

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

Read the following passage from a 19th-century novel and answer the questions that follow.

Excerpt from "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife. However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighborhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of some one or other of their daughters.

"My dear Mr. Bennet," said his lady to him one day, "have you heard that Nether field Park is let at last?"

Mr. Bennet replied that he had not.

"But it is," returned she; "for Mrs. Long has just been here, and she told me all about it."

Mr. Bennet made no answer.

"Do you not want to know who has taken it?" cried his wife impatiently.

"You want to tell me, and I have no objection to hearing it."

This was invitation enough.

Questions:

1. Based on the passage, what can you infer about the social expectations and attitudes towards marriage in the society depicted in the story?
2. How does Mr. Bennet react to the news about Netherfield Park being let?

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3. Imagine you are a character in the story. How would you feel about the societal expectations regarding marriage mentioned in the passage?
4. Compare the societal expectations of marriage presented in this passage with the contemporary views on marriage in today's society. What similarities and differences do you observe?
5. How do you think Mrs. Bennet's character traits are revealed through her dialogue and actions in this passage? What kind of person do you think she is based on her behavior?
6. In your opinion, what commentary might the author be making about the societal pressure to marry, considering the characters' attitudes in the passage? How might this reflect the author's views on social norms during the 19th century?
7. Why do you think Jane Austen chose to start the novel with this particular statement? How does it set the tone for the rest of the story?