**Classroom Activities:**

This document contains a large bank of tasks, intended to bring the enjoyment of Jane Austen’s works into your classroom. We suggest a pick-n-mix approach: choose the activities that will best suit your students and remove the rest! Some of the GCSE resources may suit more ambitious KS3 students and, in turn, some GCSE students may relish the challenge of tasks in the A Level section.

The Assessment Objectives (AOs) common across exam boards for English, English Language and English Literature are here as a guide, to ensure students explore the full spectrum of skills expected by examiners.

Some of the tasks have been written with more accessible vocabulary, sentence scaffolding and formatted in larger fonts and with expanded character spacing, for those students who require additional support. Make sure to scroll through the entire document to see all the activities.

**Some of these activities make use of a short video of Lucy Steel, from *Sense and Sensibility,* chapter 49**

**Watch it here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEdE0pic3oM>

**Lucy Steele’s Letter KS3/4 Challenge**

**Analysis**

How does Lucy Steele flatter Edward Ferrars and assert what she wishes to appear her own good moral character in her letter?

Write a paragraph to explain how she does this, using at least three short quotations.

**Extension**

Compare Lucy’s apparent confidence to Elinor’s concern for social propriety and restraint from elsewhere in “Sense and Sensibility”.

**Context**

Explore the options open to women such as Lucy Steele. What means did they have to ensure financial security? Research historical evidence of how women in different classes really did this.

Discuss whether or not Austen employs Lucy Steele as a foil to Elinor simply in order for readers to sympathise more deeply with Elinor. Does Lucy’s character have a wider function in the text, highlighting the wider pressures around marriage faced by women at the time? Should we disparage Lucy as a selfish gold-digger?

**Analysis**

Write one to three paragraphs discussing Lucy’s function the novel and the nuances of audiences’ perspectives. Be sure to explore how there may be a contrast in the reactions from Austen’s original readers and readers today.