**Sense & Sensibility** Discussion Questions

Is your life defined more by acts of "sense" or "sensibility"? Do you ever wish you could live differently?

Who in your life is closest to Elinor in temperament? How about Marianne? What unique joys to you find with each personality? What frustrations do you find with each?

Which movie versions have you seen and how do they compare to the world Austen creates? Which actresses and actors embody the characters best?

Was Elinor right in holding her secret about Edward from her mother and Marianne? Is there a difference between being emotionally composed and lying about your feelings?

Austen's society placed numerous constraints on both men and women in terms of what's expected from them. What pressures do you feel most strongly today in terms of career, marriage, family, etc?

Do you believe "true love" means loving only one person in a lifetime?

Which of the many aggravating characters did you like least?

Do you think Willoughby was honest in his apology? Should Elinor have told her sister what he said?

Neither Edward nor Colonel Brandon is an archetypical romantic hero. Would you change them in any way? Who would you rather marry?

Would you prefer a marriage of fiery passion with great ups and downs or a steady marriage to a selfless husband?

Who in the novel lives the most authentic Christian faith?

Does passion or "sensibility" always need to equal selfishness as it often does in this novel? How does one live a passionate life without focusing only on oneself?