

Persuasion: (c) The three groups

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☞ refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine the three groups of people in the novel, and to explore their influence on Anne.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Write the names of a range of characters from all the texts the class is studying on the board.
 - (Do not include the main character of each text.)
 - Ask each student individually to organise them into three or four groups.
 - Give two minutes for this.
 - Discuss as a class how different students have done this.
 - What aspects of characters have been used?
 - To what extent do the various characters help the reader to understand the main character?
- ☞ (Characterisation > Affiliated characters)
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Divide the class into three groups. Each takes one of the three groups of characters.
 - Photocopy **Worksheet c)i** onto A3 paper and give one to each group.
 - The students should allocate each shape to a character (they will not necessarily need all the shapes) and label accordingly.
 - Where possible, the labels should be quotations from the text.
 - Include comments on the group as a whole, as well.
- ☞ (Characterisation > Affiliated characters)
- ☞ (Characterisation > Sir Walter Elliot)
- ☞ (Characterisation > Mary and Elizabeth)
- ☞ (Characterisation > Harville and Benwick)
- ☞ (*Persuasion* synopses and commentary > relevant chapters)
- ☞ (Themes > Dualities)
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Discuss the students' ideas.
 - Now call one of the shapes Anne, and talk about how well she fits into each group.
 - What does she learn from each group?
- ☞ (Characterisation > Anne Elliot)
- ❖ **Recreative task:** For each of the characters used in the Textual Examination exercise, state what each has learned, or not, by the end of the novel.
 - Give each a score out of ten (you could include negative numbers, too).
- ☞ (Structure > Structure by theme)
- ❖ **Critical task:** C. S. Lewis described Anne Elliot as a 'solitary heroine'.
 - How far do you agree that, even when she is with one of the groups of characters, Anne is 'alone'?
- ☞ (Characterisation > Anne Elliot)
- ☞ (Themes > Society and the individual)
- ❖ **Extension task:** Compare Anne with other Jane Austen heroines.
 - Is she of no 'consequence', as C. S. Lewis suggests, when compared with Emma, Elizabeth Bennett, etc?
- ☞ (Critical approaches to *Persuasion* > *Persuasion* and recent critical approaches > Feminist criticism and literary history)