

# Introduction

The Sense and Sensibility ESL Lesson Plan is designed to introduce students to the world of classic literature while enhancing their English language skills. This lesson plan focuses on vocabulary building, reading, and writing activities inspired by Jane Austen's timeless novel "Sense and Sensibility." By exploring the themes, characters, and language used in the novel, students will not only improve their English proficiency but also gain insights into the cultural and historical aspects of the English language. This ESL lesson plan aims to engage students in meaningful discussions and activities that will broaden their understanding of both language and literature.

## Vocabulary Building

### Vocab

| Vocab               | Definition   |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Elegant</b>      | Graceful and stylish in appearance or manner.              |
| <b>Reserved</b>     | Keeping one's thoughts and feelings to oneself; withdrawn. |
| <b>Affectionate</b> | Readily feeling or showing fondness or tenderness.         |
| <b>Rational</b>     | Based on or in accordance with reason or logic.            |
| <b>Sensible</b>     | Having, using, or showing good sense or sound judgment.    |

### Contextual Usage

1. She walked into the room with an **elegant** grace that captivated everyone.
2. Marianne was **reserved** and often kept her emotions hidden from others.
3. Elinor was **affectionate** towards her family and friends, always expressing her love openly.
4. Edward's **rational** approach to problem-solving impressed everyone around him.
5. Mrs. Dashwood was a **sensible** woman who always made practical decisions for her family.

## ESL Warm-up Activity

To set the tone for the Sense and Sensibility ESL Lesson Plan, start with a warm-up activity that involves a role-play scenario. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a character from "Sense and Sensibility" such as Elinor, Marianne, Colonel Brandon, or Edward. Ask them to imagine a modern-day situation where these characters interact, using language elements relevant to the novel. For example, they can create a dialogue where Elinor and Marianne discuss contemporary issues using polite and formal language reminiscent of the Regency era. This activity will not only capture students' attention but also immerse them in the language and etiquette of the novel's setting.

## Main ESL Lesson Activities

### Vocabulary Activity: Character Traits

In this activity, students will be given a list of character traits such as "elegant," "reserved," "affectionate," and "rational." They will then be asked to match these traits to the characters in "Sense and Sensibility" based on their understanding of the novel. This can be done individually or in pairs, followed by a group discussion to compare and justify their choices.

# Reading and Writing: Letter Writing

Students will be tasked with writing letters from one character to another, expressing their thoughts and emotions just as the characters do in the novel. This activity encourages students to use formal language and understand the nuances of communication during the Regency era. After completing their letters, students can share and discuss them in pairs or small groups.

## Roleplay: Modern Adaptation

In this activity, students will work in small groups to create a modern adaptation of a scene from "Sense and Sensibility." They will update the language and setting while staying true to the essence of the original work. This hands-on exercise allows students to explore language elements in a contemporary context while engaging in creative collaboration.

## Listening: Character Dialogues

Students will listen to audio clips or watch video excerpts of character dialogues from film adaptations of "Sense and Sensibility." Afterward, they will discuss the language used, expressions, and emotions conveyed by the characters. This activity provides an opportunity for listening comprehension as well as group analysis and discussion.

## ESL Homework Assignment

For homework, students are encouraged to write a short reflective essay on the themes and language elements found in "Sense and Sensibility." They can choose to focus on a specific character, theme, or language style used in the novel. Additionally, students can research and write about the historical and cultural context of the Regency era, further connecting the language of the novel to its time period. This assignment reinforces the lesson content by encouraging independent

exploration and analysis of the language and themes presented in "Sense and Sensibility."

# Conclusion

## Key Points Summary

Throughout this ESL lesson plan on "Sense and Sensibility," students have delved into the vocabulary, language style, and themes of Jane Austen's classic novel. They have engaged in activities that fostered a deeper understanding of formal language, character traits, and the historical context of the Regency era.

## Reflection and Application

As students reflect on this lesson, they can consider how the language elements and themes explored in "Sense and Sensibility" can be applied to their language development. Understanding formal language usage, character traits, and historical context not only enhances their English proficiency but also provides insights into different forms of expression and cultural nuances. This reflection encourages students to apply their learning in real-life language situations, broadening their linguistic capabilities.

## Why this topic is great for ESL learning

## Enhancing Language Skills

Studying "Sense and Sensibility" as part of an ESL lesson plan provides an

opportunity for students to enhance their language skills through exposure to formal and expressive English language usage. The novel's rich vocabulary and formal dialogue offer valuable learning material for language development.

## **Cultural and Historical Insights**

Exploring the themes and historical context of "Sense and Sensibility" allows ESL students to gain insights into the cultural nuances and societal norms of the Regency era. This exposure broadens their understanding of different cultural perspectives, enriching their language learning experience.

## **Literary Engagement**

Engaging with classic literature like "Sense and Sensibility" fosters a love for reading and encourages students to explore timeless literary works, expanding their literary knowledge while improving their language proficiency.