

Pride and Prejudice Literary Device

Writer: Jane Austen | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Figures of Speech

- **Metaphor:** When one thing is said to be something else, without using "like" or "as."
Example: "I could easily forgive his pride, if he had not mortified mine." Elizabeth compares hurt pride to something that can be mortified (wounded), giving it a deeper emotional impact.
- **Irony:** When what is said or expected is the opposite of what happens. Mr. Darcy's first proposal is meant to be romantic, but it insults Elizabeth, and she rejects him. It's ironic because he thinks he's being honorable, but his prideful words ruin the moment.
- **Symbols:**
 - **Pemberley (Darcy's estate):** Symbol of Character and inner worth. Elizabeth begins to change her view of Darcy after visiting Pemberley. The house reflects his true self—noble, tasteful, and generous.
 - **Letters:** Symbol of Truth and inner feelings. Darcy's letter to Elizabeth helps explain his actions and reveals his honest character. Letters show what people truly feel when they can't say it out loud.
 - **Marriage:** Symbol of Social order and individual choice. Different marriages in the novel reflect different values—some based on love, others on money or social pressure. It shows how choices in marriage shape happiness.
 - **Dances/Balls:** Symbol of Social interaction and judgment. Balls are where characters meet, judge, and misunderstand each other. The Netherfield Ball is a turning point for Elizabeth and Darcy.

Moral Lesson:

- Marriage should be based on love, not just money.
- True love is based on respect and understanding.