THEMES IN PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

* **ROMANTIC LOVE**
  + The book revolves around three blossoming relationships: Jane and Bingley, Lydia and Wickham, and Elizabeth and Darcy. The third one is what the book deeply explores. The title is about them.
  + Elizabeth and Darcy’s story did not start with love at first sight. In fact, the two were indifferent about each other. Elizabeth hearing Darcy’s comment about her appearance served as a long-time wound for her.
  + Elizabeth’s social status did not make her attractive to Darcy.
  + The beauty of their story is that we can see how they change little by little. Destiny forced them to learn about each other and see who they were on the inside.
  + They slowly realized and recognized their faults and committed to changing for the better.
  + Their character development ended up being their way to accept their feelings for each other in the end.
* **FAMILY**
  + Two kind of families existed in the book: the middle class family, which is the Bennet Family, and the upper class, which are the Bingleys and Darcys.
  + The Bennets, being in the middle class, hoped to elevate their status by marrying wealthy men.
  + Mrs. Bennet insisted on this for her daughters, as mothers would have done in that era (although not as dramatically as her). The fear of her daughters being homeless when their father died is what drove Mrs. Bennet in her sincere yet ludicrous actions.
  + When Darcy pointed out to Elizabeth when he first proposed that he was doing her family a favor, she refused him, as she would not tolerate any insults being thrown towards her family.
  + Bingley and Darcy both valued the opinion of the female member of their family, Caroline for Bingley and Aunt Catherine for Darcy.
* **SOCIAL CLASS**
  + Darcy, being very aware of his position in society, magnified the social class division in this book.
  + The middle class women had no choice but to put up with the societal pressure of being lady-like to marry well.
  + Charlotte is the perfect example of this predicament. She was so worried about her age and status that she did not mind marrying someone she did not love. She grew up with a practical mindset and paid little mind to romance.
  + In the book, it is sad to see that the upper class viewed the lower class as their inferiors. Caroline Bingley frequently expressed how the Bennet sisters were not suitable for Darcy and Bingley.
* **REPUTATION**
  + Reputation was everything for women in this century. It could boost their social status or get them condemned by society together with their family.
  + Reputation somehow was played out for laughs at the beginning of the novel. Mrs. Bennet had the reputation of being shallow and scandalous, but Mr. Collins reputation could not be farther from Mrs. Bennet.
  + When Lydia eloped with Wickham, her and her family’s reputation was threatened. It could have hurt the chances for her and her sisters to marry well.
  + Darcy, who readers assumed was planning to propose again to Elizabeth, made sure that Lydia’s reputation was saved. To offer that kind of help to his enemy might have proved how Darcy loved Elizabeth, as well as the seriousness of Lydia’s situation.
* **PRIDE AND PREJUDICE**
  + The novel was first entitled First Impressions due to the number of first impressions that turned out to be wrong.
  + It was Elizabeth who had inaccurate first impressions throughout the book. It became the trait that she needed to overcome to become a well-rounded character and to make her see that Darcy was the right man for her.
  + The same was true with Darcy, who had to overcome his pride and learn to lower his standards so he could appreciate the people around him and make Elizabeth his wife.