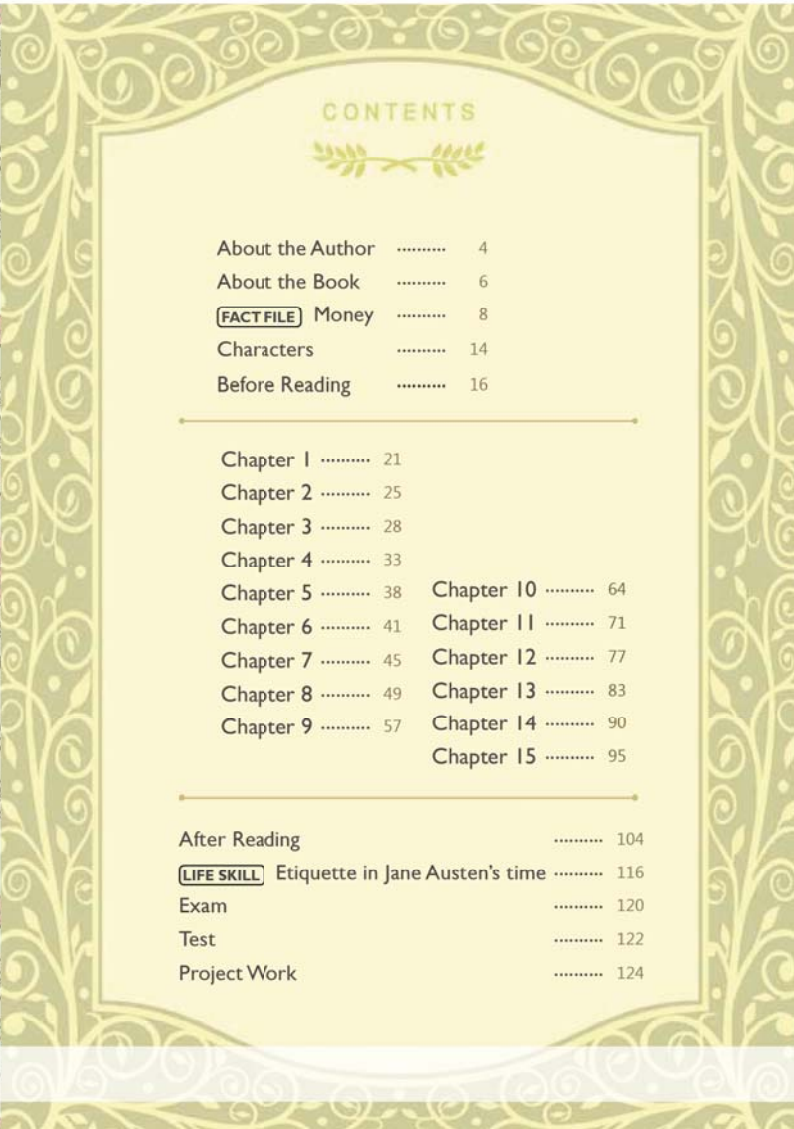
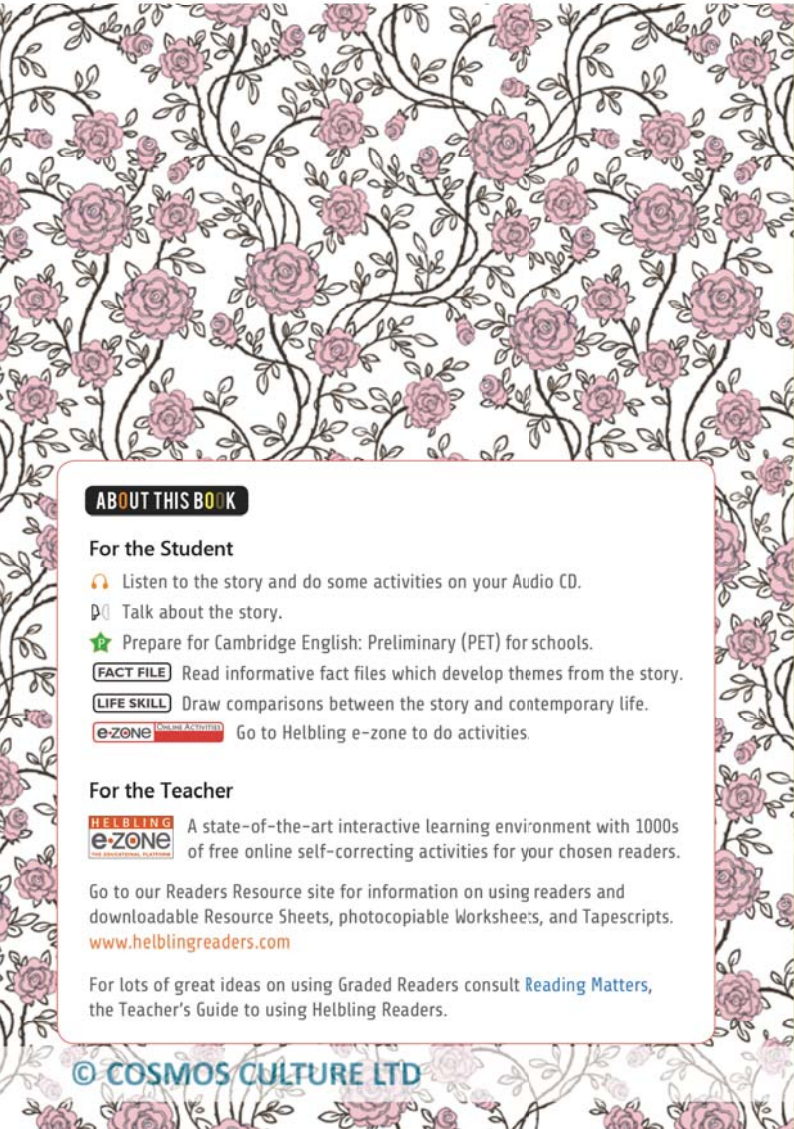








Sense and Sensibility

Jane Austen



ABOUT THIS BOOK

For the Student

-  Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
-  Talk about the story.
-  Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.
- FACT FILE** Read informative fact files which develop themes from the story.
- LIFE SKILL** Draw comparisons between the story and contemporary life.
- e-ZONE**  Go to Helbling e-zone to do activities.

For the Teacher

HELBLING e-ZONE A state-of-the-art interactive learning environment with 1000s of free online self-correcting activities for your chosen readers.

Go to our Readers Resource site for information on using readers and downloadable Resource Sheets, photocopiable Worksheets, and Tapescripts. www.helblingreaders.com

For lots of great ideas on using Graded Readers consult [Reading Matters](#), the Teacher's Guide to using Helbling Readers.

CONTENTS



About the Author	4
About the Book	6
FACTFILE Money	8
Characters	14
Before Reading	16

Chapter 1	21
Chapter 2	25
Chapter 3	28
Chapter 4	33
Chapter 5	38
Chapter 6	41
Chapter 7	45
Chapter 8	49
Chapter 9	57
Chapter 10	64
Chapter 11	71
Chapter 12	77
Chapter 13	83
Chapter 14	90
Chapter 15	95

After Reading	104
LIFE SKILL Etiquette in Jane Austen's time	116
Exam	120
Test	122
Project Work	124

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Austen was born in December 1775. Her father was a vicar¹ and she was one of eight children. She was the second youngest. The Austens lived in Steventon in Hampshire, and they were a happy, well-educated and loving family. Jane and her sister, Cassandra were very close, and much of what we know about Jane Austen comes from her letters to Cassandra.

Jane Austen began to write stories and sketches² for her family when she was twelve years old. When she was a teenager, she was determined³ to be a published author.

In all her novels, Jane Austen wrote about marriage, but she herself never married. Around Jane's twentieth

birthday, she fell in love with Tom Lefroy, a young law student. They met when he was visiting relatives in Hampshire. During his short visit, they met often and danced often. His family separated⁴ them because Jane was not from a wealthy⁵ family. He went back to London to study, and two years later, he married the sister of a fellow student.

Jane Austen wrote her six great novels in seven years. *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811; *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813; *Mansfield Park* in 1814; *Emma* in 1815; *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, were published in 1817 after her death. They were all published anonymously⁶, but in her lifetime it became known that she was the author.

In 1816, Jane became ill. She traveled to Winchester to see a doctor, and she died there on 18th July 1817. She is buried at Winchester Cathedral.



- 1 vicar: religious minister
- 2 sketches: (here) comic scenes
- 3 was determined: really wanted
- 4 separated: kept them apart
- 5 wealthy: rich
- 6 anonymously: without showing the name of the author

ABOUT THE BOOK

Sense and Sensibility was Jane Austen's first novel to be published. At that time, sensibility¹ had a different meaning than it does today: it meant over-emotional² and romantic. When the book was written Romanticism was becoming popular in art, music and literature. In Romanticism, feelings and emotions are more important than duty³ and common sense⁴. Jane Austen tries to show the dangers of Romanticism in *Sense and Sensibility*. However, she is not completely against it. Instead, she seems to say, we need to find a balance⁵ between "sense" and "sensibility."

Sense and Sensibility is the story of two very different sisters who meet and fall in love with two very different men. Elinor is the elder sister and she represents sense.

Marianne is the younger sister and she represents sensibility. Elinor falls in love with Edward, who is kind and a man of sense. Marianne falls in love with Willoughby who is handsome and romantic and everything she ever hoped a man to be.

Jane Austen had first written *Sense and Sensibility* in 1795 when she was nineteen years old. It was written as a series of letters and it was called *Elinor and Marianne*. Over the years, she made several changes to it before it was finally published in 1811. Jane Austen was then thirty-five years old and she died six years later.

Sense and Sensibility was successful and sold well so the publisher was very happy to publish Jane's next book, *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813.

- 1 **sensibility**: being emotional and romantic
- 2 **emotional**: showing your feelings: sadness, fear, love, happiness
- 3 **duty**: the right thing to do; something you have to do
- 4 **common sense**: having good sense and thinking practically
- 5 **find a balance**: give equal importance

MONEY

FORTUNE HUNTING OR FINANCIAL SECURITY?

Because her novels talk about love, marriage and self-awareness¹, Jane Austen is often considered to be our “dear aunt Jane”, always ready to help and advice on affairs² 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 rank³ and class⁴. 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 wealth⁵ than anything else, included their relatives’ difficult financial situation.

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) greed⁶ and set of values⁷. 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 unscrupulous⁸ characters are fortune hunters, just think of Willoughby and Lucy Steele in *Sense and Sensibility*!

However, Austen is aware that marriage 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 solely⁹ for money, but it is foolish to marry without it. In other words, a woman must either have money or marry money.

¹ self-awareness: knowledge of yourself

² affairs: (here) things; matters

³ rank: position in society

⁴ class: economic group

⁵ wealth: money

⁶ greed: wanting things for yourself

⁷ set of values: group of beliefs

⁸ unscrupulous: behaving in a dishonest way to get what you want

⁹ solely: only

MONEY TALK

How do you translate these in your language?

MONEY	PRICE
FINANCIAL	VALUE
GREED	EARNINGS
FORTUNE	INFLATION
WEALTH	ALLOWANCE
INHERITANCE	EXPENSES
INCOME	BUYING POWER



CHANGING TIMES

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



HOW MUCH IS IT WORTH?



Translating the monetary¹ realities of Austen's time into modern equivalents can help readers understand the characters' motivations and the meaning of their actions. Throughout Jane Austen's novels we are provided with information about money-related issues, such as property, inheritance², annual incomes and fortunes. But what do these numbers mean in modern terms? What is the buying power of the sums mentioned throughout Jane Austen's novels? According to the "Retail Price Index" of the Measuring Worth³ website,

1 pound in Jane Austen's time has the same value as approximately 70 pounds today. However, if we look at the "Average Earnings Index" on the same website then that pound becomes 792 pounds, over 10 times more!

It is very hard, or maybe impossible, to translate the real value of money as numerous factors influence spending power in any age: war, inflation⁴ taxes, the cost of primary goods, to name a few. And no single multiplier can ever give us a precise answer.

	1820	Today
What you can buy	£ 1	£ 73
What you earn	£ 1	£ 792



¹ monetary: related to money
² inheritance: property/money you get when someone dies
³ worth: (here) value of something in money
⁴ inflation: how prices increase



MAKE ALLOWANCES

Society in the early nineteenth century was very rigidly organized. Marriage between the classes was rare and there was little chance for people of moving up in society. The average working family was very close to poverty, despite the increase in national wealth generated¹ by the Industrial Revolution. The lives of women with no financial independence, such as the women in the Dashwood family, were very restricted².

Just like the Dashwood family, Jane Austen and her family had

to face financial difficulties. From her letters, our most precious source of information about Austen, we know that when she was 19, she was getting an annual allowance³ of £20 from her father for personal expenses. But she often writes about not being able to dress satisfactorily on social occasions. Despite her family's attempt to represent her as a talented amateur, Jane Austen worked hard on her novels and was able to earn a significant income⁴ thanks to her earnings from them.



Did you know?

Even the cost of sending and receiving letters was problematic for Jane Austen, addicted to correspondence as she was.



Jane Austen's brother Henry published, as the preface to the posthumous⁵ edition of *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, a biographical note in which he wrote about her surprise and pride when *Sense and Sensibility*, her first published novel, earned her £140. Austen earned £23,000 in total from the sale of her four books. This was not a "fortune" to use one of her own terms, but at least it prevented Jane from having to work as a governess, which, after marriage was the only option open to women of her class in order to earn some money.

- 1 **generated:** created
- 2 **restricted:** limited
- 3 **allowance:** money you get regularly
- 4 **income:** what you earn
- 5 **posthumous:** published after she died

CHARACTERS



John Fashwood



Fanny Fashwood



Sir John Middleton



Lady Middleton



Mrs Jennings



Mrs Fashwood

Elinor

Marianne

Anne Steele

Lucy Steele



Willoughby



Edward Ferrars



Colonel Brandon

BEFORE READING

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

- T F a The novel is a horror story.
- T F b The story takes place in England.
- T F c It was first published in 1815.
- T F d The author, Jane Austen, never married.
- T F e Jane Austen first wrote *Sense and Sensibility* when she was nineteen years old.
- T F 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.

- 1. paint 2. hunt 3. play the piano
- 4. ride 5. dance 6. sing



3 Match the adjectives to the definitions.

calm emotional lively kind shy romantic

- a showing lots of feelings _____
- b interested in love and feelings _____
- c full of energy _____
- d not happy talking to or meeting people _____
- e generous and helpful _____
- f not nervous or worried _____

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

- _____ a unpack ① look quickly
- _____ b glance ② try to make somebody feel better
- _____ c blush ③ be unsure of something
- _____ d argue ④ talk
- _____ e comfort ⑤ convince somebody to do something
- _____ f chat ⑥ have a disagreement
- _____ g persuade ⑦ take things out of boxes and put in a room
- _____ 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 _____
- b think someone is the wrong choice _____
- c want _____
- d have no hope of _____

6 Match the words with their meanings.

- _____ a sense ① being romantic and emotional
 _____ b sensibility ② having good judgment and care

7 Which characters show **sense** and which show **sensibility**?



→ _____
 He is very romantic and impulsive. He is lively and energetic. He loves dancing and he is a good rider.



→ _____
 He is shy and serious. He always wants to do the right thing. He is very reliable and you can trust him.



→ _____
 She is kind. She always thinks of other people first. She doesn't show her feelings. People come to her for advice. She is not romantic and she is not emotional. She is calm and practical.



→ _____
 She is lively and impulsive. She believes that you should follow your heart and not your head. She is beautiful and romantic. She wants to fall in love. She is very emotional.



→ _____
 He helps his friends and is reliable. He cares about other people. He is serious and some people think he is boring. He is kind and is always ready to help other people.

8 Read the passage and then answer the questions.

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.

"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 whom 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."

- a What career would Edward's sister and mother like him to have?
- b Is Edward ambitious? Give reasons for your answer.
- c What does Mrs. Dashwood hope will happen? Tick (✓).
 1. Edward will marry her daughter, Elinor.
 2. Edward will have a good career.
- d Does Marianne think Edward is the right man for Elinor? Give reasons for your answer.
- e What kind of man does Marianne want to marry?
- f What do we learn about Edward?
 Do you think he is a good man to marry?



CHAPTER 1

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, impulsive¹ and full of life. Margaret, the youngest sister was just thirteen years old.

Sadly, their father died suddenly, and their half-brother, John Dashwood inherited² Norland Park. As soon as his father's funeral³ 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 mistress⁴ of Norland Park now.

1 impulsive: doing things without thinking or planning

2 inherited: got something when someone died

3 funeral: ceremony when someone dies

4 mistress: lady in charge



2 Mrs. Dashwood was so upset by Fanny's behavior, 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 wealth¹ 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 disappointment² 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.

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



1 wealth: money, possessions

2 disappointment: not how you wanted something to be



CHAPTER 2

3 Marianne looked unhappy. "What's the matter? Do you disapprove of¹ 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 expect² so much!"

"Oh Marianne, you're only sixteen. It's too early in life to despair of³ 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.

1 **disapprove of:** feel somebody or something is bad or wrong

2 **expect:** want

3 **despair of:** feel that something will never happen

4 **offend:** hurt or upset somebody

4 One afternoon, Marianne sat and watched Elinor while she was drawing. "It's such a pity," said Marianne, "that Edward doesn't like drawing."

"What do you mean?" asked Elinor, "Edward doesn't like drawing, but he loves seeing other people's drawings."

Marianne didn't want to offend⁴ Elinor. "Of course, I don't know Edward as well as you do," she said. "He is a man of sense and is very kind."

Elinor was happy with this reply. "You're right. I know him better than you. We've spent a lot of time together. I've listened to his opinions on literature and art, and I think that he's very well informed. He loves books and he has a good imagination. At first sight, he isn't handsome, but then you start to notice the kindness in his eyes, which are lovely. I know him so well now, that I think he's really handsome. What do you think, Marianne?"





5 "When you marry him, I'll begin to think he's handsome," replied Marianne.

"But I'm not sure that he wants to marry me," said Elinor. "I know he likes me. But I'm sure his mother and his sister both want him to marry a wealthy¹ woman."

Marianne was surprised. "So you aren't engaged² to him!" she said.

"No," said Elinor.

In fact, Elinor really didn't know if Edward wanted to marry her. He often looked unhappy and she wasn't sure why. Sometimes, for a few painful³ minutes, she believed that he felt no more than friendship for her.

Fanny, however, had noticed the friendship between them and she was worried. "Mrs. Dashwood," she said one day, "I hope Elinor is not becoming too attached to Edward. My mother wishes him to marry a girl with wealth."

Mrs. Dashwood was upset by this conversation. She decided to leave Norland Park as soon as possible.

At that time, Mrs. Dashwood received a letter from Sir John Middleton, a relative of hers, in Devon.



6 The letter was very friendly. He understood that she needed a house, and he had a lovely cottage. He invited her to come with her daughters to Barton Park, so that she could see Barton Cottage.

She accepted his offer immediately. She wanted to live as far away as possible from her selfish daughter-in-law, Fanny.

Barton Cottage

- What part of England are they moving to? Find it on a map.
- Why are they moving?
- Have you ever moved to live somewhere new? Tell a friend.

1 wealthy: rich

2 engaged: having agreed to marry

3 painful: that make her feel bad