

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

How can a proposal contain its own insult?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Darcy proposes while explaining why he should not
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter XXXIV
START	In vain have I struggled. It will not do.
END	I felt that you were the last man in the world whom I could ever be prevailed on to marry.
PASSAGE ID	sec-07-pride-and-prejudice

THE MOVE

Read the contradiction between a speaker's purpose and language

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Darcy's proposal asks Elizabeth to accept love while repeatedly reminding her of the inferiority he believes he is overcoming. His purpose is romantic, but his language preserves the hierarchy that makes the proposal insulting.

MARK

Underline the words in which Darcy expresses love or desire to marry. Circle the phrases about family, rank, inferiority, or struggle. Star the point where the proposal most clearly defeats its own purpose.

NOTICE

- What does Darcy intend Elizabeth to hear as flattering?
- Which parts of the speech make his love sound like a victory over her disadvantages?
- How can a speaker’s language undermine the action he is trying to accomplish?

THINK

Answer provisionally: How can a proposal contain its own insult? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: How can a proposal contain its own insult? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	Darcy's proposal contains its own insult because he declares love while emphasizing the inferiority of Elizabeth's family and the struggle required to overcome his objections. The language makes marriage sound like a triumph over her disadvantages.
EVIDENCE	Use both sides of the speech: his declaration of feeling and his references to rank, family connections, degradation, or resistance. The contradiction must come from holding those together.
WATCH FOR	Do not reduce the insult to Darcy being rude in tone. The deeper problem is that the logic of the proposal preserves the hierarchy he expects Elizabeth to overlook.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

Pride and Prejudice

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How can a proposal contain its own insult?

START ANCHOR	In vain have I struggled. It will not do.
END ANCHOR	I felt that you were the last man in the world whom I could ever be prevailed on to marry.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline the words in which Darcy expresses love or desire to marry. Circle the phrases about family, rank, inferiority, or struggle. Star the point where the proposal most clearly defeats its own purpose.
2. **NOTICE** - What does Darcy intend Elizabeth to hear as flattering? Which parts of the speech make his love sound like a victory over her disadvantages? How can a speaker's language undermine the action he is trying to accomplish?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: How can a proposal contain its own insult?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.