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Because her novels talk about love, marriage and selfawareness[•]. Jane Austen is often considered to be our 'dear aunt Jane', always ready to help and advise on affairs[•] of the heart. However, few people seem to remember that another central theme in each of her books is money. And Sense and Sensibility is no exception. Jane Austen always pays particular attention to socio-economic issues of rank[•] and class[•] Her characters often think and speak about money, and she is a master at using conversation to reveal her characters' thoughts and feelings, so that we can see what effect money, or the lack of it has on them.

From the very first pages of *Sense and Sensibility*, for example, we get a clear idea of how important money is for people like John Dashwood and his selfish wife Fanny, who are more worried about wealth[•] than anything else, included their relatives' difficult financial situation.

MONEY PRICE FINANCIAL VALUE GREED EARNINGS FORTUNE INFLATION WEALTH ALLOWANCE

How do you translate these in your language?

FORTUNE HUNTING OR FINANCIAL SECURITY?

Of course, Jane Austen is very conscious of the importance of money, but it is clear from her writing that she strongly disapproves of Fanny Dashwood's (as well as her mother's) greed[•] and set of values[•]. Preference is given to those characters, such as Elinor, who do not put money on top of their list of values. Indeed, some of Austen's most unscrupulous[•] characters are fortune hunters, just think of Willoughby and Lucy Steele in Sense and Sensibility! However, Austen is aware that marriage

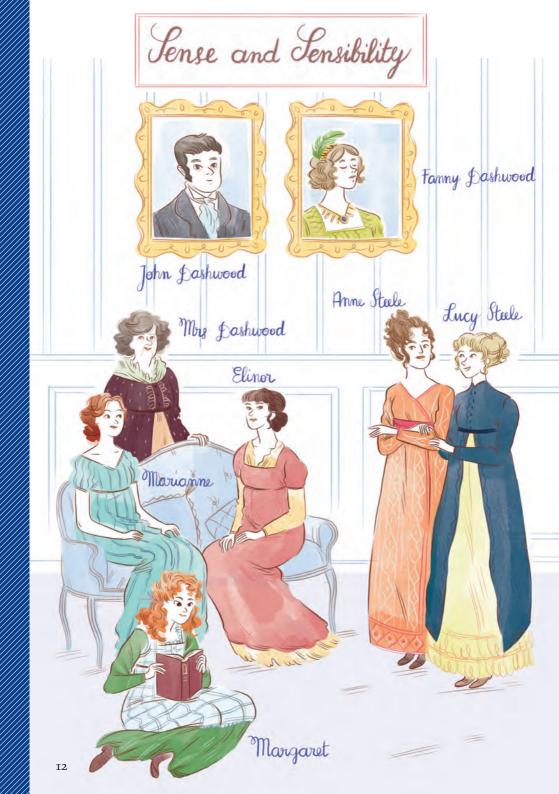
CHANGING

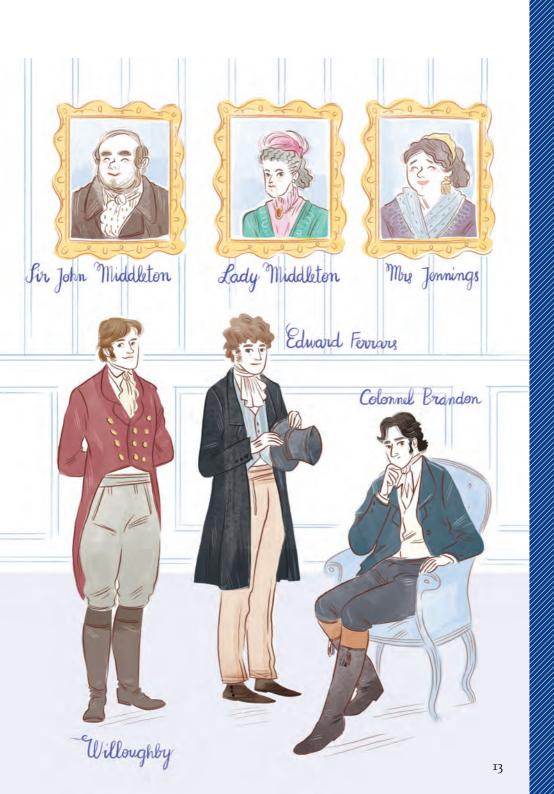
TIMES

was, for women of that time. the only way to financial independence. And marriage to a man of wealth was the most desirable event for a woman Women who did not find a husband and stayed in their parents' home could not aspire to a respected position in society, even if they worked to support themselves. In Jane Austen's novels it may be wrong to marry solely[•] for money, but it is foolish to marry without it. In other words, a woman must either have money or marry money.

> Women make 85% of the world's purchases and over half of them are single. Find advertisements that are targeted at single women.

- affairs: (here) things; matters
- class: economic group
- greed: wanting things for yourself
- rank: position in society
- self-awareness: knowledge of yourself
- set of values: group of beliefs
- solely: only
- **unscrupulous:** behaving in a dishonest way to get what you want
- wealth: money





BEFORE READING

1 What do you know about the novel Sense and Sensibility? Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

| a | The novel is a horror story. |
|---|---|
| Ь | The story takes place in England. |
| с | It was first published in 1815. |
| d | The author, Jane Austen, never married. |
| e | Jane Austen first wrote Sense and Sensibility when |
| | she was nineteen years old. |
| ſ | The central theme of the novel is country life versus |

- **f** The central theme of the novel is country life versus city life.
- 2 These are leisure activities that the characters often do in Jane Austen's novels. Match them to the pictures.

I paint 2 hunt 3 play the piano 4 ride 5 dance 6 sing







TF









3 Match the adjectives to the definitions.

| | calm | emotional | lively | kind | shy | romantic |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|-----|----------|
| a | showing lo | ots of feelings | | | | |
| | 0 | in love and fe | | | | |
| С | full of ener | rgy | | | | |
| d | not happy ⁻ | talking to or : | meeting | g people | | |
| e | generous a | nd helpful | | | | ••••• |
| f | not nervou | is or worried | | | | |

4 These verbs are from the story. Match the synonyms.

a unpack **I** look quickly **b** glance 2 try to make somebody feel better **c** blush 3 be unsure of something **d** argue 4 talk e comfort convince somebody to do something 5 chat f 6 have a disagreement take things out of boxes and put in a room **g** persuade 7 **h** doubt 8 go pink with embarrassment

5 Find these words in a dictionary and then match them to the definitions below.

| | disapprove of despair disappointment expect |
|---|---|
| a | not how you wanted something to be |
| Ь | think someone is the wrong choice |
| С | want |
| d | have no hope of |

CHAPTER 1

The Dashwood family had lived at Norland Park for a long time. Mr Henry Dashwood had one son from his first marriage and three daughters from his second marriage. Elinor, his eldest daughter, was very responsible, and although she was only nineteen, she often gave her mother advice.

Marianne, the second eldest daughter was everything but responsible. She was like her mother, happy, impulsive• and full of life. Margaret, the youngest sister was just thirteen years old.

Sadly, their father died suddenly, and their half-brother, John Dashwood inherited[•] Norland Park. As soon as his father's funeral[•] was over, John's wife Fanny moved into Norland Park. Fanny was very selfish and she made it clear to Mrs Dashwood that she was the mistress[•] of Norland Park now.

Mrs Dashwood was so upset by Fanny's behaviour, that she wanted to leave the house immediately. Only the friendship between Elinor and Fanny Dashwood's brother, Edward, kept Mrs Dashwood at Norland Park.

Edward Ferrars was the eldest son of a very rich man but Mrs Dashwood was not interested in this. She was just happy that he liked her daughter, Elinor. She didn't believe that a difference in wealth• should stop two people from marrying.

Edward Ferrars wasn't handsome, but he was intelligent and kind. He was also very shy and he was a disappointment[•] to his mother and his sister. They wanted him to become a politician, but Edward just wanted a comfortable, quiet life.

Mrs Dashwood watched the friendship between Elinor and Edward grow, and she began to look forward to their marriage.

- **disappointment:** not how you wanted something to be
- funeral: ceremony when someone dies
- **impulsive:** doing things without thinking or planning
- inherited: got something when someone died
- mistress: lady in charge
- wealth: money; possessions

'In a few months, my dear Marianne,' Mrs Dashwood said one morning to her other daughter, 'your sister Elinor will be married.'

Marianne looked unhappy.

'What's the matter? Do you disapprove of• Edward?' asked her mother.

'Perhaps,' said Marianne. 'He isn't tall or handsome. Music doesn't interest him, and he knows nothing about art. I couldn't be happy with a man who didn't like the same things as I did. Oh Mama, I'm sure I'll never meet a man who I can really love. I expect• so much!'

'Oh Marianne, you're only sixteen. It's too early in life to despair of• meeting someone who can make you happy.'

THE SAME THINGS

Do you think it is important or essential to like the same things as the person you love? Tell a friend.

- despair of: feel that something will never happen
- **disapprove of:** feel somebody or something is bad or wrong
- expect: want



AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Love and marriage. Discuss the meanings of the words with a friend. Then put the words in the order they happen.

wedding get engaged fall in love get divorced propose accept a proposal



2 Complete the sentences with words from Exercise 1. Write them in the correct forms.

- **a** Edward and Elinor's was at Barton Church in the autumn.
- **b** Marianne with Willoughby.
- c Colonel Brandon's brother from the girl Colonel Brandon loved.
- **d** Edward to Elinor and she
- e Willoughby and Marianne never

AFTER READING CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS

| Pc | ambridge English: Preliminary English Test Writing Part 1 |
|----|--|
| | rite a second sentence so that it means exactly the same as the first. se no more than three words. |
| a | 'This is the best news I've had for a long time.' That was the best news hea long time. |
| Ь | Mrs Dashwood and her daughters were met at the door by Sir John. Sir John Mrs Dashwood and her daughters at the door. |
| С | 'Is there anything I can get to comfort her?' she asked. She asked if she could get to comfort her. |
| d | This upset her more than anything else. Nothing than this. |
| e | He had stopped loving Lucy a long time ago. It was a long time loved Lucy. |
| f | How did Robert get engaged to Lucy? Elinor couldn't understand. Elinor couldn't understand how Robert to Lucy. |
| g | She believed that he felt no more than friendship for her. She believed that all he felt friendship. |
| h | 'And how soon will he be ready?' she asked. She asked how soon ready. |
| i | Elinor: 'Lucy wanted me to think that you and she had got married.' Lucy: 'I want Elinor to think that Edward and I |