Sense and Sensibility

*Mr Henry Dashwood’s uncle had died and gives the inheritance (Norland Estate and money) to Mr Henry Dashwood’s son from a previous marriage, Mr John Dashwood. On Mr Henry Dashwood’s deathbed, Mr John Dashwood promises to look after his sister and step-mother. However Mrs. John Dashwood has other ideas.*

Mrs. John Dashwood now installed herself mistress of Norland; and her mother and sisters-in-law were degraded to the condition of visitors. As such, however, they were treated by her with quiet civility; and by her husband with as much kindness as he could feel towards anybody beyond himself, his wife, and their child. He really pressed them, with some earnestness, to consider Norland as their home; and, as no plan appeared so eligible to Mrs. Dashwood as remaining there till she could accommodate herself with a house in the neighbourhood, his invitation was accepted.

A continuance in a place where everything reminded her of former delight, was exactly what suited her mind. In seasons of cheerfulness, no temper could be more cheerful than hers, or possess, in a greater degree, that sanguine expectation of happiness which is happiness itself. But in sorrow she must be equally carried away by her fancy, and as far beyond consolation as in pleasure she was beyond alloy.

Mrs. John Dashwood did not at all approve of what her husband intended to do for his sisters. To take three thousand pounds from the fortune of their dear little boy would be impoverishing him to the most dreadful degree. She begged him to think again on the subject. It was very well known that no affection was ever supposed to exist between the children of any man by different marriages; and why was he to ruin himself, and their poor little Harry, by giving away all his money to his half sisters?

“It was my father’s last request to me,” replied her husband, “that I should assist his widow and daughters.”

“He did not know what he was talking of, I dare say, but he was light-headed at the time. Had he been in his right senses, he could not have thought of such a thing as begging you to give away half your fortune from your own child.”

“He did not stipulate for any particular sum, my dear Fanny; he only requested me, in general terms, to assist them, and make their situation more comfortable than it was in his power to do. Perhaps it would have been as well if he had left it wholly to myself. He could hardly suggest I should neglect them. But as he required the promise, I could not do less than give it; at least I thought so at the time. The promise, therefore, was given and must be performed. Something must be done for them whenever they leave Norland and settle in a new home.”

“Well, then, *let* something be done for them; but *that* something need not be three thousand pounds. Consider,” she added, “that when the money is once parted with, it never can return. Your sisters will marry, and it will be gone forever. If, indeed, it could be restored to our poor little boy—”

“Why, to be sure,” said her husband, very gravely, “that would make great difference. The time may come when Harry will regret that so large a sum was parted with. If he should have a numerous family, for instance, it would be a very convenient addition.”

“To be sure it would.”

“Perhaps, then, it would be better for all parties, if the sum were diminished one half.—Five hundred pounds would be an increase to their fortunes!”

“Oh! beyond anything great! What brother on earth would do half so much for his sisters, even if *really* his sisters! And as it is—only half blood!—But you have such a generous spirit!”

“I would not wish to do anything mean,” he replied. “One had rather, on such occasions, do too much than too little. No one, at least, can think I have not done enough for them: even themselves, they can hardly expect more.”

c, a, c, d

D, b, c, b

A, a, d, a

|  | **Question** | **Evidence** |
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| 1 | How does Mrs John Dashwood and Mr John Dashwood differ in how they treat their extended family?   1. Mrs John Dashwood goes out of her way to make the experience pleasant 2. Mrs John Dashwood treats them coldly whereas her husband makes the experience unbearable 3. **Mr John Dashwood is warm whereas his wife is polite but cold** 4. There is no difference between the couple in how they treat them | “with quiet civility; and by her husband with as much kindness as he could “ |
| 2 | Why does Mrs Dashwood accept Mr John Dashwood’s invitation?   1. **No plan was as sensible as finding a nearby home before leaving** 2. Mrs Dashwood wanted to remain in such a large and beautiful house 3. Mrs Dashwood cared very much for Mr John Dashwood 4. Mr John Dashwood had convinced Mrs Dashwood to stay as long as they like | “no plan appeared so eligible to Mrs. Dashwood as remaining there till she could accommodate herself with a house in the neighbourhood, his invitation was accepted.’ |
| 3 | The word ‘alloy’ (line 19) comes from mixing metals together. What can it mean as it has been used?   1. She is a mix of different emotions 2. She is a mix of different metals 3. **She can only feel one strong emotion at a time** 4. She is all mixed up emotionally, physically and socially | “She was beyond alloy” once she feels a certain emotion. SHe is in the extremes of either emotion cannot be consoled. |
| 4 | What does the phrase “equally carried away” (line 18) suggest from the way it has been used?   1. Mrs John Dashwood has been taken away 2. Mrs John Dashwood has carried something away 3. Mrs John Dashwood is easily influenced by her emotions 4. **Mrs John Dashwood’s emotions are always in the extreme** |  |
| 5 | What was Mr John Dashwood planning to do for his sisters?   1. Let them leave with a fortune 2. Help them find husbands with their own fortune 3. Let them inherit the money instead 4. **Give them money intended for his own son** | “To take three thousand pounds from the fortune of their dear little boy” |
| 6 | Based on the text, what was the relationship supposed to be like between children of different marriages?   1. They could be close if they wanted to 2. **They should be distant with no warmth** 3. They should pretend as if they do no exist 4. They should compete to see who was the best children | “no affection was ever supposed to exist between the children of any man by different marriages” |
| 7 | Why was Mr John Dashwood inclined to help his sisters?   1. Because he wanted to prove that stepchildren can have a strong relationship 2. Because his sisters were dear to him 3. **Because he felt sympathetic and wanted to honour his dad’s last request** 4. Because society in the time meant that men must always provide for women. | ““It was my father’s last request to me,”” |
| 8 | What reason best describes why Mrs John Dashwood objects to her husband assisting his stepsisters?   1. She is greedy and only cares about her own family 2. **She believes that Mr Dashwood was not fit to think properly** 3. She is traditional and believes that her husband should honour the instructions of the inheritance 4. She believes that the sisters have no right claim for the money | “He did not know what he was talking of, I dare say, but he was light-headed at the time” |
| 9 | What word describes Mr John Dashwood’s handling of his father’s request?   1. **Reliable** 2. Suspicious 3. Hateful 4. Deceitful | He promised his father.  “The promise, therefore, was given, and must be performed.” |
| 10 | Why does the author put the words ‘let’ and ‘that’ (line 41) in italics?   1. **To show that Mrs John Dashwood does not want to give the sisters money to help them** 2. To show that it is important to the story 3. To show the reader that those words must be emphasised when reading 4. They are the title of a book inside of the extract | Italics always emphasises something. In this case, it is showing that ‘that’ which is giving money is not the way she wants to help the sisters. |
| 11 | How much money is Mr John Dashwood later planning on giving his sisters?   1. £500 altogether 2. £1000 3. Half of £3000 each 4. **£1500 altogether** |  |
| 12 | How does Mrs John Dashwood convince her husband?   1. **By creating a concern for his son about a potential event in the future** 2. By making him feel bad that his son will be poor in the future 3. By making it seem that the sister will be richer than his son in the future 4. By suggesting that he is being an awful father | “ If he should have a numerous family, for instance, it would be a very convenient addition.”  “fortune of their dear little boy would be impoverishing “  “ to ruin himself, and their poor little Harry, by giving away all his money to his half sisters?” |
| 13 | How would you describe Mrs John Dashwood’s character? Use evidence in your answer. (4 marks) |  |
| 14 | Do you think that Mrs John Dashwood is convincing? Give evidence to support your point. (4 marks) |  |