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FACT FILE

MEN AND WOMEN

IN LOVE AND LITERATURE

Love in literature

In pairs, think of books that describe different experiences of love.

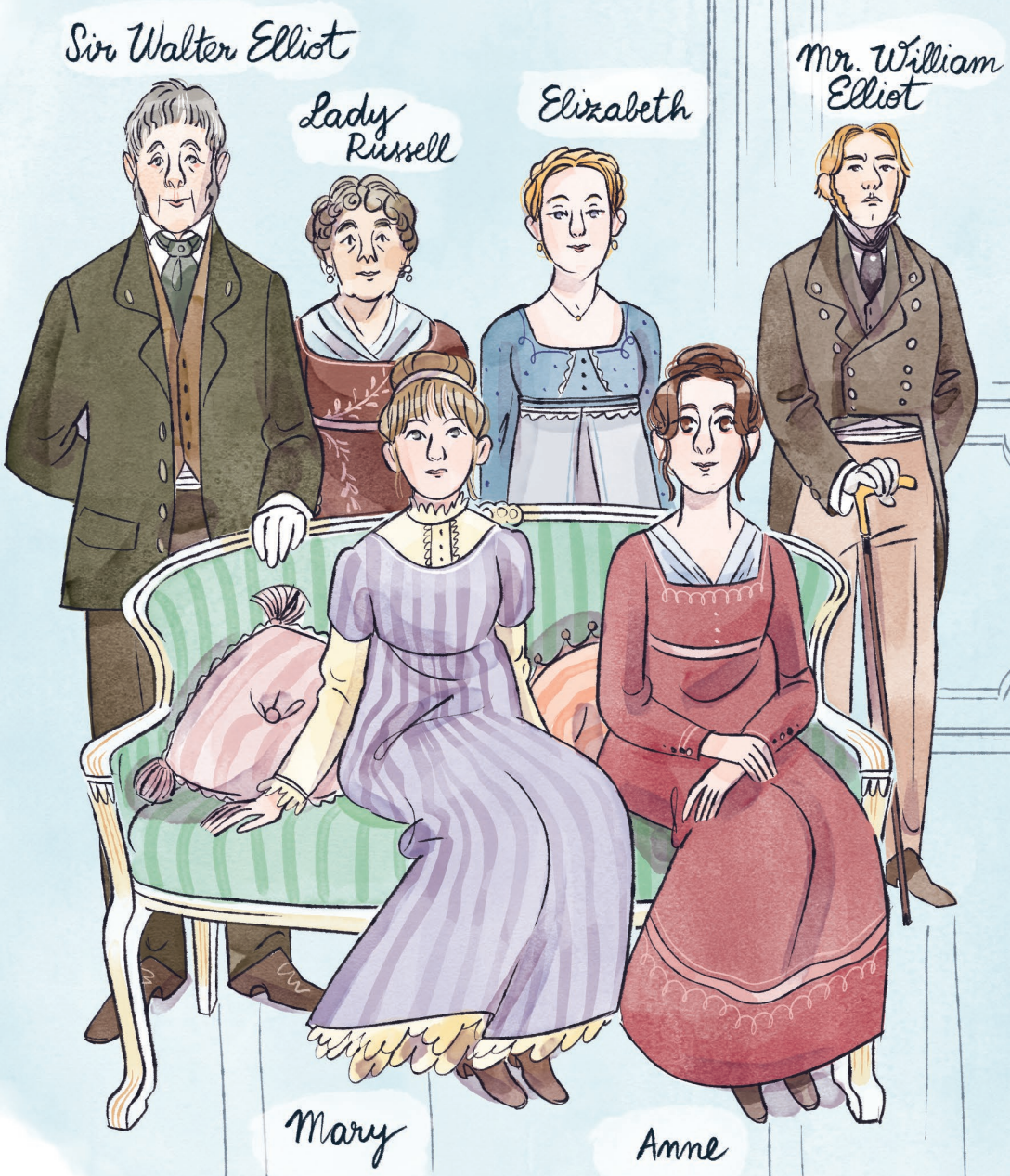
At one point in the story, Captain Harville tells Anne Elliot that he has never read a book in which a woman stayed in love for a long time. Anne replies that women 'love longer' than men. She says that Captain Harville thinks this because most books and poems were written by men. Men had more opportunities to study and become writers. Because of this, they often created female characters who seemed emotionally weak or uncertain•, instead of showing that women can love deeply• and for a long time.

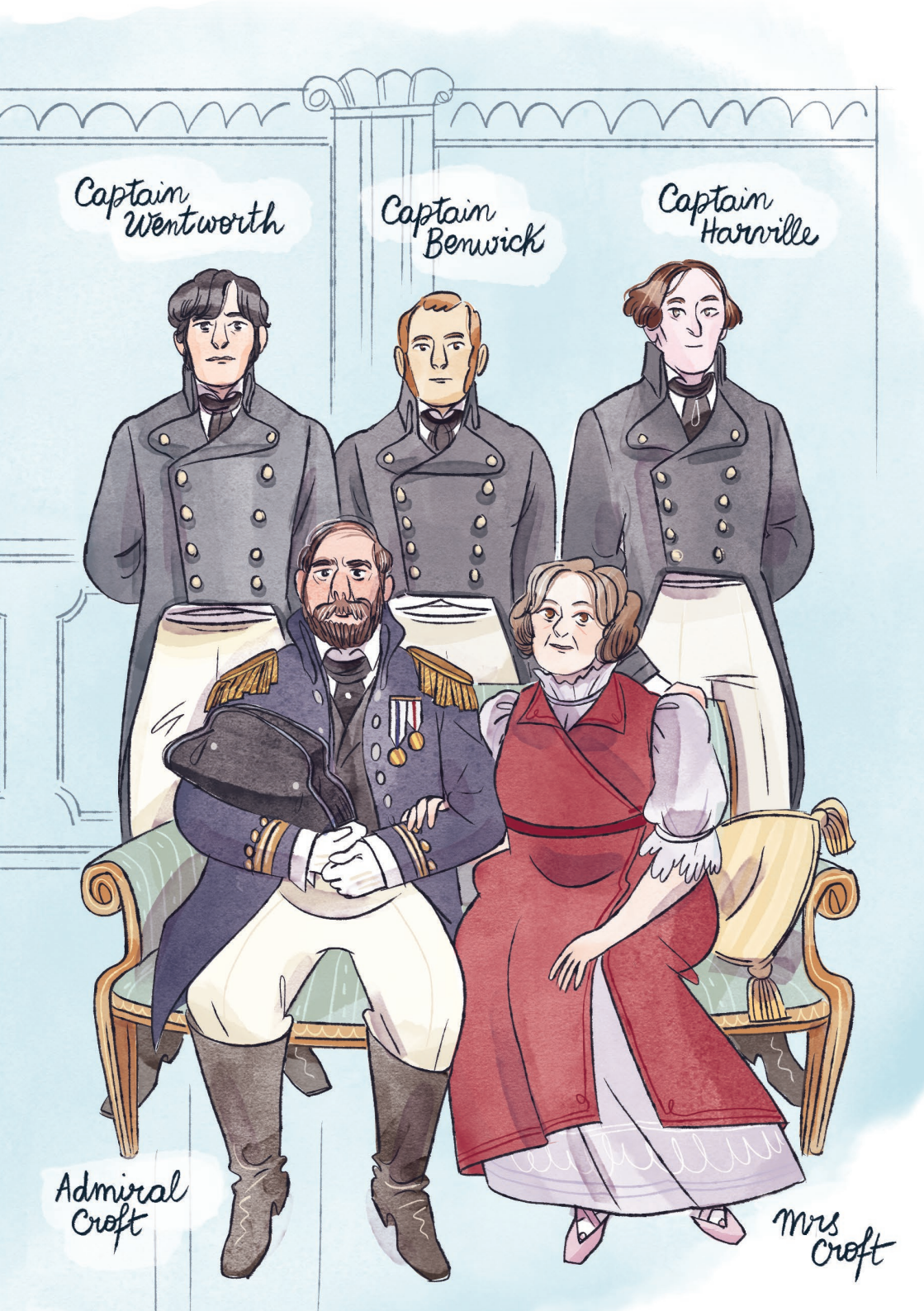
This conversation makes us think about some important questions. Do men and women really experience love in different ways? Or are these ideas created by society, books and traditions•? To answer these questions, we need to think about love, gender• and the influence of literature.

From a biological point of view, some studies suggest that women may feel some stages of romantic love more strongly or for a longer time than men. This may be because men and women have different hormones•. However, hormones can affect emotions, but they do not decide how long love lasts. The ability to love someone over time does not depend on being a man or a woman. Love is influenced by biology, psychology, personal experiences and culture. Research shows that men and women often express• love in different ways, but there is no proof• that one gender loves longer than the other.

- **deeply**: (here) very much
- **express**: show; communicate
- **gender**: male, female or other sex
- **hormones**: chemicals in the body
- **proof**: something that shows a thing is true
- **traditions**: things people have done or believed for a long time
- **uncertain**: not sure

Persuasion

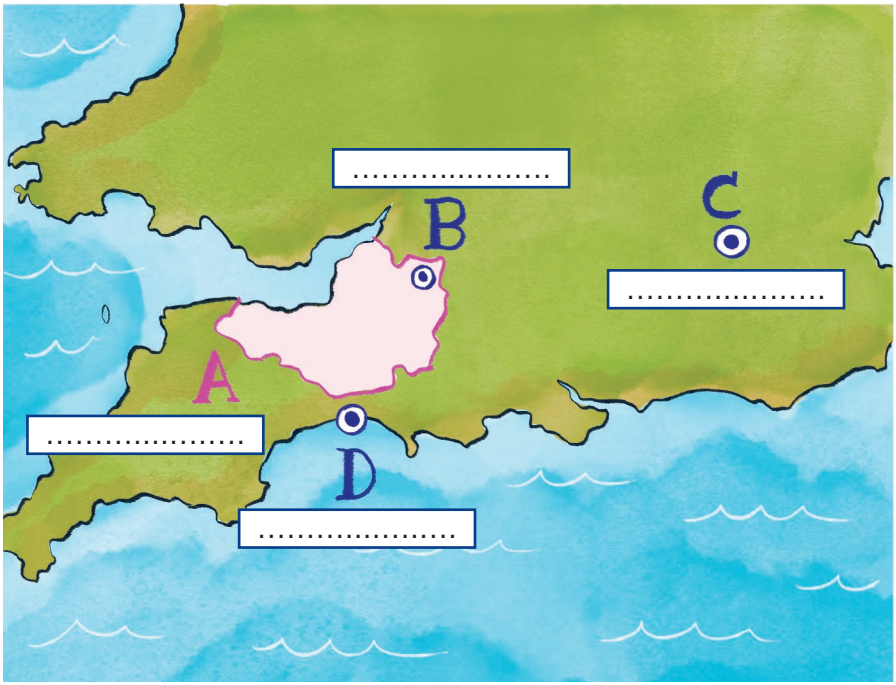

Sir Walter Elliot
Lady Russell
Elizabeth
Mr. William Elliot
Mary
Anne


Captain Wentworth
Captain Benwick
Captain Harville
Admiral Croft
Mrs Croft

BEFORE READING

1 WEB **This story is set in the South of England. Find out more about the following places online. Then label the map.**

Bath London Lyme Regis Somerset



2 **Read the following description. Which place from Exercise 1 is it describing?**

..... is a beautiful little seaside town. There's a long stone pier called the Cobb which you can walk along. It's got lovely views of the cliffs and the sea. And there's a beautiful little bay where people swim.

3 **Write a similar description for one of the other places in Exercise 1. Then share your description with a partner.**

4 **Listen to the first part of the story, which introduces some of the characters. Then answer the questions with the correct names. Listen as many times as you need to.**



Sir Walter Elliot



Elizabeth Elliot



Anne Elliot



Mary Elliot/Musgrove



Mr William Elliot



Lady Russell

a Whose wife has died? .....
b Which of the Elliot sisters is Lady Russell's favourite? .....
c Which sister married Charles Musgrove? .....
d Which sister is kind? .....
e Who is Sir Walter's favourite daughter? .....
f Who is Sir Walter's heir? .....
g Who was Lady Elliot's friend? .....
h Who has two children? .....
i Who thinks Anne is boring? ....
j Who married into a wealthy family? .....
k Who is younger than Elizabeth and older than Mary? .....

1 THE ELLIOTS

Sir Walter Elliot, of Kellynch Hall in Somerset, didn't enjoy reading. But there was one book he loved, *England's Noble*• *Families*. He liked reading about his family, and the book was always open at the page that described himself, his late• wife, Lady Elliot, and their three daughters—Elizabeth, Anne and Mary. Sir Walter, not having a son, had added the name of a distant• relative, Mr William Elliot, as his heir•.

At fifty-four, Sir Walter Elliot was still handsome, but he was also very foolish•. Luckily for him, Lady Elliot had been an excellent wife. For seventeen years, she had hidden his weaknesses• and looked after the family's money. After she died, her friend, Lady Russell, moved to the village of Kellynch to look after the three girls. Lady Russell loved them all, but Anne was her favourite. She was not, however, her father's favourite.

Sir Walter's eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was his favourite. Elizabeth was very beautiful, but unfortunately, she was as foolish and selfish as her father.

His youngest daughter, Mary, who was also selfish and proud, became more important to her father when she married Charles Musgrove. This was because Charles's family was very wealthy•, and they lived in Uppercross Hall, outside Uppercross village. Mary lived with her husband and two children in Uppercross Cottage, in the grounds• of the Hall.

Sir Walter's middle daughter, Anne, was beautiful, sensible, clever and kind, but her father and sister Elizabeth didn't see this. To them, she was just plain, boring Anne, and they usually ignored her.

- **distant:** not close
- **foolish:** silly; stupid
- **grounds:** land around a big house
- **heir:** person who gets someone's money, etc., when they die
- **late:** (here) now dead
- **noble:** of high social class
- **weaknesses:** bad qualities; not strong points
- **wealthy:** rich

At twenty-nine, Elizabeth had been the mistress• of Kellynch Hall for thirteen years, and her greatest wish was to marry a baronet• like her father. In fact, Elizabeth had hoped to marry the heir, Mr William Elliot, but he had not proposed to• her.

During one of her visits to London, Elizabeth had met Mr Elliot. He had just started to study law, and Elizabeth liked him. He was invited to visit the family at Kellynch Hall. After that first visit, they hoped he would visit again, but he never did. The following spring, they saw him again in London. He had married a rich lady from a lower social class.

Sir Walter was very angry. 'He's my heir,' he said. 'He should have talked to me before he proposed to her!'

Sir Walter

Do you think that Sir Walter has the right to be angry?
Why/Why not?
What do we know about Sir Walter so far?

Now Mr Elliot's wife had died, but Elizabeth still could not forgive him. Luckily, she had no time to think about marriage now, because her father was in serious debt•. While his late wife was alive, she had looked after the house. However, since her death, Sir Walter's spending had increased, and he now owed money to a number of people.

- **baronet:** noble person ("Sir")
- **debt:** something (often money) that is owed to another person
- **mistress:** lady who is the head of a house
- **proposed to:** asked (her) to marry (him)

Sir Walter's two friends, Mr Shepherd, a lawyer, and Lady Russell, were asked for their advice. Lady Russell was a kind and intelligent woman. But social class was important to her, and she wanted to save Sir Walter if she could. She did what no one else thought of doing—she talked to Anne. And Anne thought of a plan.

'If we can persuade your father to do all this,' said Lady Russell, looking at Anne's plan, 'he will pay off his debt in seven years.'

'I'm hopeful we can persuade him,' said Anne.

'What! Give up• every good thing in life! Give up travel, London, servants•, horses—impossible!' said Sir Walter. 'No, I would prefer to leave Kellynch Hall at once.'

'Leave Kellynch Hall?' said Mr Shepherd. 'That's an excellent idea! You could rent Kellynch Hall and move to London or Bath or even a smaller house in the country.'

'I'd like to stay in the country,' said Anne, but of course, no one listened to her.

At first, Sir Walter wanted to go to London, but Mr Shepherd suggested Bath. 'You can live more cheaply there and still be an important man,' he said.

Lady Russell liked this idea, too, so Sir Walter agreed to move to Bath.

- **give up:** stop doing something
- **servants:** people who work in other people's houses

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 **Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.**

faint faithful foolish glow polite
propose suitable wealthy

a Captain Wentworth was not a ..... husband for Anne.

b Now Anne could hardly stand Mr Elliot's smile or his ..... words.

c The sea air had given Anne a ....., and her eyes were bright.

d The sight of Louisa lying on the ground without moving made Henrietta ..... .

e Elizabeth wished Mr Elliot would ..... to her.

2 **Write three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.**

3 **Circle the word or words (1, 2, 3 or 4) which is/are closest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence.**

a Captain Wentworth was a tall, handsome and ambitious young man.
1 polite **2** determined **3** wealthy **4** unmarried

b Anne blushed when she heard Mrs Croft's question.
1 remained silent **2** nodded
3 was relieved **4** was embarrassed

c The most consoling emotion was that the visit would soon be over.
1 thrilling **2** remarkable **3** comforting **4** uncomfortable

d She was close enough to overhear their conversation.
1 hear by accident **2** hear everything
3 hear clearly **4** hear with difficulty

e 'You pierce my soul. I'm half agony, half hope.
1 disappointment **2** great pain **3** anger **4** disbelief

AFTER READING CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS

P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

1 Read the sentences and choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

1 Mary became more important when she married Charles Musgrove. This was ….. Charles's family was very wealthy.
A until **B** why **C** that **D** because

2 Mr Shepherd and Lady Russell were asked for their ..... .
A advise **B** advises **C** advices **D** advice

3 She did ..... no one else thought of doing—she talked to Anne.
A as **B** what **C** like **D** things

4 'What! Give up every good thing in life! No, I ..... prefer to leave Kellynch Hall at once,' said Sir Walter.
A could **B** would **C** will **D** rather

5 Mr Hayter and Henrietta walked with each other ..... the way back to Uppercross.
A all **B** from **C** to **D** towards

6 She couldn't help ….. how he looked at her.
A not notice **B** noticed **C** noticing **D** but noticing

7 'Oh!' cried Mary, 'The gentleman we passed this morning. He ..... be our Mr Elliot—father's heir!'
A might **B** should **C** would **D** will

8 'Help me, Charles,' she called, but, ... once, he didn't listen to her.
A just **B** for **C** like **D** only

9 Anne smiled and blushed. She smiled ..... his surprise at seeing her.
A in **B** for **C** at **D** when