing no help or support from other people |
| 12. \_\_\_ | 1. ambitious | 1. well developed emotionally |

**TASK 4.2 – Write down the synonyms (words with the same meaning).**

stubborn = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

curious = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

timid = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

talkative = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

well-mannered = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

tidy = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

outgoing = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

brave = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

doting = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

tight-fisted = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TASK 4.3 – Write down the antonyms (words with the opposite meaning).**

optimistic / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

dull / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

sensible / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

sensitive / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

polite / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

lenient / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

egoistic / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

cheerful / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

big-headed / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

consistent / \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TASK 5 – Make sentences with the following personality adjectives about people you know and justify the qualities.**

**optimistic sociable hardworking witty helpful self-confident**

**honest persistent strict easy-going talkative moody broad-minded**

**Example:** My grandfather is a very **optimistic** person; he always sees the positive side of even the most difficult situation.

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**TASK 6 – Writing skills**

**How would you describe your character? How do you think the other people see you? Which of your personality traits are you especially proud of and which ones would you like to improve and why?**

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**DESCRIBING PEOPLE'S PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

**TASK 7 – List the words below that describe people’s physical appearance under the following headings. Then add at least three other words under each heading.**

short / permed / curved / curly / scar / slim / beard and moustache / pony tail / well-built / brunette / oval / middle-aged / dyed / elderly / broad-shouldered / muscular / plump / balding / spiky / honey-blond / braided / fringe / a birthmark / wrinkled / spots / freckled / upturned / straight / round / heart-shaped / twinkling / slanted / hooked / bushy eyebrows / long eyelashes / rosy cheeks / bun / piercing voice / overweight

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| AGE |  |
| HEIGHT |  |
| BUILD |  |
| FACE |  |
| EYES |  |
| NOSE |  |
| HAIR |  |
| SPECIAL  FEATURES |  |

**TASK 8 – Speaking: Describe the person’s physical appearance.** (http://www.amazingbeautyworld.com)

**a.) b.)**



**TASK 9 – Speaking**

**Describe your physical appearance.**

**TASK 10 – Writing an informal email**

Check the theory about writing informal emails in your textbook. Then write an email (150–180 words) to your best friend from your primary school. You have just started attending the secondary school and made friends with one of your classmates. In your email, describe your favourite classmate, including his/her appearance and personality.

|  |
| --- |
| To: |
| Subject: |
| Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, |