

❖ Sample marginal comments (English paper)

Upon Darcy and Elizabeth's first encounter, it is very well obvious that the two are not fond of one another. At the first ball, Darcy refers to Elizabeth as "tolerable; but

What do these comments show us exactly?

not handsome enough to tempt [him]," which Elizabeth only responds to "with no very cordial feelings towards him" (Austen, 9). Following their first interaction however,

Austen provides no further dialogue between the two before her narration of the insights

on Darcy's feelings for Elizabeth. He "had at first scarcely allowed her to be pretty...and

when they next met, he has looked at her only to criticize...to this discovery succeeded

some others equally mortifying." Here, Austen is only portraying what the reader already

assumes in Darcy – that he extremely dislikes Elizabeth, yet the tone in her narration

takes a turn when she admits that: "he was forced to acknowledge her figure to be light

and pleasing...he was caught by their easy playfulness." To the reader, Darcy and even

Elizabeth, this realization acts as a surprise; for not only does Darcy seem concerned with

his newly found attraction to Elizabeth, but she is also "perfectly unaware," and without

Austen's narration – the reader would be as well (Austen, 16).

Though Austen has provided insight into the thoughts of Darcy, there is little to

be known about Elizabeth's true feelings for him, which she herself remains clued-out of

without the help of narration. After several incidents where Elizabeth picks up on Darcy

Focusing on these quotations and closely reading & analyzing them can help to demonstrate your interpretation of P.S. (See end note)

How does this further the reader's understanding?

What suggests this?

How does the narrative style interact with the rest of the text to create this relationship?