**COMMENT TO MR AND MRS BENNET (FROM PRIDE AND PREJUDICE)**

3. In the novel and in this text there are a lot of dialogues and the characters are mainly described through their words. In the first and last paragraphs the omniscient narrator intervenes and adds some comments and descriptions, but most of the text is composed of dialogues and this makes the story more lively and interesting

4.1 The first sentence is ironical. The narrator says that it is certainly true that a rich man must look for a wife. Actually, it is the opposite: women, especially without a fortune, must look for a husband to improve their social status and to have a role in society. A rich man doesn't need a wife, at least until he is young, but a woman needs a husband.

However, it is true that when a rich and single man arrives in a place, all the families who live there with unmarried girls get very excited and there is a lot of gossip (l. 15-20) because they hope he will marry one of the girls, so every family wants to visit him (l.41-43). This is exactly what happens in this text.

Even Mr. Bennet knows that this is an important event, but he pretends to be indifferent to tease his wife

4.2 We can find irony in lines 45-47: Mr. Bennet invites his wife to visit Mr. Bingley alone with their daughters, but he is teasing her because he knows that she can’t do that. At that time, women couldn’t visit a man that they didn’t know without a father or a brother. He even pretends to be jealous of her and afraid that Mr Bingley may prefer her to the girls (l.31-33). Moreover, he teases her desire to marry one of the girls with Mr. Bingley pretending that the marriage is already decided (l.46-47). Also, in lines 55-59 Mr. Bennet makes fun of his wife and of her nerves. He calls them “his old friends” because Mrs. B has always spoken about them during their marriage

5.

Mr. Bennet is detached, ironical and intelligent. He prefers Elizabeth because she is the most intelligent of his daughters and she is more similar to him. He has a bad opinion about women in general

Mrs. Bennet isn't intelligent and she hasn't studied (l.64-65), she is only interested in marrying her daughters, visiting people and gossip (l.66). However, as a woman, she didn't have many other possibilities in that society. Women didn't have to be intelligent, they only had to be pretty and obedient.

6. The main themes are the importance of marriage and money (which are connected)

7. Even if Mr. and Mrs. Bennet have been married for 23 years (l. 63), Mrs. Bennet doesn't know her husband well because she doesn't understand when he is joking. She always blames him for making her nervous (l.54); actually, Mr. Bennet likes teasing her. They are very different and they seem to tolerate each other. Their marriage was probably based on physical attraction because Mrs. Bennet was beautiful when she was young (l. 34-35); it was probably her only quality, but it was enough for Mr. Bennet who didn’t want an intelligent wife.