***ELIZABETH SPEAKS HER MIND***

1. Which characters are introduced in the first stanza? How are they related to each other?

Ans. The characters introduced in the first stanza are Mr. Collins, Mrs. Bennet, Elizabeth and ‘one of the younger girls. Mr. Collins is a distant relative of the Bennet, who has come with the intention to marry one of the Bennet girls. Mrs. Bennet is the mother of Elizabeth and the other younger girl.

1. What did Mr. Collins request Mrs. Bennet for?

Ans. Mr. Collins requests Mrs. Bennet to allow him to have a private talk with Elizabeth.

1. What answer did Mrs. Bennet give to Mr. Collins? How did Elizabeth react to it?

Ans. Mrs. Bennet answered that she would certainly give time to Mr. Collins to talk to Elizabeth. When she was gathering her work and hastening away, Elizabeth called out to her mother to not go and further said that Mr. Collins had nothing to say to her that anybody need not hear, and then said, that she would be going away herself.

1. What did Mrs. Bennet insist upon? What did Elizabeth do?

Ans. Mrs. Bennet insisted upon Elizabeth staying and hearing Mr. Collins. Elizabeth could not oppose such an injunction and it appeared sensible to her that it would be the wisest to get the talk over as soon as possible, and she sat down again.

1. How does Mr. Collins flatter Elizabeth in spite of her unwillingness to marry him?

Ans. Mr. Collins tells Elizabeth that her modesty from doing any disservice rather adds to her perfections. He says that she would have been less amiable in her eyes had there not been a little unwillingness from her side.

1. Before Mr. Collins could state his reasons for marrying, why could Elizabeth not stop him farther?

Ans. The idea of Mr. Collins, with all his solemn composure, being run away with his feelings, made Elizabeth so near laughing that she could not use the short pause that he allowed in any attempt to stop him farther.

1. What reasons did Mr. Collins mention for marrying?

Ans. Mr. Collins gave Elizabeth three reasons for getting married. First, he thought it was the right thing for every clergyman in easy circumstances to set the example of matrimony in his parish. Secondly, he was convinced that it would greatly add to his happiness. Thirdly, it was his particular advice and recommendation of the very noble lady, whom he had the honour of calling patroness.

1. According to Mr. Collins, how would Elizabeth find the manners of Lady Catherine de Bourgh? In turn, what would she think about Elizabeth?

Ans. According to Mr. Collins, Elizabeth would find the manners of Lady Catherine de Bourgh beyond anything that he can describe. In turn, the wit and vivacity of Elizabeth would be acceptable to Lady Catherine de Bourgh, especially when tempered with the silence and respect which her rank will inevitably excite.

1. Though there were many amiable women in Mr. Collins’ neighbourhood, why was he still directed to Longbourn?

Ans. Mr. Collins said that as he was to inherit the estate of Elizabeth’s father after his death, he could not satisfy himself without resolving to choose a wife from among his daughters, so that the loss to them would be as little as possible, when the melancholy taken place.

1. Mention the instances where Mr. Collins repeats his sentences in order to not be misunderstood.

Ans. Mr. Collins mentions his reason for being directed to Longbourn for his marriage. He was to inherit the property of Mr. Bennet after his death which he clearly mentions while talking to Elizabeth and adds that however he would live many years longer. He again mentions about the melancholy event (Mr. Bennet’s death) and again says that as he had mentioned earlier too, it may not be for several years. He does so, to not be misunderstood in the eyes of Elizabeth.

1. What does Mr. Collins assure Elizabeth regarding his fortune? Why?

Ans. Mr. Collins tells Elizabeth that to fortune, he was perfectly indifferent and would make no demand of that nature on Elizabeth’s father since he was well aware that it could not be complied with and that, the one thousand pounds in her four per cents, would not be hers till her mother’s decease, which is all Elizabeth may ever be entitled to.

1. What assurance does Mr. Collins want Elizabeth to give herself?

Ans. Mr. Collins wants Elizabeth to assure herself that no ungenerous reproach would ever pass from Mr. Collins’ lips when they would get married.

1. How did Elizabeth answer Mr. Collins when she thought that it was absolutely necessary to interrupt him?

Ans. Elizabeth told Mr. Collins that it he was too hasty. She said that he had forgotten that she had made no answer. She said that she would do that without further loss of time. She conveys her thanks for the compliments that Mr. Collins had made for her, and that she was very sensible of the honour of his proposals, but it was impossible for her to do otherwise than decline them.

1. Why was Mr. Collins not discouraged by Elizabeth’s answer?

Ans. Mr. Collins told Elizabeth that he knew it was usual with young ladies to reject the addresses of the man whom they secretly mean to accept when he first applies for their favour and sometimes the refusal is repeated a second or a third time. Therefore, he was not discouraged by Elizabeth’s answer and hoped to lead Elizabeth to the altar.

1. How did Elizabeth try to convince Mr. Collins that she was serious in her refusal?

Ans. Elizabeth told Mr. Collins that his hope was extraordinary and that she was perfectly serious in her refusal. She also told Mr. Collins that he could not make her happy and, Elizabeth was convinced that she was the last woman in the world who would make his happy. She also told him that had his friend Lady Catherine known her, she would find Elizabeth ill-qualified for the situation.

1. What contrasting answer did Mr. Collins give Elizabeth regarding her opinion about what Lady Catherine would think about her?

Ans. Mr. Collins told Elizabeth that he could not imagine that Lady Catherine would disapprove her at all. He also told Elizabeth to be certain that, when he would have the honour of the seeing her again, he would speak in the highest terms of Elizabeth’s modesty, economy, and other amiable qualifications.

1. What did Elizabeth think of Mr. Collins’ praising about her in front of Lady Catherine? What did she want him to do?

Ans. She told Mr. Collins that all praise of her would be unnecessary. She wanted Mr. Collins to give her the leave to judge for her and pay her the compliment of believing what she said.

1. Saying what does Elizabeth conclude that the matter was settled?

Ans. Elizabeth wishes Mr. Collins to be very rich and very happy. She says that by refusing his hand, she had done all she could in her power to prevent being his otherwise. She also says that in making her the offer of marriage, he must have satisfied all the delicacy of his feelings with regards to her family and may take the possession of the Longbourn estate whenever the time would come.

1. How did Collins address Elizabeth as she rose while she was speaking?

Ans. Mr. Collins told Elizabeth that when he would next speak to her on the subject of marriage, he hoped to receive a more favourable answer than she had given to him. He said that though he was accusing her of cruelty, he knew that it was an established custom of women to reject a man on the first application and what she had said rather encouraged his suit as would be consistent with the true delicacy of the female character.

1. Why did Elizabeth say that Collins puzzled her exceedingly?

Ans. Elizabeth seemed to be puzzled by Mr. Collins because he took her refusal as a form of encouragement. She did not know how to express her refusal in such a way that would convince Collins of being one.

1. What reasons does Mr. Collins state for believing that Elizabeth’s refusal was not serious?

Ans. Collins says that it did not appear that his hand was unworthy of her acceptance, or that the establishment that he could offer be any other than highly desirable. He says that she should take it into further consideration that in spite of her manifold attractions, it is by no means certain that another offer of marriage may ever be made to her. Her proportion is unhappily so small that it will in all likelihood undo the effects of all her loveliness and amiable qualifications.

1. Who would Elizabeth apply to for conveying her rejection? How would it be different?

Ans. Elizabeth would apply to her father whose negative would apply in such a manner that may be decisive and whose behaviour at least could not be mistaken by Mr. Collins for the affection and coquetry of an elegant female.

1. Why did Mrs Bennet congratulate Mr. Collins? How did he return those felicitations?

Ans. As soon as Elizabeth moved out of the breakfast room, Mrs Bennet congratulated Mr. Collins and herself in warm terms on the happy prospect of their neared connection. Mr. Collins received and returned those felicitations with equal pleasure and then proceeded to relate the particular of the interview, with the result of which he trusted he had every reason to be satisfied since Elizabeth would naturally flow from her bashful modesty and the genuine delicacy of her character.

1. Did Mrs. Bennet agree that her daughter’s refusals were meant to encourage Mr. Collins?

Ans. Mrs. Bennet would have been equally glad to be satisfied that her daughter’s refusals were to encourage Mr. Collins, but she dared not to believe it. She asked Mr. Collins to depend on it and that, she would speak to her about the same.

1. What does Mr. Collins say about Elizabeth being headstrong and foolish?

Ans. When Mrs Bennet says that Elizabeth was headstrong and foolish, Mr. Collins interrupts her and says that if she was really headstrong and foolish then he wasn’t sure if she would altogether be a very desirable wife to a man in his situation. He says that if she persists in rejecting his suit, it were better not to force her into accepting him, because if liable to such defects of temper, she could not contribute much to his felicity.

1. How does Mrs Bennet react this reaction of Mr. Collins?

Ans. Mrs. Bennet tells Mr Collins that he had misunderstood her. Elizabeth was only headstrong in matters such as these. In everything else, she is good-natured a girl as ever lived.

1. Hurrying instantly, whom did Mrs Bennet go? What did she say? What response did she get?

Ans. Mrs Bennet went to her husband who was sitting in the library and told him that he was wanted immediately as Lizzy had declared that she did not want to marry Mr. Collins and he had begun to say that he will too not have her. To this, her husband asks her what was he supposed to do on that occasion as to him, it seemed a hopeless business.

1. What did Elizabeth’s father ask her as she was summoned to the library?

Ans. As Elizabeth was summoned to the library, her father said to her that he had sent for her an affair of importance and understood that Mr. Collins has made her an offer of marriage. He asked her if she had refused the proposal.

1. Elizabeth’s parents have contrasting approach towards their child. Do you agree? Give evidences from the story.

Ans. Yes, Elizabeth’s mother and father have contrasting approach towards their child. Her mother insisted upon Elizabeth marrying Mr. Collins and posed a condition that she would not see her again if she refused to do so. Mr Collins on hearing this, said that it was a difficult alternative for Elizabeth as she would become a stranger to one of her parents, and he further told her mother if she refuses to see Elizabeth again, he would never see his wife again.

1. Which two favours did Mr Bennet ask for?

Ans. Mr Bennet asked for two favours. One, that his wife would allow him the freedom to use his understanding on the present occasion and the second, that he would be glad to have the library to himself as soon as it may be.

1. In what way did Elizabeth try to end the conversation and take a leave?

Ans. Elizabeth wished Mr. Collins a very happy and very rich \*, and by refusing his handshe prevents being his otherwise. She said that in making her the offer of marriage, he had satisfied the delicacy of his feelings with regard to her family, and that he may take possession of Longbourn estate whenever it falls, without any self-approach. She considered the matter to be finally settled and rose to leave the room.

1. What made Elizabeth further stay in the room?

Ans. Mr. Collins addressed Elizabeth, which made her stay in the room.

1. Had Mr. Collins yet accepted that Elizabeth’s refusal was firm? How is it evident?

Ans. No, Mr. Collins hadn’t accepted that Elizabeth’s refusal was firm. It was evident when he wished to hear a more favourable answer when she