

AUSTEN'S HEROINES: *Becoming Elizabeth Bennet*

Spunti extra app per il percorso di *social reading*



1. MORAL INDEPENDENCE & INTEGRITY: Elizabeth Rejects Mr. Collins

Chapter 19: Elizabeth refuses Mr. Collins' proposal

*This moment is revolutionary for a Regency-era woman: **Elizabeth asserts her right to marry for love rather than social or financial gain**, showing her strength, clarity, and independence - hallmarks of a true, modern heroine.*

HEROIC QUALITIES

- **Moral independence:** Elizabeth prioritises personal happiness over social security or wealth.
- **Courage:** She dares to reject a “safe” match that her family supports.
- **Self-respect:** She refuses to compromise her values or marry without love.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. In what ways does Elizabeth's refusal of Mr. Collins redefine what it means to be a heroine in her own society?
2. Is moral courage more heroic than physical bravery in the context of a woman's role in Regency England?

3. How does Elizabeth's decision challenge the traditional expectations of female submission and duty?
4. Would Elizabeth still be seen as a heroine if her decision had led to financial ruin? Why or why not?

2. SELF-AWARENESS AND GROWTH: Elizabeth's Self-Reflection After Darcy's Letter

Chapter 36: Elizabeth realises her own prejudice

*This is a turning point for Elizabeth's internal growth. **Unlike many traditional heroines, she is not perfect: she is willing to recognise her flaws and grow from them.** Her honesty and humility are what make her admirable.*

Highlighted qualities:

- **Humility:** She acknowledges her mistakes in judgment.
- **Emotional intelligence:** She reflects on her prejudice and assumptions.
- **Capacity for change:** A true heroine in Austen's world grows through introspection.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How does the ability to reflect and grow from one's mistakes define a true heroine?
2. Is self-awareness a greater mark of heroism than defiance or boldness? Why might Austen present it as such?
3. How does Elizabeth's journey toward self-knowledge elevate her above the other female characters in the novel?
4. In a world that often silenced women, is introspection itself a form of quiet rebellion - and therefore, heroism?
5. In everyday life, what helps people grow more: confidence or self-doubt?
6. Is self-awareness a form of courage? Why or why not?

3. ASSERTIVENESS AND SELF-WORTH: Elizabeth Confronts Lady Catherine de Bourgh

Chapter 56: Elizabeth defends her right to marry Darcy

Elizabeth refuses to be intimidated. She speaks with dignity and courage, defending not just her own worth, but the right of women to determine their futures.

Highlighted qualities:

- **Assertiveness:** Elizabeth defends her right to choose her own future.
- **Confidence:** She sees herself as equal in dignity, regardless of social rank.
- **Defiance of social norms:** She challenges aristocratic entitlement and patriarchal pressure.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why is Elizabeth's assertion of equality revolutionary?
2. Is defying social hierarchy an act of heroism for a woman in the early 19th century? Why or why not?
3. In what ways does Elizabeth's response to Lady Catherine reflect both inner strength and self-worth?
4. Can a heroine be both respectful of tradition and radically independent? How does Elizabeth embody this tension?