

central theme of the novel is the contrast between "sense" and "sensitivity," represented by Elinor and Marianne, respectively. Austen explores how each sister's approach to life shapes their experiences and relationships. Elinor's sense leads her to act with reason and restraint, often suppressing her emotions for the sake of others. Marianne, on the other hand, indulges in her emotions, which often leads to heartbreak and disappointment. Austen critiques both extremes, suggesting that a balance of sense and sensitivity is ideal.