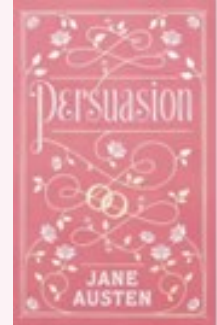




TEEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDE

PERSUASION

By Jane Austen



“We do not forget you, so soon as you forget us. It is perhaps our fate rather than our merit. We cannot help ourselves.” – Anne Elliot

GENRE

Regency Romance

Classic Literature

THEMES

Character

Social Hierarchy

Influence

Love & Marriage

Second Chances

CHARACTERS

Anne Elliot

Anne is the battered heroine of the story. She is underappreciated by her family even though she is clever, pretty, and kind. As a young woman, she did not possess a strength of mind and allowed the opinions of those around her to influence her important decisions. At age 27, and entering spinsterhood, she's not permitted her past regrets to make her angry or bitter, but instead embodies the virtue of fortitude; which has allowed her to preserve and remain steadfast in the face of trials.

Frederick Wentworth

Captain Wentworth is an eligible (and desirable) bachelor, a seafaring man, and a Captain of Her Majesty's navy. He first met Anne when she was

nineteen and after falling in love, he proposed to her and she gladly accepted. A short time afterwards, Anne broke off the engagement because of others' opinions and fears that he would not be able to financially support her in the future. Frederick was appalled and deeply hurt when Anne changed her mind, and 8 years later he has become bitter and still holds a grudge against her. Despite his lack of kindness and compassion towards Anne, Frederick is not a villain, but an impulsive, judgemental, and unforgiving hurting man with a good heart. Eventually recognises the error in his ways.

Sir Walter Elliot

Sir Walter is Anne's father. His greatest fault is his ungrounded pride and vanity. He likes to believe himself better than others and almost leads the family into financial ruin. He does not attempt to correct or admit such mistakes.

Elizabeth Elliot

Elizabeth is Anne's older sister. She is similar to her father in that she lacks humility and believes she is always right. A bit of a control freak, she has trouble finding a good husband and is still unmarried at the age of twenty-nine, when the story opens.

William Elliot

Mr. Elliot is a cousin of the Elliot family. When he first tries to mend past relationships, Anne suspects his intentions are impure. It's soon revealed that securing the title of 'Sir', and the privilege connected, is his motivation. His main fault is that of greed: for money, power and reputation.

STORYLINE

The daughter of a wealthy gentleman, Anne Elliot, met and fell in love with a young sea captain, Frederick Wentworth, but was persuaded that she was of too high class to marry him. Now, eight years after their broken engagement, he has come to stay nearby and as the two are forced into each other's company, they can't help but revisit the past.

In this novel, the faults of weakness and timidity (being too easily persuaded or ruled by others) as well as unforgiveness and bitterness towards those who hurt us are explored. To regain their relationship and attain true happiness, Anne and Wentworth must overcome their flaws and humbly admit their errors.

1 QUESTION ONE

What did you enjoy most about this book? Would you have read it if it hadn't been recommended to you? Why or why not?

2 QUESTION TWO

How do Anne's virtues compare to other Austen heroines? What are her strengths and weaknesses?

3 QUESTION THREE

Life has not been kind to Anne, yet she rejects bitterness and discontentment and grows in fortitude; displaying virtues such as compassion and patient endurance. What were some of the crucial moments of growth for her throughout the story?

4 QUESTION FOUR

Anne is a character many of us can relate to because she is often forgotten, dismissed, and cannot seem to please anyone with her decisions. Did you see yourself in Anne? How can we live to try and please God instead of others?

5 QUESTION FIVE

What do you think was Anne's lowest point in the story (i.e. when was she most despairing) and what was the catalyst for this moment?

6 QUESTION SIX

Anne extends friendship and comfort to Captain Benwick, a man whose fiancée died while he was away at sea. They form a connection over books, and Anne helpfully directs him to novels with themes of endurance instead of poetry. Do you have a friend or mentor in your life who helps or encourages you? If not, share a book that has encouraged you.

7 QUESTION SEVEN

It didn't take long for Anne to discover that Mr William Elliot had ulterior motives for reconnecting with her family. At what point in the story did you discover his selfish motives? What are some signs we might look for in a person to help us judge their character and motives?

8 QUESTION EIGHT

Captain Wentworth changed little during his eight-year estrangement with Anne, and he became very bitter, resentful and unforgiving. Could you sympathise with his guarded heart? What were the crucial moments of growth for his character?

9 QUESTION NINE

How was it that Anne and Wentworth were finally able to overcome their past and embrace a happy future? What was it that changed their minds about one another?

10 QUESTION TEN

Have you watched any movie or series adaptations of *Persuasion*? If so, which version was it, and did you enjoy it? Why or why not?



This BTB Book Club Guide was written by Anneliese and Daniella Williams.

Anneliese and Daniella are homeschooled and love to read. When they aren't reading or writing, they are probably dancing, playing netball or playing with their younger sisters.

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