

Before Reading

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 92)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that 1c and 2e are closest to the truth, although to a certain extent 1a and 2d might also apply to one of the sisters.

ACTIVITY 2 BEFORE READING

Open discussion.

While Reading

CHAPTERS 1 TO 3 WHILE READING

- 1 John Dashwood to his wife Fanny, about giving financial help to Mrs Dashwood and her daughters, as his dying father had asked him to do.
- 2 Fanny Dashwood to her husband John, about the idea of making a regular allowance to his stepmother, Mrs Dashwood.
- 3 Marianne to her mother, about the possibility of Elinor marrying Edward and leaving the family home.
- 4 Mrs Dashwood to her daughter Marianne, pointing out that Marianne is still young enough to find the right man to marry.
- 5 Elinor to Marianne, about Colonel Brandon, who is considered an old man by Marianne.
- 6 Marianne to her mother, about the lack of emotion shown by Elinor and Edward when they said goodbye.
- 7 Sir John Middleton to Elinor, about 'catching' Willoughby as a husband.
- 8 Willoughby to Elinor, about Colonel Brandon.
- 9 Colonel Brandon to Elinor, about Marianne, who he is in love with.
- 10 Margaret to Elinor, about Willoughby taking a lock of Marianne's hair.
- 11 Mrs Jennings to Marianne, about her going with Willoughby to look at Mrs Smith's house.
- 12 Willoughby to Mrs Dashwood, about her proposed changes to Barton Cottage.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 4

Students will find out as they read that Willoughby departs, Edward arrives, nothing is said about any engagement, and Colonel Brandon has been called away to help a girl who has been seduced by Willoughby.

CHAPTERS 4 TO 6 WHILE READING

Other ways of correcting the 'false' sentences are also possible.

- 1 F Willoughby was not planning to return to Devonshire for some time.
- 2 F Elinor could not explain Willoughby's strange behaviour and she was not confident that his intentions were honourable.
- 3 T
- 4 F The lock of hair in Edward's ring belonged to Lucy Steele.
- 5 F The Steele sisters pretended to be very fond of Lady Middleton's children.
- 6 T
- 7 T
- 8 F Elinor did not tell her family about Edward's secret engagement.
- 9 F Marianne was anxious to see Willoughby in London.
- 10 F At the party in London, Willoughby spoke coldly and distantly to Marianne.
- 11 T
- 12 F Mrs Jennings was angry about Willoughby's behaviour.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 7

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the 'yes' answer is number 2.

CHAPTERS 7 TO 9 WHILE READING

- 1 *Why . . . ?* Because she thought it was a letter from Willoughby.
- 2 *Why . . . ?* Because he hoped that the information would be useful to Marianne in her unhappiness, by showing her Willoughby's true character.
- 3 *What . . . ?* She was the daughter of his brother's ex-wife. (*Note:* She was not his niece, because Colonel Brandon's brother was not her father.)
- 4 *Who . . . ?* Willoughby and Colonel Brandon.
- 5 *What . . . ?* He advised her to encourage the colonel to propose marriage to her.
- 6 *Who . . . ?* The wealthy Miss Morton.
- 7 *Who . . . ?* Lucy's sister Anne.
- 8 *What . . . ?* The discovery that Elinor had been suffering in silence for four months, unable to speak about her misery to anyone.

- 9 *Why . . . ?* Because she discovered that Edward was engaged to Lucy and that he refused to break the engagement.
- 10 *Who . . . ?* Colonel Brandon offered him one, through Elinor.
- 11 *What . . . ?* She caught a violent cold after two evening walks in thick wet grass.
- 12 *Why . . . ?* To find out how Marianne was, to offer an explanation of his behaviour, and to ask her forgiveness.

BEFORE READING CHAPTER 10

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. In fact, numbers 2 and 5 are true.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

- This is Fanny Dashwood, as her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law move out of the family home in Norland Park, taking their few possessions with them. It shows Fanny's meanness, her greed, and how little she cares about her husband's relations.
 - This is Willoughby, having left Devon and said goodbye to Marianne, about to propose to the wealthy Miss Grey in London. It shows his weak and selfish character, only thinking about himself and his own needs, never about other people's feelings and the hurt he might be causing.
 - This is Lucy Steele, soon after meeting Elinor at Barton Park. It shows her suspicious nature, her readiness to be jealous and to fight for what she wants. It also shows she has no real affection for Edward but only regards him as a possession to keep hold of.
 - This is Colonel Brandon, watching Marianne dancing with Willoughby at one of the parties at Barton Park. It shows how desperately he is in love with Marianne, and also shows his generous, honest nature, in that he is able to admit to himself that it is natural for Marianne to prefer Willoughby to himself.
 - This is Edward Ferrars, on his first visit to Barton Cottage, having just told Elinor that the lock of hair in his ring belongs to his sister Fanny, although in fact it is Lucy's. It shows that basically he is a good, honest person, full of guilt about lying to Elinor, whom he loves, and regret for his foolish mistake in getting engaged to Lucy. He knows what he ought to do, but he is not a strong enough personality to make himself do it.
- 6 This is Mrs Jennings, at her house in London, having just told Colonel Brandon that Elinor and Marianne are about to return to Devon. She believes that the Colonel is now in love with Elinor and thinks he has gone across the room to propose to her. It shows that Mrs Jennings is not very clever, and perhaps not very sensitive to people's deep feelings, but it also shows she is kind and good-hearted, always wanting the people around her to be happy.

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

Students can complete this conversation how they like. These are some possible responses.

ELINOR: Marianne, what's happened? You look very excited!

MARIANNE: *Oh, I am, I am. You'll never guess what happened last night.*

ELINOR: Last night? No, I can't possibly guess. Just tell me!

MARIANNE: *Willoughby has promised to give me a horse.*

ELINOR: A horse? Willoughby promised you that? Marianne, what *are* you thinking of?

MARIANNE: *What do you mean, Elinor? It's a wonderful idea. It means we can go riding together whenever we want.*

ELINOR: You mean you intend to go riding with Willoughby – just the two of you?

MARIANNE: *What's wrong with that?*

ELINOR: You *must* know what's wrong with that. People will talk. In any case, you cannot accept a horse as a present.

MARIANNE: *Why not?*

ELINOR: Because it would be such an expensive gift! People would think there was an understanding between you and Willoughby.

MARIANNE: *I don't care what people think – it's none of their business!*

ELINOR: I know it's not their business, but people still talk.

MARIANNE: *But, Elinor, I really want this horse. Can't you understand that?*

ELINOR: Yes, I do understand how much you want it. But where will you keep it? How much will it cost to feed, to look after?

MARIANNE: *Surely we can afford to keep a horse, can't we?*

ELINOR: You know very well Mama couldn't possibly afford it.

MARIANNE: *No, I suppose not. Oh dear. I'll have to tell Willoughby that I can't accept it.*

ELINOR: I think you'll find that is the right decision, Marianne.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

There are many possible examples. Some are given below.

SENSE

- Elinor prevents her mother from taking a house which would be too expensive for their income.
- She conceals her feelings for Edward in order not to create difficulties for him, or upset her family.
- She continues to help Edward even when she knows she has lost him to Lucy.
- She gives Marianne sensible advice about her behaviour towards Willoughby.

SENSIBILITY

- Marianne won't consider Colonel Brandon as a husband because of his age, and pays no attention to his actual qualities.
- She shows her feelings for Willoughby quite openly, without any hard evidence that he is trustworthy and will offer her marriage.
- When she is unhappy, she shows no self-control, and spends hours sobbing violently, thinking of nothing except her own misery.
- She makes herself ill by going for 'romantic' walks in the wet instead of looking after herself sensibly.

The question about change:

Marianne shows some evidence of change, in that she learns about herself and her self-centredness, and intends to exercise more self-control in future. Under the influence of a kind and sensible husband, she might lose the extremes of sensibility she had when very young.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Acceptable answers to this cloze passage are any words that have an appropriate meaning and fit the grammar of the sentence. Students might like to check each other's work and discuss alternative answers. Some alternatives are given below.

Willoughby, how could you *behave* to me like that *last* night? You were obviously *unwilling* (*reluctant*) to speak to me, *shake* my hand, or spend *any* time with me at *all*. You turned away as *soon* (*quickly*) as you could. What *have* I done? Are you *angry* with me? You know *very* well how much you *mean* to me. I've never *hidden* my feelings for you, (*al*)*though* perhaps this was rather *unwise* (*foolish*). But you showed your *affection* (*love*) for me in so *many* ways. I cannot understand *what* has changed you! *I have* not changed. I must *ask* you to reply at *once*. I am ill with *worry* (*anxiety*)! My heart is simply *breaking*! Willoughby, have you no *pity*? If I really mean *nothing* to you any more, *please* return all of my *letters*, and the lock of *hair* which you begged me *to* give you.

Marianne

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

Free writing. Students can choose whether they complete the story by marrying Marianne to Willoughby, or by making Marianne older and wiser, and deciding that she could never really trust Willoughby again and so would not be happy with him.

These are the marriages to comment on: Lucy and Edward, Elinor and Colonel Brandon, and possibly Marianne and Willoughby.