

Sense and Sensibility

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A Before Reading

- 1 *Sense and Sensibility* is a story about old world, middle class England. It is about people who have a lot of money and property. These people make up the “polite society”. How do you think “polite society” lived? What did they do in the daytime? How did they spend their money? What did they do in their spare time?
- 2 Here are six characters with some of the author’s words about each one.



**Elinor
Dashwood**

“... kind and sensible,
has good sense, has learnt
to control her feelings ...”



John Willoughby

“... his voice and manners
were extremely pleasing ...”



**Lucy
Steele**

“...pretty face with very bright,
intelligent eyes ... looked carefully
at each person she spoke to ...”



Colonel Brandon

“... quiet, sensible man who said
very little ... a serious face and good
manners ...”



**Marianne
Dashwood**

“... interesting and beautiful ...
she felt strongly about everything
and her feelings were always
clear to everyone ...”



**Edward
Ferrars**

“... a pleasant face and very good
manners ... very shy, kind and
thoughtful ...”

Some of these people get married in the story. Who do you think marries whom? Why?

B While Reading

3 Who am I?

- (a) An older lady who laughs a lot and talks a lot about love?
- (b) A thirteen year old who is lively and independent and who speaks her mind freely?
- (c) A good looking man who enjoys dancing until very late?
- (d) A sister who enjoys painting and who thinks about things very carefully?
- (e) A quiet man hoping to become a priest?

4 Elinor and Marianne Dashwood begin the story living at Norland Park in Sussex. Use the map to track their travels in England. Write the name of the property, the owner and which county it is in. Follow the example.

The counties of England at the time of this story

- 1 Cornwall
- 2 Devon
- 3 Somerset
- 4 Dorset
- 5 Hampshire
- 6 Surrey
- 7 Sussex
- 8 Kent
- 9 Berkshire
- 10 Oxfordshire



2

4

3

**1 Norland Park
Sussex
Old Mr Dashwood**

- 5 Read to the end of chapter 3. Colonel Brandon receives an urgent letter from London. The letter stops him from taking the group to Whitwell. What do you think this letter is about?
- 6 In chapter 13 Willoughby says: "Tell me, Miss (Elinor) Dashwood, what do you think of me? Am I bad or stupid?". How do you feel about Willoughby? In your opinion is he bad or stupid? Why?

C After Reading

- 7 By the end of the story there are four marriages. Who gets married? Do you think these people have made the right choice? Why or why not? Do you think they should have married someone else?
- 8 Marianne falls in love with two men in the story – John Willoughby and Colonel Brandon. Which man do you like best? Why?
- 9 In chapter 13 Willoughby tells his mistakes to Elinor. Imagine he is telling his mistakes to Marianne. Act out the scene with another student.

Student A:

You are Willoughby. Explain to Marianne why you told her you stopped loving her but you now love her again.

Student B:

You are Marianne. You are weak from a fever, but really want to understand what Willoughby is thinking.