Pre-reading Notes
Ch. 7: “[Mr. Bennet’s estate] was entailed in default of heirs male, on a distant relation”
- The daughters would get very little inheritance—most of the family money came from the land itself (agricultural money).
- Mrs. Bennet’s father was an attorney, upper-middle class at best. She was left 4,000 pounds total.
- Her sister (Mrs. Phillips) married their father’s clerk, securing herself in the middle class. Thus, Mrs. B. has some low-ranking relations.

“At present, indeed, they were well supplied both with news and happiness by the recent arrival of a militia regiment in the neighborhood; it was to remain the whole winter, and Meryton was the head quarters”
- Militia=main branch of army used for domestic defense
- Units often took residence in a town during the winter when invasions were unlikely.

Ch. 8: “It seems to me to show an abominable sort of conceited independence, a most country town indifference to decorum.”
- Though country estates were favored by the genteel class, the truly wealthy and sophisticated started adopting urban practices during this time. Many of the wealthiest people (like Darcy) have a country estate and a home in the city. Plus, it’s a sign of status to be educated in the best London schools, meaning you would likely have grown accustomed to “urban ways.”

Ch. 9: Darcy silently turns away from Mrs. Bennet.
- This is how a gentleman who is maintaining propriety would show distaste for someone (or for what they’ve said). Mrs. Bennet seems to miss this—she thinks she’s stumped him.
- When Darcy quarrels with Elizabeth, he’s actually showing her respect. He could just turn away if he disagrees.

Ch. 10: Darcy and Elizabeth argue about Mr. Bingley’s tendency to “bend” to others’ wishes.
- The argument is really this: Is it more manly/proper to hold your ground and only change your mind if sufficient proof can be given for you to do so, OR is it better to be the kind of person who trusts friends enough to change your mind before they offer you this proof.
- This will be KEY in a later part of the novel!

During Reading Response
As you read, mark (or copy) a quote from this section that you feel best represents each of the following characters. This could be something he/she says or something that is said about him/her. Be prepared to explain your selection:

Elizabeth
Miss (Caroline) Bingley
Mr. Bingley
Darcy
Mrs. Bennet
Lydia