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## MONEY



Because her novels talk about love, marriage and self-awareness, 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, including their relatives' difficult financial situation.

## MONEY TALK

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

**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<sup>•</sup> and set of values<sup>•</sup>. 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<sup>•</sup> 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 only for money, but it is foolish to marry without it. In other words, a woman must either have money or marry money.

## 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.

- **affairs:** (here) things; matters
- **class:** economic group
- **greed:** wanting things for oneself
- **rank:** position in society

- **self-awareness:** knowledge of oneself
- **set** of values: group of beliefs
- **unscrupulous:** behaving in a dishonest way to get what one wants

# Sense and Sensibility



John Dashwood



Fanny Dashwood



Mrs. Dashwood



Marianne



Elinor



Margaret



Anne Steele Lucy Steele



Sir John Middleton



Lady Middleton



Mrs Jennings



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.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b The story takes place in England.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c It was first published in 1815.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d The author, Jane Austen, never married.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e Jane Austen first wrote <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> when she was nineteen years old. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f The central theme of the novel is country life versus city life.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**2 Read the following descriptions of some of the characters in the story. Match each sentence opening (1–6) to the correct ending (a–g). There is an additional ending that you will not have to use.**

- 1 Lady Middleton was tall and elegant;
  - 2 Edward Ferrars wasn't handsome, but
  - 3 Marianne, the second eldest daughter, was everything but responsible. She was like her mother,
  - 4 Marianne's eyes had a spirit and a passion,
  - 5 Colonel Brandon is the kind of man,
  - 6 Anne and Lucy Steele
- a happy, impulsive, and full of life.
  - b which made her very pale.
  - c were very polite and smartly dressed.
  - d whom everybody speaks well of, and nobody talks to.
  - e he was intelligent and kind.
  - f which Willoughby loved.
  - g however, she was not as friendly as her husband.



### 3 Match the adjectives to the definitions.

emotional   lively   kind   shy

- a showing lots of feelings .....
- b full of energy .....
- c not happy talking to or meeting people .....
- d generous and helpful .....

### 4 These verbs are from the story. Match them to their definitions.

- a doubt                      1 look quickly
- b glance                      2 try to make somebody feel better
- c blush                        3 be unsure of something
- d argue                        4 convince somebody to do something
- e comfort                      5 have a disagreement
- f persuade                      6 go red with embarrassment

### 1 Read the following description of Willoughby and say whether the statements (a–f) are true (T) or false (F).

The invitation was accepted, Mrs Jennings was delighted. Marianne's eyes shone with happiness. She was filled with hope at the thought of seeing Willoughby. Elinor was miserable. She wished she had the same possibility of hope. The house in London was beautiful. As soon as they arrived, Marianne sat down to write a letter. She must be writing to Willoughby, thought Elinor and she didn't say anything. They must be engaged, she thought happily.

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Both Marianne and Elinor were in love with Willoughby. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b Both Marianne and Elinor were very happy.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c Elinor was fond of her sister Marianne.                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d Elinor thought that Willoughby didn't love Marianne.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e Elinor and Marianne were not hopeful in the same way.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f Mrs Jennings looked forward to going to London.        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



## 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:** feeling of sadness when something is different from how one hoped
- **funeral:** religious ceremony when someone dies
- **impulsive:** with the tendency to do 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 partner.

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

- **disapprove of:** think somebody or something is bad or wrong
- **expect:** (here) want



# AFTER READING VOCABULARY

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

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

1

2

3

4

5

6



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 .....

## **P** B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 3

### 1 Choose the correct answer A, B, C or D.

- 1 When Marianne first saw Willoughby, she thought that...
  - A  he was boring.
  - B  he was like the hero in a story book.
  - C  she could never trust him.
  - D  he would break her heart.
  
- 2 John Dashwood hoped that...
  - A  Elinor would marry Edward.
  - B  Colonel Brandon would marry Marianne.
  - C  Colonel Brandon would marry Elinor.
  - D  Marianne would marry Willoughby.
  
- 3 Edward didn't marry Lucy because...
  - A  he was in love with Elinor.
  - B  Elinor told him she was in love with him.
  - C  Marianne begged him not to marry her.
  - D  Lucy broke off the engagement and married his brother.
  
- 4 Willoughby didn't marry Marianne because...
  - A  he was in love with somebody else.
  - B  he needed to marry a wealthy girl.
  - C  he hadn't fallen in love with Marianne.
  - D  he was already married.
  
- 5 Elinor had doubts that Willoughby and Marianne were engaged because...
  - A  Marianne didn't have a ring.
  - B  Willoughby didn't have a lock of Marianne's hair.
  - C  they didn't seem to be in love.
  - D  they hadn't said they were engaged.