

# Pride and Prejudice Discussion Questions

- ❖ What did you think of this book as a choice for our Postal Museum book club?
  - Do you feel that this book was an appropriate choice for this program? Why or why not?
- ❖ Which of the many letters exchanged between the characters is your favorite? Which letters do you think are the most significant?
  - What is the significance of Mr. Darcy's explanation for his behavior coming to Elizabeth in the form of a letter? How would the story be different if it were delivered verbally?
  - When Elizabeth reads Mr. Darcy's letter she is in such a rush to get through it she hardly has time to process it and ends up reading it again and again to absorb and work out her feelings on it. Do you find yourself rushed to read letters, or perhaps texts, you receive? How might the meaning of a text or letter be misunderstood? How do you prevent such occurrences?
    - Do you ever write/type or journal to communicate your thoughts?
    - Do you find it easier to explain yourself via written communication?
- ❖ How does letter writing contribute to the richness and depth of storytelling in "Pride and Prejudice"? What do we learn about the characters?
- ❖ Reflect on the enduring appeal of letter-writing as romantic communication in the digital age. What unique advantages or disadvantages does the written letter offer?
- ❖ Did you learn anything about the way communication happened in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century from reading? What are some of the important ways that communicating at a distance was different from today?
- ❖ How old were you when you first read "Pride and Prejudice"? How is your view of the text and characters different now from your first read?
- ❖ Do you have a favorite character? A least-favorite character?
  - Which character do you think is the most virtuous?
  - Which is the least virtuous? What makes them so?
- ❖ What does this book have to say about gender? Do any of the gender dynamics surprise you?
- ❖ What does this book have to say about class? What do you notice about the subtle class differences amongst the characters who are all ostensibly a part of the same social class?
- ❖ What features does a "good" marriage have in the book? What features does a "bad" marriage have?
- ❖ Have you seen any of the film adaptations of this book? Do you think that this story adapts well to being a film?
- ❖ Why do you think this book has remained so popular, compared to other novels from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century (and even compared to Jane Austen's other works)?