



Persuasion student worksheets

Designed for Years 9–12, these activities support close reading, thematic understanding, essay preparation, and creative engagement.

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1. Big ideas worksheets

Big idea 1: *Persuasion*, Regret & Second Chances

1. Describe a decision Anne regrets early in the novel.
2. What advice persuaded her at the time?
3. Do you think this advice was reasonable? Explain.
4. How does Anne's regret shape her behaviour later in the novel?

Quote task: Find a quotation that shows Anne's quiet endurance.

Big idea 2: Love, Time & Emotional Maturity

1. How is Anne's understanding of love different from Louisa Musgrove's?
2. Why does Captain Wentworth value 'firmness'?
3. How does the novel suggest love changes with time and experience?

Extension: Is mature love presented as more powerful than youthful passion?

Big idea 3: Rank, Vanity & Social Decline

1. How does Sir Walter define a person's worth?
2. How do naval officers challenge this belief?
3. What does Austen suggest about inherited status?

Task: Create a two-column table comparing 'Birth' and 'Merit' in the novel.

Big idea 4: Voice, Silence & Female Agency

1. When does Anne speak, and when does she remain silent?
2. Why is silence sometimes a strength in the novel?
3. Identify a moment where Anne asserts her agency.

Short response: Does Anne gain a stronger voice by the end of the novel?

Big idea 5: Constancy vs Inconstancy

1. What does 'constancy' mean in **Persuasion**?
2. Which characters are constant? Which are not?
3. How does Austen reward constancy?

Quote analysis: Explain the significance of Wentworth's letter.



2. Character study worksheets

ANNE ELLIOT

1. List three qualities that define Anne.
2. How does Anne change across the novel?
3. What pressures limit her choices?

Creative task: Write Anne's private thoughts after hearing Wentworth speak of 'firmness'.

CAPTAIN WENTWORTH

1. What mistakes does Wentworth make?
2. How does pride affect his actions?
3. What causes his emotional transformation?

Task: Create an emotional arc for Wentworth.

SIR WALTER ELLIOT

1. Identify three examples of vanity.
2. How does Austen use him for satire?
3. Does Sir Walter change? Why or why not?

Extension: Is Sir Walter comic, tragic, or both?

LOUISA MUSGROVE

1. Why does Wentworth admire Louisa?
2. How does the Lyme accident change her role?
3. How does she contrast with Anne?

Short task: What lesson does Austen teach through Louisa?

LADY RUSSELL

1. Why does Lady Russell oppose Anne's engagement?
2. Is her advice well-intentioned or harmful?
3. How does she grow by the novel's end?

Debate task: Was Lady Russell right in the past?



3. Theme pathways

THEME: REGRET & MEMORY

1. Identify two moments where memory shapes Anne's emotions.
2. How does regret become a source of wisdom?

Paragraph task: Explain how regret deepens Anne's character.

THEME: SOCIAL CLASS & MERIT

1. How does Austen contrast the aristocracy and the Navy?
2. Why are naval officers portrayed positively?

Task: Write a paragraph arguing whether merit should outweigh birth.

THEME: GENDER & VOICE

1. How are women expected to behave?
2. How does Anne resist these expectations?

Reflection: Is Anne passive or quietly powerful?



4. Close reading and quote analysis

QUOTE ANALYSIS 1

“All the privilege I claim for my own sex...”

1. What is Anne arguing?
2. How does Austen use language to convey conviction?
3. Why is this moment significant?

QUOTE ANALYSIS 2

“You pierce my soul.”

1. Why is this declaration restrained yet powerful?
2. How does it reflect the novel’s values?

Short task: Rewrite this line in modern language without losing meaning.



5. Essay and creative preparation

ESSAY PREPARATION

Choose one question:

1. How does Austen explore constancy in **Persuasion**?
2. **Persuasion** shows moral courage matters more than status. Discuss.

Planning scaffold:

- Thesis
- 3 key ideas
- Key quotations
- Techniques

CREATIVE RESPONSE PREPARATION

Choose one:

- Anne's diary entry after the concert
- Wentworth's unsent letter
- A conversation between Anne and Mrs Smith

Planning:

- Voice
- Theme focus
- Key details from the novel
- Intended effect on reader