Chapters 1 and 2:

1. What is the relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Bennet? How does Austen convey the tone Mr. Bennet uses with his wife?

2. Why is Mrs. Bennet so interested in the young man’s arrival?

Chapters 3-6:

1. Despite Bingley’s appearance as a most eligible bachelor, what is revealed about his family, his age, and his inexperience?

2. How is Elizabeth’s fun at Darcy’s expense different from his own behavior toward her and her friends and family?

3. Do you agree with Mrs. Lucas’s distinction between pride and vanity and her conclusion that Darcy has a right to feel proud?

4. Why might Miss Bingley be eager to criticize the Bennet girls and their mother?

5. What is revealed about the characters of Mary and Elizabeth by their piano performance?

6. What effect does Elizabeth’s teasing have on Darcy? Is Elizabeth intentionally trying to provoke Darcy’s attention? Note his continued attraction, despite her “inferiority.”

Chapters 7-12:

1. What influences Elizabeth’s opinion of the Bingleys?
2. What does Darcy consider an accomplished woman? What does this reveal about him?

3. How does Darcy react to Miss Bingley’s comments about the Bennets?

4. How does Darcy characterize his own faults? (How does he reveal more about himself?)

Vocabulary:
- paltry
- prognostics
- apothecary
- efficacy
- loo
- vexing
- censuring
- fastidious
- scrupulous
- supercilious
- caprice
- panegyric
- cunning

Chapters 13-16
1. How do the members of the Bennet family respond differently to Collins’ letter announcing his intention to visit Longbourn?

2. What is meaningful about Mr. Bennet’s attention to Collins’ “talent of flattering with delicacy”? How does Mr. Bennet seem to toy with the younger man, playing on his ego?

3. What motivates Collins to seek a wife from among the Bennet girls?

4. How does Wickham differ from Collins in his self estimation?

5. Why is Wickham’s candor concerning his situation and his relationship with Darcy surprising? Are his revelations appropriate? Why or why not? What keeps him from talking even more openly?

Chapters 17-22:
1. How does Jane’s desire to see the good in everyone differ from Elizabeth’s judgments?

2. In what way does Elizabeth’s family embarrass her at the ball? Is she justified in her reactions?
3. Why might Elizabeth be the “least dear” daughter to her mother? Could her father’s preference have provoked this response?

4. How might Collins’ reasons for marriage be judged today? Why does he have trouble taking Elizabeth’s rejection seriously? What does he purport to offer her?

5. Why would the Lucases’ reaction to their daughter’s engagement be considered socially inappropriate?

6. Why does Charlotte accept Collins’ proposal? What motivates her? Is this a worthy motive or not?

Vocabulary:
mercenary  deportment  disapprobation  circumspect  alacrity  barbarously  mortifying  diffidence  impertinence  spleen  affability  procure

Volume II:

Chapters 1-3:
1. Does Elizabeth apply the same careful judgment to Wickham as she does to Darcy? Why or why not?

2. How does Mrs. Gardiner give advice in such a way that it is not resented? How is Mrs. Gardiner’s approach different from Mrs. Bennet’s?

3. How does Elizabeth know she was never actually in love with Wickham? What influences his change of affection?

Chapters 4-9:
1. What is Collins’ motive in showing off what he has to Elizabeth?
2. Why does Lady Catherine de Bourgh "condescend" to spend so much time with those she considers beneath her?

3. How does Darcy compare his social skills to Elizabeth’s piano skills? What does Elizabeth’s response say about her?

Chapters 10-14:
1. If Elizabeth dislikes Darcy so strongly, why does she weep after turning down his proposal?

2. How does darcy’s letter make her reconsider her own behavior and judgments?

Vocabulary:
ardent  volubility  palliation  impunity  annum  querulous  prudent  infamy
sanguine  acrimony  invectives  conjugal  dilatory  agitation
condole  exigency  ensigncy

Chapters 15-19:
1. How do Elizabeth’s comments about Darcy at dinner cause Wickham concern?

2. What does the author reveal in Chapter 19 about the nature of the Bennet marriage?

Volume III:
Chapters 1-3:
1. What accounts for Darcy’s civil behavior toward Elizabeth and the Gardiners?

2. How does this affect Elizabeth?
Chapters 4-6:

1. What does Lydia risk by eloping with Wickham? Would society today still compel Lydia and Wickham to marry?

2. How might Mr. Bennet’s earlier actions have prevented this scandal? Is Mr. Bennet responsible for his youngest daughter’s behavior? In what ways?

Chapters 7-11:

1. Why does Gardiner remain silent about the financial agreements with Wickham?

2. Why would Darcy attend a wedding he must find deplorable?

3. How would Mr. Bennet’s feelings change if he knew who was actually responsible for the marriage arrangements?

Chapters 12-19:

1. How do Elizabeth’s character traits assist in her conversation with Lady Catherine?

2. In what way are the character traits for which Lady Catherine prides herself, sincerity and frankness, more negative than positive?

3. In Chapter 16, during the conversation that marks the turning point in their relationship, how do Elizabeth and Darcy explain to one another (and themselves) their changes of heart after their first impression and after Darcy’s awkward first profession of affection for Lizzie?

Vocabulary:

- impertinence
- laity
- remonstrance
- cunning
- felicity
- destitute
- dilatory
- ardent
- atonement
- brooking
- assiduously
- infamy
- paltry
- caprice
- benevolent
- palliation
- condole
- iniquitous
- cogent
- propensity
- profligacy
- penitent
- loo
- epithet
- annum