



CEC READING LIBRARY · MIDDLE 3 · R3 CHALLENGE

Sense and Sensibility

18 Chapters

Day 1-18

W19-W24

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: Elinor and Marianne

The Dashwood family had lived for many years at Norland Park, a fine estate in Sussex, in the care of a kindly old uncle. When he died, the property passed to Mr. John Dashwood, the son of Mr. Dashwood's first marriage, and left his stepmother and her three daughters with only a small income. The eldest daughter, Elinor, was nineteen. She had a sound understanding and a cool judgment, and she managed her mother's affairs with patience. The second, Marianne, was seventeen, generous, clever, and eager in everything: her sorrows and joys had no moderation. She played the piano beautifully, read poetry for hours, and believed that feelings should never be hidden. The youngest, Margaret, was a cheerful child of thirteen. Elinor was calm and Marianne was passionate. From the perspective of their neighbors, the sisters seemed like two very different creatures. Their mother, Mrs. Dashwood, was warm-hearted like Marianne, and often she encouraged her eldest daughter to be a little less sensible. The consequence of living with such a varied household was a rich daily life. It was essential for them to depend on one another, and each sister could contribute in her own way. Elinor kept the accounts; Marianne brought music and joy. Mrs. Dashwood made the best of the new situation and promised her daughters that they would find a way. The old estate was beautiful, and its tall trees and winding paths had been their playground. Yet she knew that sorrow was not helped by dwelling on it. ★ **Elinor was calm and Marianne was passionate.**

THINK How old was Elinor?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 2: Leaving Norland

Soon after their uncle's death, Mr. John Dashwood arrived with his wife, Fanny, and their small son. Fanny was cold and selfish, and it was soon clear that the Dashwood ladies were no longer welcome in the house that had been their home. Fanny's brother, Edward Ferrars, a modest, thoughtful young man, visited and soon formed a friendship with Elinor. He was neither handsome nor bold, but he was sincere, and Elinor admired his quiet kindness. Marianne thought him rather dull, since he did not read poetry with enthusiasm. Mrs. Dashwood began to hope that he and Elinor might marry. Yet Fanny disliked the idea, and she made her feelings known. Mrs. Dashwood decided it was time to leave. A distant relation, Sir John Middleton, offered them a small cottage on his estate in Devonshire. When the day came, Marianne wept loudly and said goodbye to every tree. Elinor controlled her feelings while Marianne expressed everything. She felt as much sorrow as her sister but kept it hidden, since someone had to make practical arrangements. The consequence of her calm was that the move went smoothly. It was essential to be steady, and a very significant role for her to play. She tried to establish a new home with patience. On the last evening, they walked once more through the garden, and the setting sun turned the leaves to gold. Elinor held her mother's arm, and Marianne trailed behind, whispering farewell to each flower. ★ **Elinor controlled her feelings while Marianne expressed everything.**

THINK Who was Edward Ferrars?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: Which Way Brings Happiness?

Barton Cottage was small but pretty, with a green lawn, a flowering hedge, and a view of the valley. The Dashwoods settled in and made it comfortable. Sir John Middleton, the cheerful owner of nearby Barton Park, called on them at once and invited them to dine. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Jennings, a talkative and kind-hearted widow, became a good friend. The ladies were surprised at how warmly they were treated. Elinor soon realized that she missed Edward, but she kept her thoughts to herself and busied herself with the house. Marianne wandered the hills with a book, enjoying the beauty of the countryside, and sighed often at the sight of the sunset. Their different ways of coping led them in different directions. Elinor controlled her feelings carefully while Marianne expressed every emotion openly, and Austen uses this contrast to explore which approach to life brings greater happiness and wisdom. The novel suggests that neither is entirely right. From Elinor's perspective, restraint prevented trouble; from Marianne's, openness made life true. The consequence of each would be tested before long. It was essential to learn from experience, and the sisters would establish a deeper understanding of one another. On rainy afternoons, the sisters sat together in the little parlor, one sewing and one reading aloud, and the contrast between them seemed almost comic. ★ Elinor controlled her feelings carefully while Marianne expressed every emotion openly, and Austen uses this contrast to explore which approach to life brings greater happiness and wisdom.

THINK Who was Mrs. Jennings?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 4: Rescued in the Rain

One windy autumn morning, Marianne and Margaret walked on the hills near the cottage. A sudden rain came, and as they hurried down the slope, Marianne slipped and twisted her ankle. A handsome young man with a gun and two pointers, who was passing, ran to her aid. He lifted her in his arms as if she weighed nothing and carried her home. It was John Willoughby, nephew of an old lady in the neighborhood. He was lively, polite, and charming, with a ready laugh and bright manner. Marianne thought him everything a hero should be. In the days that followed, he called every day, sat by her sofa, read poetry, played music, and talked about his favorite books. He seemed to share every feeling that she had. Marianne fell deeply in love with Willoughby. From her perspective, he was the answer to her dreams. The consequence of that quick love was that she forgot about caution. It was essential, Elinor thought, for the family to know something of his character, but Marianne laughed at any idea of delay. Elinor quietly watched. Mrs. Dashwood, too, enjoyed the young man's attention and encouraged the friendship. The next morning Marianne could talk of nothing else, and she described his eyes, his voice, and the way he spoke of poetry. Margaret, who had seen the whole affair from a distance, teased her gently. Even Elinor admitted that the young man had a pleasant manner. Their mother, delighted to see her daughter smile again, urged him to visit the cottage whenever he liked. ★ Marianne fell deeply in love with Willoughby.

THINK What did Marianne twist?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: A Gift and a Lock of Hair

The attachment between Marianne and Willoughby grew daily. They had the same tastes, loved the same music and books, and spoke without reserve. At parties, Marianne ignored the rules of polite society and danced with him again and again. Willoughby offered to give Marianne a beautiful horse, but Elinor pointed out that she could not accept a gift of such value from a man to whom she was not engaged, and that their mother would be unable to afford its keep. Marianne sadly agreed, but soon she was seen with Willoughby cutting a lock of her hair, which she gave him without hesitation. Every action of theirs spoke of love, yet no one had heard of a promise. Marianne gave her whole heart to Willoughby without caution. From her perspective, secrecy would be cold and dishonest. The consequence of acting so openly was that servants and neighbors began to whisper about them. It was essential for someone to be careful, and Elinor tried to speak to her mother about it. Mrs. Dashwood said that she trusted Willoughby entirely, and she would not ask him. Elinor said no more, but she kept watching. At Barton Cottage the evenings were filled with music, and Willoughby's voice joined Marianne's in lovely duets. He made light of the neighbors' gossip, and she did the same. The only dark note was Elinor's quiet worry, which she dared not speak in front of her mother. ★ Marianne gave her whole heart to Willoughby without caution.

THINK What did Willoughby offer Marianne?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 6: No Caution, No Reserve

One day the Middletons planned a party to the great house of Whitwell, but a letter arrived and Willoughby departed in haste. He had been called away to London by his rich relation, Mrs. Smith, and he did not know when he would return. He took leave with a sorrowful face. Before he went, he said it was impossible to explain. Marianne cried for hours. She refused to eat, walked in the garden at night, and played the sad songs they had enjoyed together. Elinor tried to comfort her, but Marianne believed Willoughby loved her without doubt, and she thought concealment was a form of falseness. Marianne gave her whole heart to Willoughby without caution or reserve, never considering that a person who shows great feeling in love might just as easily show great cruelty in rejection. Elinor feared that the match was less certain than her sister thought. From her perspective, no one should give so much without a promise in return. The consequence of loving so rashly might be great pain. It was significant that Marianne never doubted him. Elinor wondered whether she would one day need to establish a firmer ground. The weeks passed slowly. Mrs. Jennings teased Marianne about her admirer, and Marianne bore it with spirit but also with a trembling lip. ★ Marianne gave her whole heart to Willoughby without caution or reserve, never considering that a person who shows great feeling in love might just as easily show great cruelty in rejection.

THINK *Where did Willoughby go?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.

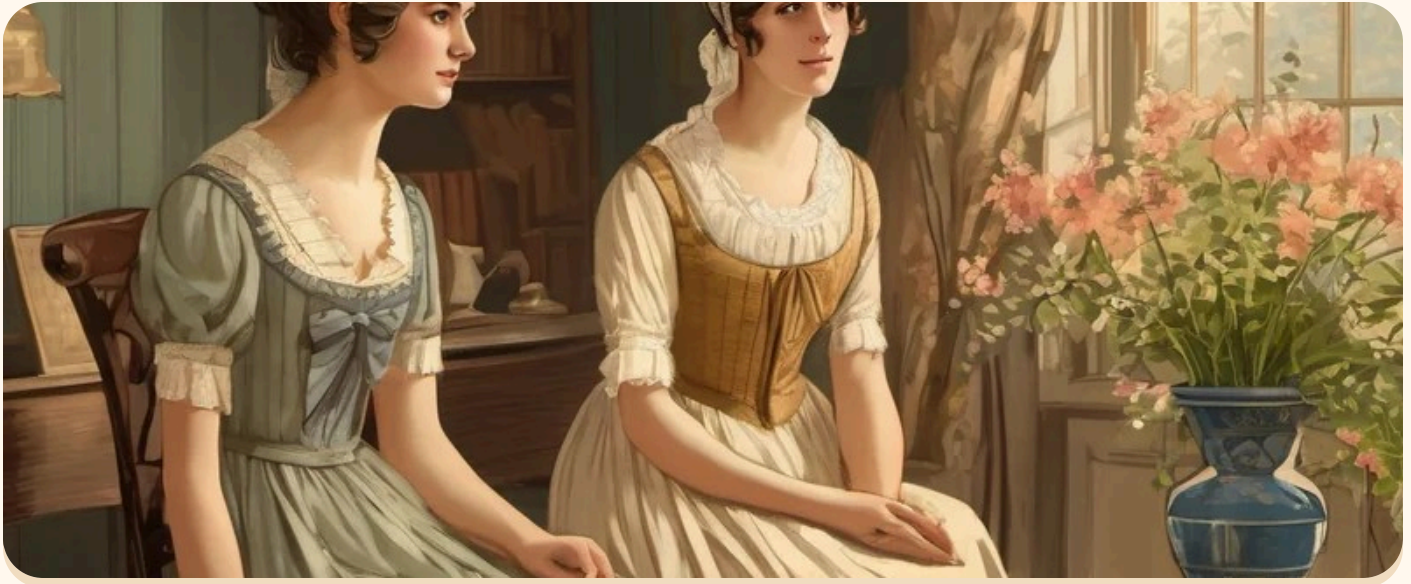


Chapter 7: Money Over Love

Winter came, and the sisters traveled to London at Mrs. Jennings's invitation. Marianne hoped to meet Willoughby there. She wrote him letters, but he did not answer. At last she saw him at a crowded party. She hurried forward, holding out her hand, and spoke his name with joy. Willoughby bowed stiffly, gave her a cold glance, and turned away to speak to a lady beside him. Marianne was stunned and nearly fainted. That night she wrote again, begging him to explain. The reply was a short, cold note, in which he said that he had always felt only a friendly regard for her and that he was engaged to another woman. He returned all her letters and the lock of hair. Soon the sisters learned the truth: Willoughby was engaged to marry Miss Grey, a young woman with a fortune of fifty thousand pounds. He had been spending beyond his means and could not afford to marry a girl without money. The consequence of his choice was a broken heart for Marianne. From her perspective, it was a betrayal beyond belief. Willoughby chose money over love, and he did so with little regret. It was essential, Elinor thought, to help her sister endure, and she would establish a peaceful routine. Elinor stayed close to her that night, making tea, offering a shawl, and speaking in a soft voice until Marianne fell into a restless sleep. In the morning, the rain on the windows seemed to match her mood. ★ Willoughby chose money over love.

THINK Whom was Willoughby engaged to?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 8: The Wealthier Woman

Marianne's grief was terrible. She lay on her bed, refusing food and company. She sobbed until she was exhausted, and she tore her handkerchief into pieces. Mrs. Jennings, though she meant well, only made it worse by talking about it. Elinor sat patiently by her side. She had heard that Willoughby would soon marry, and she found this almost as hard to bear as Marianne did. She wondered how a man with such warm manners could have been so selfish. Colonel Brandon, a friend of the family, soon told Elinor a story that explained a good deal. He said that Willoughby had a record of dishonor: years before, he had behaved badly toward a young woman who had trusted him, and he had left her in difficulty. Brandon had known the young woman's family. Elinor listened with surprise and sorrow. She saw that Willoughby had hidden his flaws behind a charming manner. Willoughby abandoned Marianne for a wealthier woman, and the consequence of his act was lasting pain. From her perspective, such a man could never be forgiven. It was important to establish the truth, so Elinor told Marianne gently, hoping it would help her recover. The facts were hard but essential for healing. The days dragged on in sorrow. Even the sun seemed to refuse to shine on the dull London streets, and the sisters kept their curtains drawn. Colonel Brandon visited quietly each day, bringing flowers and a kind word, though Marianne hardly noticed. ★ Willoughby

abandoned Marianne for a wealthier woman.

THINK *Who told Elinor about Willoughby's past?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Charm and Character

A few days later, Willoughby himself appeared at Cleveland, a house where the sisters were staying, hoping to speak with Elinor. He was clearly in distress. He told her that he had truly loved Marianne, that he had been tempted by the lure of money, and that he now regretted his choice bitterly. He had acted foolishly and selfishly, and had married a woman whom he did not love. Elinor listened with mixed feelings. She felt a little pity, but she was clear in her judgment: a man who really cared would not have deserted the woman he loved for a fortune. She asked him to go and told him she would pass on a few of his words to her sister.

Willoughby abandoned Marianne to marry a wealthier woman, and his betrayal forced her to confront the painful difference between a man's charming performance of love and his actual character. From Marianne's perspective, it was the hardest lesson of her life. The consequence was a new maturity. It was essential to see him clearly, not as the hero she had dreamed, but as an ordinary man with large weaknesses. The difference between appearance and reality would remain significant for her, and in time she would establish more cautious habits. Afterward, she sat for a long time in the garden, and the quiet air seemed to carry away some of her old sadness.

★ Willoughby abandoned Marianne to marry a wealthier woman, and his betrayal forced her to confront the painful difference between a man's charming performance of love and his actual character.

THINK Where did Willoughby appear?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 10: Elinor's Secret

While Marianne cried openly, Elinor was carrying a hidden grief of her own. In London she had learned from Lucy Steele, a pretty but sly young woman, that Lucy and Edward Ferrars had been secretly engaged for four years. Lucy told her in confidence, perhaps to see her reaction. Elinor felt as though her heart had stopped, but she kept her face still. She had promised herself never to reveal her sorrow. She said politely that Edward must be very happy, and she even kept Lucy's secret from her own family. For months, Elinor listened to Lucy's talk of her love for Edward, and she held back her tears. She was sorry for herself and for Edward, who was tied to a woman he did not truly love. Elinor hid her pain silently. In the modern world, the ability to manage personal emotions while supporting others is often considered essential, and Elinor did this at great cost. From her perspective, it would have been selfish to burden others. The consequence was a heavy loneliness. It was a significant strain, but she did not ask for pity. In silent endurance, she tried to contribute to the peace of the household, and she prepared to establish a new future without Edward. Each night, in her room, she wrote a small note to her mother and tore it up before sunrise. Her face stayed gentle, and her voice stayed light. ★ **Elinor hid her pain silently.**

THINK Who told Elinor about the engagement?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: Helping Everyone Else

Although she was suffering, Elinor continued to help the people around her. She nursed Marianne through her sorrow, sat with Mrs. Jennings in the evenings, and wrote letters for her mother. When Marianne refused to speak to anyone, Elinor spoke for her, explaining her sister's wishes politely. When Mrs. Dashwood worried about money, Elinor offered quiet advice. When Lucy chattered about Edward, Elinor listened with a pleasant face. Even in the middle of her own disappointment, she tried to contribute to the comfort of the household. Her helpfulness was so steady that the others took it for granted. A few people, such as Colonel Brandon, noticed the strain on her face. The consequence of her self-control was that she never had any time to grieve. From her perspective, there was no choice, since the family depended on her. It was essential to keep order, and the habit of calm was a significant part of her character. Elinor suffered in silence while helping everyone else. She did not ask for thanks, and she did not complain. In a world that celebrates open feeling, her quiet courage was easily missed. Yet in the end, her patient work would establish the foundation on which all the family stood. Often, in the evening, she took a book to the window and read the same page again and again, her mind far away. When anyone looked her way, she smiled. ★ **Elinor suffered in silence while helping everyone else.**

THINK Whom did Elinor nurse?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 12: A Strength That Makes No Noise

The year went on, and Elinor's quiet endurance continued. She noticed that no one had ever asked how she felt. Marianne had her sorrows spoken aloud; Elinor had hers kept within. Mrs. Jennings said, in her kind and clumsy way, that Elinor had no more feeling than a stone, which was cruel and untrue. When Marianne finally understood how much her sister had suffered, she wept with remorse and begged her forgiveness. She said that she had never truly known how deeply Elinor felt, for she had been too busy with her own pain. Elinor kissed her and said that there was nothing to forgive. Elinor suffered quietly in silence while helping everyone around her, demonstrating a form of strength that is easily overlooked precisely because it makes no noise and demands no recognition. From Marianne's perspective, it was a lesson she would carry all her life. The consequence was a closer bond between the sisters. It was essential, she thought, to look beyond the surface of calm people, since silence did not mean indifference. A significant change in her heart began to establish itself. She would contribute in her own way, by being gentler and more attentive. Marianne's eyes were opened. She saw that sorrow is not measured by noise, and that the person who says least may feel most. It was a hard truth for a girl who had always lived in her emotions.

★ Elinor suffered quietly in silence while helping everyone around her, demonstrating a form of strength that is easily overlooked precisely because it makes no noise and demands no recognition.

THINK What did Mrs. Jennings say Elinor had?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: The Quiet Colonel

Colonel Brandon was a grave, quiet gentleman of about thirty-five, tall and pleasant, with a thoughtful face. He spoke little at parties, preferred to listen to music, and never sought attention. He had loved Marianne since the first evening he heard her sing, but he said nothing. Marianne, at seventeen, considered him an old bachelor, almost ancient, and wondered why anyone would want such a dull companion. She teased him about his flannel waistcoat and said that he was "infirm." Elinor, however, saw his goodness. She noticed how he helped people: he made sure that she and her sister had a carriage, he spoke gently to Mrs. Dashwood, and he asked nothing in return. Brandon was reliable but seemed boring. People often present a carefully managed version of themselves, as Willoughby did, whereas a man like Brandon showed his true character by his deeds. The difference between a public persona and a private character is essential to recognize. From Elinor's perspective, he was a true gentleman. The consequence of looking at him through Marianne's eyes was that his worth was lost. It was a significant mistake, and in time it would be corrected. Brandon, not knowing how to win Marianne's heart, waited patiently and kindly. He began to establish quiet kindnesses that the whole family would remember. At Barton Park, he sat quietly near the piano while the others chatted, and when Marianne finished a song, he thanked her in a low voice. Elinor noticed that he blushed when others paid him a compliment, and that he rarely spoke of his own good deeds. People like him are easy to overlook, but they are also the ones who stay when the music ends. ★ **Brandon was reliable but seemed boring.**

THINK How old was Colonel Brandon?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 14: Steady and Kind

Colonel Brandon proved his goodness again and again. When Edward Ferrars was disinherited by his mother for refusing to give up his engagement to Lucy, Edward had no money and no profession. Brandon, who barely knew him but who had heard Elinor praise him, offered him a living in the church at Delaford, a pretty parish with a comfortable house. He asked Elinor to tell Edward and said he hoped it would help him, and he asked for no thanks. Elinor was moved by his generosity. He also cared for Marianne tenderly. He listened to her play without comment and visited her when she was low in spirits. Brandon was steady and kind but Marianne ignored him. She saw him only as an old friend of the family. The qualities that seemed uninteresting prove genuinely valuable in times of challenge, however, and Brandon's patient attention would soon matter. From Elinor's perspective, Marianne was losing an opportunity to see his heart. The consequence of choosing excitement over steadiness is often regret. It was essential to find a deeper kind of attachment. Brandon continued to contribute without being asked, and a significant friendship was slowly built. He brought books to Mrs. Dashwood, and a basket of fruit for the cottage, and he never forgot a birthday. In the evenings he sat by the fire, listening to stories that others found tedious. Elinor often thought that no one in the room was so quietly worthy of love. ★ **Brandon was steady and kind but Marianne ignored him.**

THINK What did Brandon offer Edward?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 15: Too Old and Too Quiet

In spring, the sisters stayed at Cleveland, Mr. Palmer's estate in Somerset, on their way home from London. The grounds were beautiful, and Marianne spent hours walking alone along the damp paths, sometimes standing in the wet grass to look toward Combe Magna, Willoughby's new home. She grew pale and thin. Colonel Brandon looked at her with concern. He wished he could help, but she kept her distance, believing him too old and too serious to understand a heart like hers. Marianne initially dismissed Colonel Brandon as too old and too quiet, unable to see that the very qualities she found dull were the ones that would prove genuinely valuable when her passionate love collapsed. People often chase excitement and overlook quiet reliability. When a crisis occurs, the person who consistently contributes becomes invaluable. From Marianne's perspective, true love meant fireworks. The consequence of that thought was a loneliness that nobody could cure. It was essential that she learn to see Brandon's worth, and slowly she began to. Beside her, Elinor wondered whether her sister's sorrow could harm her health. A cold rain was beginning to fall, and it was a significant moment, because she had walked for too long and was shivering. Soon the family would need his steadiness. Brandon walked home through the cold evening air, hoping she would one day see the truth. ★ Marianne initially dismissed Colonel Brandon as too old and too quiet, unable to see that the very qualities she found dull were the ones that would prove genuinely valuable when her passionate love collapsed.

THINK *Where were the sisters staying?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 16: Heart and Mind

Marianne caught a bad cold from her walks, and it grew into a dangerous fever. Elinor sat by her bedside, frightened. The apothecary, Mr. Harris, said that the illness was serious. Colonel Brandon, who happened to be there, offered at once to ride through the night to fetch Mrs. Dashwood, and set out in the darkness without a word of complaint. For days, Marianne hovered between life and death. Elinor never left her, praying and washing her brow. At last the fever broke. When Marianne opened her eyes and recognized her sister, Elinor wept with joy. Slowly Marianne grew stronger. As she lay in bed, she thought of all she had done: she had been reckless, selfish, and blind to the steady love around her. She resolved to become a better person. She understood that she needed both feeling and judgment. Marianne learned to value both heart and mind. From her new perspective, she saw that the equilibrium between cognitive analysis and emotional response is essential for mature decision-making. The integration of the two brings strength. The consequence of her illness was a new humility. It was a significant change, and she would establish a steadier way of living, and contribute to the family's peace. Mrs. Dashwood, who had arrived in the dark, sat beside her daughter's bed, holding her hand. The first thing Marianne said was a simple, trembling thank-you to everyone who had helped her. Brandon waited in the next room, silent and relieved. ★ Marianne learned to value both heart and mind.

THINK Who rode through the night to fetch Mrs. Dashwood?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 17: Elinor's Happy Surprise

While Marianne was still recovering, startling news came: Lucy Steele had secretly married Edward's brother, Robert Ferrars, a vain, wealthy man who had taken the inheritance. Edward was free. A servant told Elinor, who thought it was Edward who had married Lucy. She sat in shock until Edward himself appeared at the cottage a few days later. He said that he had come to tell her that Lucy had chosen another and that he had always loved her. Elinor, who had controlled herself for so long, burst into tears of happiness. She cried loudly and without shame, the first time in the story that she let go. Edward asked her to marry him, and she said yes. Mrs. Dashwood gave her blessing at once. Marianne learned that real strength needs both sense and sensibility. She watched her sister's joy and understood that tears can come from deep restraint, not only from weakness. Elinor's wise balance had helped everyone, and now her own feelings could bloom. From Marianne's perspective, her sister's story was proof that patience can be rewarded. The consequence of Elinor's endurance was a happy home. It was essential to balance reason and feeling, and the sisters would contribute to a better future. Edward would establish a living at Delaford. Willoughby's story had ended in regret, and Marianne could see in her sister's happiness an example of the best qualities: loyalty, steadiness, and a heart that is also wise. She was no longer ashamed of her old sorrow, for she had learned from it. ★ Marianne learned that real strength needs both sense and sensibility.

THINK Whom did Lucy Steele marry?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 18: Heart and Reason Together

A year later, Marianne grew well and strong again. She spent time with Colonel Brandon, and she learned to see his goodness. He was faithful, gentle, and generous, and the more she knew him, the more she respected him. One day, when he asked for her hand, she answered that she would marry him with a thankful and devoted heart. Brandon, who had waited so long, felt that he had won a greater prize than he deserved. Marianne became the mistress of Delaford, where she soon became one of the sunniest and gentlest ladies in the neighborhood. Elinor and Edward lived in a small parsonage close by, so the sisters met often. Marianne's illness and recovery taught her that neither pure reason nor pure emotion was sufficient on its own, and that wisdom consists in learning when to follow the heart and when to restrain it. From her perspective, the greatest gift of her life was that her sister had taught her patience. The consequence of experience was wisdom. It was essential to trust the heart and the mind together. Their stories show that emotion provides passion and motivation, while reason helps us analyze the consequences and establish plans. With both, the two sisters contributed to a happier world. It was a significant ending. The two families gathered for Christmas that year at Delaford, with a roaring fire and a long table. Mrs. Dashwood looked at her daughters, both happy, and remembered the cold morning when they had left Norland. She had not known then how much hope the future held. Margaret, now grown, laughed with the guests, and the house was full of music, as if the old cottage had been restored. ★ Marianne's illness and recovery taught her that neither pure reason nor pure emotion was sufficient on its own, and that wisdom consists in learning when to follow the heart and when to restrain it.

THINK Whom did Marianne marry?