

# THEME: Reputation

In middle- and upper-class English society in the late 18th and 19th century, it was extremely important to be **respected** by those around you, to appear to be a **good** and **very polite** person, and to act and appear **normal**. These were like rules people had to follow. If a person did not follow these **rules**, there could be consequences: they could lose friends, family members might stop talking to them or inviting them to social events. These things could even mean losing out on jobs or money!

## Think about:

Does having a good reputation mean you are a good person?

Which characters care a lot about reputation? Which characters don't?

## Quotations about reputation



LADY CATHERINE

I am no stranger to the particulars of your youngest sister's infamous elopement. I know it all; that the young man's marrying her was a patched-up business, at the expense of your father and uncles. And is such a girl to be my nephew's sister? Is her husband the son of his late father's steward, to be his brother? ... Are the shades of Pemberley to be thus polluted?

chapter 56



MARY

Loss of virtue in a female is irretrievable; that one false step involves her in endless ruin; that her reputation is no less brittle than it is beautiful.

chapter 47

chapter 46



MR. COLLINS

this false step in one daughter will be injurious to fortunes of all the others: for who ... will connect themselves with such a family?

chapter 46

Lydia – the humiliation, the misery she was bringing on them all, soon swallowed up every private care.



AUSTEN  
(author and narrator)