**Reading Extract**

Read the passage below in detail. If you print it out, make sure you gloss over the text to add details related to characterization, plot, setting, theme and importance devices such as symbolist, simile, metaphors, etc.

If you choose to do this online, use the “Ctrl + Alt + M” command prompt on the keyboard to add your comments.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me or e-mail me at [mr.heidarbozorg@gmail.com](mailto:mr.heidarbozorg@gmail.com)

**Pride & Prejudice, Chapter I by Jane Austen**

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 as the rightful property of someone or other of their daughters.

``My dear [Mr. Bennet](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#MrBennet),'' said his lady to him one day, ``have you heard that [Netherfield Park](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppjalmap.html" \l "netherfield) is let at last?''

[Mr. Bennet](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "MrBennet) replied that he had not.

``But it is,'' returned she; ``for [Mrs. Long](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "MrsLong) has just been here, and she told me all about it.''

[Mr. Bennet](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#MrBennet) made no answer.

``Do not you 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](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#MrsLong) says that [Netherfield](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppjalmap.html" \l "netherfield) is taken by a young man of large fortune from the north of England; that he came down on Monday in a [chaise](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pptopics.html#chaise) and four to see the place, and was so much delighted with it that he agreed with [Mr. Morris](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "MrMorris) immediately; that he is to take possession before [Michaelmas](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppchron.html" \l "michaelmas), and some of his [servants](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/pptopics.html#class) are to be in the house by the end of next week.''

``What is his name?''

``[Bingley](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#CharlesBingley).''

``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](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#MrBennet),'' 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](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#CharlesBingley) might 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 any thing 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](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#CharlesBingley) 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](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "SirWilliamLucas) and [Lady Lucas](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#LadyLucas) are determined to go, merely on that account, for in general, you know they visit no new comers. Indeed you must go, for it will be impossible for us to visit him, if you do not.''

``You are over-scrupulous, surely. I dare say [Mr. Bingley](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#CharlesBingley) 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 chuses of the girls; though I must throw in a good word for my little [Lizzy](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "ElizabethBennet).''

``I desire you will do no such thing. [Lizzy](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "ElizabethBennet) is not a bit better than the others; and I am sure she is not half so handsome as [Jane](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#JaneBennet), nor half so good humoured as [Lydia](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#LydiaBennet). 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](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "ElizabethBennet) has something more of quickness than her sisters.''

``[Mr. Bennet](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html#MrBennet), how can you abuse your own children in such 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.''

``Ah! you do not know what I suffer.''

``But I hope you will get over it, and live to see many young men of four thousand a year come into the neighbourhood.''

``It will be no use to us if twenty such should come, since you will not visit them.''

``Depend upon it, my dear, that when there are twenty I will visit them all.''

"Vanity and pride are different things, though the words are often used synonymously. A person may be proud without being vain. Pride relates more to our opinion of ourselves, vanity to what we would have others think of us."

[Mr. Bennet](http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/ppdrmtis.html" \l "MrBennet) was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and caprice, that the experience of three and twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character. Her mind was less difficult to develop. She was a woman of mean understanding, little information, and uncertain temper. When she was discontented, she fancied herself nervous. The business of her life was to get her daughters married; its solace was visiting and news.

**Questions**

1. Explain the second last line comparing Vanity and Pride. Look up the definitions and explain if you agree or disagree with the author’s words.
2. What things in your life are your prideful about and when have you shown vanity?
3. Explain the quote: “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.” Focus on the meaning of ‘fortune’
4. Research the background of the novel and the author. Explain how the biography of the author and the era it was written, may have influenced different aspects.
5. Make a couple intertextual connections between the text and either another book (passage), scene from a TV show or movie, or from your personal life / news.