

Mr. Bingley was good-looking and gentlemanlike; he had a pleasant countenance, and easy, unaffected manners. His sisters were fine women, with an air of decided fashion. His brother-in-law, Mr. Hurst, merely looked the gentleman; but his friend Mr. Darcy soon drew the attention of the room by his fine, tall person, handsome features, noble mien, and the report which was in general circulation within five minutes after his entrance, of his having ten thousand a year. The gentlemen pronounced him to be a fine figure of a man, the ladies declared he was much handsomer than Mr. Bingley, and he was looked at with great admiration for about half the evening, till his manners gave a disgust which turned the tide of his popularity; for he was discovered to be proud; to be above his company, and above being pleased; and not all his large estate in Derbyshire could then save him from having a most forbidding, disagreeable countenance, and being unworthy to be compared with his friend.

Mr. Bingley had soon made himself acquainted with all the principal people in the room; he was lively and unreserved, danced every dance, was angry that the ball closed so early, and talked of giving one himself at Netherfield. Such amiable qualities must speak for themselves. What a contrast between him and his friend! Mr. Darcy danced only once with Mrs. Hurst and once with Miss Bingley, declined being introduced to any other lady, and spent the rest of the evening in walking about the room, speaking occasionally to one of his own party. His character was decided. He was the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world, and everybody hoped that he would never come there again. Amongst the most violent against him was Mrs. Bennet, whose dislike of his general behaviour was sharpened into particular resentment by his having slighted one of her daughters.

**TASK 1. Match the words from the text with their meanings.**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| A. mien        | 1. unfriendly or intimidating in appearance        |
| B. unaffected  | 2. friendly and pleasant                           |
| C. countenance | 3. facial expression                               |
| D. resentment  | 4. natural, not artificial or pretentious          |
| E. forbidding  | 5. strong feeling of anger due to unfair treatment |
| F. amiable     | 6. general appearance or bearing                   |

**TASK 2. Sort the features into the correct column.**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• declines being introduced</li><li>• spends time walking alone</li><li>• friendly and unreserved</li><li>• considered proud</li><li>• dances every dance</li><li>• speaks to everyone</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reserved</li><li>• lively</li><li>• avoids social interaction</li><li>• warm and sociable</li><li>• interacts with many guests</li><li>• socially distant</li></ul> |
|--|---|

Mr. Bingley

Mr. Darcy

**TASK 3. Identify the correct literary device used in each example.**

1. “drawn the attention of the room... till his manners gave a disgust which turned the tide of his popularity” → \_\_\_\_\_
2. “most disagreeable man in the world” → \_\_\_\_\_
3. Contrast between Darcy and Bingley → \_\_\_\_\_
4. “handsome features, noble mien” → \_\_\_\_\_
5. “his friend Mr. Darcy soon drew the attention of the room” → \_\_\_\_\_

Options:

epithet                  metaphor                  irony                  contrast                  hyperbole

**TASK 4. Read the sentence and answer the questions:**

*“he was discovered to be proud; to be above his company, and above being pleased”*

1. What is the tone of this description? (choose one)
  - neutral
  - critical / judgemental
  - humorous
  - admiring
2. What imagery is created about Mr. Darcy? Provide the answer in 2–3 sentences.

**TASK 6. Write a short paragraph (80–100 words):**

Compare Austen’s presentation of Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley and explain how narrative voice influences reader judgement.