



Pride and Prejudice Style and Sense

For more than two centuries, readers have loved *Pride and Prejudice*, many because of the richness and eloquence of Austen's language. Analyze the four sentences below by:

1. circling the subjects
2. boxing the verbs
3. underlining the phrases.

Then, return to the text to determine what idea each sentence describes or relates to and record what you decide.

Then write about how the sentence's style and/or structure reflects its meaning.

Finally, locate another long sentence from the novel and write it in the empty box. Trade worksheets with a partner and analyze each other's added sentence.

1. A woman must have a thorough knowledge of music, singing, drawing, dancing, and the modern languages, to deserve the word, and besides all this, she must possess a certain something in her air and manner of walking, the tone of her voice, her address and expressions, or the word will be but half deserved. (p. 39)

This sentence describes an accomplished woman. This perfectly balanced compound sentence reflects how complicated the list of womanly skills is. The accomplished woman must be not only educated and refined, but also elegant in her appearance, just like the sentence itself. Such irony, Jane.

2. My mind however is now made up on the subject, for having received ordination at Easter, I have been so fortunate as to be distinguished by the patronage of the Right Honourable Lady Catherine de Bourgh, widow of Sir Lewis de Bourgh, whose bounty and beneficence has preferred me to the valuable rectory of this parish, where it shall be my earnest endeavour to demean myself with grateful respect towards her Ladyship, and be ever ready to perform those rites and ceremonies which are instituted by the Church of England. (p. 61)

3. In this perturbed state of mind, with thoughts that could rest on nothing, she walked on; but it would not do; in half a minute the letter was unfolded again, and collecting herself as well as she could, she again began the mortifying perusal of all that related to Wickham, and commanded herself so far as to examine the meaning of every sentence. (p. 199)

4. Elizabeth feeling all the more than common awkwardness and anxiety of his situation, now forced herself to speak; and immediately, though not very fluently, gave him to understand, that her sentiments had undergone so material a change, since the period to which he alluded, as to make her receive with gratitude and pleasure, his present assurances. (p. 346)

5.

(p. _____)

SL.11-12.3 Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.

L.11-12.1 Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

L.11-12.3 Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.