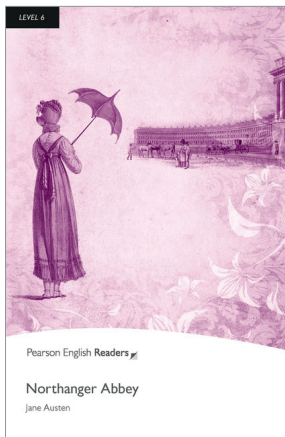


Northanger Abbey

Jane Austen



About the author

Jane Austen was born in 1775 in Steventon, Hampshire. Her father was the reverend of the local church and played a major role in developing Austen's literary talents. She began writing at an early age and many of her famous novels such as *Sense and Sensibility* (1811) and *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) began life as sketches written in her teens. She never married, but came close twice. She fell in love with a man who subsequently died, and she agreed to marry a wealthy land owner, but called it off the following morning. She loved the country life and wrote mainly about middle class families from small provincial towns. None of her books were published with her name on them, they simply said 'By a Lady', and interestingly *Northanger Abbey* was one of the first books she wrote, but was the last to be published a year after her death in 1817 from a disease she had caught off cattle. She is buried in Winchester Cathedral.

Summary

Chapters 1–2: Catherine Morland is one of ten children born to the Morlands, a couple of moderate wealth living in a small village in England. Her appearance, early childhood and education are unremarkable but at fifteen Catherine began to change; her appearance improved, she started to take an interest in novels and appreciate the arts. When Catherine is seventeen, she goes to the city of Bath with a rich gentleman, Mr Allen, and his wife. She is immediately impressed by the city and its streets and feels there is adventure and romance to be found there. Catherine's companion, Mrs Allen, is rather

unintelligent and unattractive but she loves going to parties and is very interested in fashion. The two ladies attend their first ball together but are initially disappointed because Mrs Allen sees nobody she knows, and no one asks Catherine to dance. A few days later, they go to another party where Catherine is introduced to a very entertaining young man called Mr Henry Tilney. Catherine enjoys his theatrical manner and dancing with him and hopes to see him again. She returns with Mrs Allen the next day but he is not there. Mrs Allen meets an old school friend, Mrs Thorpe, and her three daughters. The girls' brother, John, is a friend of Catherine's brother, James, both of whom are at Oxford University. Catherine makes friends with the oldest daughter, Isabella, and the two spend a lot of time walking, talking about books, and Henry Tilney and men in general.

Chapters 3–4: The two girls meet their respective brothers in the street. Isabella's brother, John, turns out to be a rather boastful, rude and ignorant young man, but despite this Catherine agrees to dance with him that evening. When she arrives at the dance, John is not there. While James and Isabella are dancing, Catherine sees Mr Tilney with a young woman, who she rightly assumes is his sister. She is later introduced to the beautiful and elegant sister, Eleanor, who everyone finds attractive. During the evening, Catherine notices that her brother and Isabella seem to be in love. The next morning, John Thorpe arrives to take Catherine for a ride in his carriage. During the ride he talks of nothing but himself. Catherine finds him extremely tedious, just as tedious in fact as Isabella and James's infatuation with each other. The next evening, Catherine goes to a ball and dances with Mr Tilney despite the protestations of the overbearing John Thorpe. At the end of the party, Catherine, Tilney and his sister agree to go for a walk the following day. As she is waiting for the Tilneys to arrive, John Thorpe calls on her to take her on a carriage ride again, saying that the Tilneys have gone out of town. As they are going through the town, she sees Miss Tilney and her brother and asks John to stop but he doesn't. When she returns home, she is told the Tilneys had called on her just after she had left with John. She is very upset about the unfavourable impression she must have made on her new friends.

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Chapters 5–6: The misunderstanding is cleared up the following night, and they agree to reschedule their walk for the following Monday. John Thorpe once again tries to disrupt her plans by playing a dirty trick, but the plan fails and the group go on a very enjoyable walk. Later, Catherine learns that James has gone to ask his parents permission to marry Isabella. Just before he leaves for London, John Thorpe corners Catherine and starts implying that they too would make a good couple but she really doesn't infer anything from his conversation. Later, at another dance, Catherine is introduced to Henry's handsome brother, Captain Tilney, who surprises her by dancing with Isabella. Catherine begins to think Isabella's feelings towards her fiancé are changing and this is confirmed when she mentions the small amount of money he is going to receive. Catherine is delighted when Henry's father, General Tilney, invites her to the Tilney family home, Northanger Abbey. Before she leaves, Isabella tells her that her brother John is in love with her and that she had encouraged his attentions. She denies the accusation. Increasingly worried about Isabella's changing moods and obvious attraction to Captain Tilney, she decides to talk to Henry. He merely says he has no control over his brother.

Chapters 7–8: On the way to the Abbey, Henry exploits Catherine's vivid imagination and fondness for Gothic novels by teasing her. He tells her frightening stories about a dark room with a mysterious cupboard in it, and how she will find a secret room with a sharp knife in it and a diary of miserable girl called Matilda. They arrive at the Abbey and after dinner, presided over by the regimental and controlling General Tilney, a storm breaks as she is retiring to bed. In her room is an old cupboard, like the one Henry had described. She opens it and finds some sheets of paper with writing on them. She imagines them to be the diary of Matilda but is embarrassed to discover later they are just lists of household items. While walking in the gardens with Miss Tilney, Catherine begins to suspect that the General and his late wife didn't have a happy marriage and that the General was not really a very pleasant man. Her suspicions are confirmed when he denies her entry into the room where his wife had died. She suspects he might have murdered her or is keeping her locked up in a secret part of the Abbey. She decides to investigate and goes into Mrs Tilney's room. Finding nothing suspicious there, she leaves the room and bumps into Henry in the hall. She tells him about her suspicions about the nature of his mother's death and this deeply offends him. She is distraught at her actions but Henry seems to forgive her later.

Chapters 9–10: Catherine receives a letter from her brother saying that his engagement to Isabella has been broken off and that she is going to marry Captain Tilney. Catherine knows that General Tilney, who is unaware of the developments, wouldn't want his son to marry Isabella because her family had no money and this thought worries her because, despite the General's warm acceptance of her, she herself is not rich. Catherine receives a letter from Isabella telling her she can't understand why James has left her and implying some misunderstanding had taken place. Catherine sees through this pack of lies and vows never to see her friend again. One night, the General inexplicably gives orders that Catherine must leave the house early the next morning and return home. She cannot think of what she has done to offend him. Sadly, she says goodbye to Eleanor and tells her to mention her to her brother, who has had to go away on business.

Chapters 11–12: Catherine returns home after an absence of eleven weeks and explains her unannounced return to her parents. Her mother believes the General to be a very strange man and agrees that her son is better off without Isabella. On a visit to the Allens', Catherine wonders if she will ever see Henry again. She has her answer a few days later when Henry visits her to ask her to marry him. She is delighted and then deeply upset when Henry goes on to tell her his father has refused him permission to see her. The General had been told lies about Catherine by Isabella's brother, John. He told him she was extremely wealthy and this had encouraged the General to welcome her warmly into his house. John, incensed by Catherine's rejection of him, had then told the General the truth, which resulted in her being thrown out of the house. Catherine's parents are happy about the wedding announcement but demand that the General agree to it too. The job of convincing the General is done admirably by Eleanor and her new husband, and the couple are married almost a year after they had first met.

Background and themes

Self deception and lies: Owing to her obsession with Gothic novels Catherine is often unable to tell fact from fiction. At the Abbey she really believes she will find something gruesome in the cupboard but finds nothing but pieces of paper. She also imagines the General is a wife murderer or has his wife locked away like a lunatic. John Thorpe spends almost the entire book telling lies about people.

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Wealth: Isabella pretends she cares nothing about money yet when an opportunity presents itself to marry a richer man than her fiancé she attempts to take it. The General will not countenance a penniless marriage and John Thorpe boasts about his imaginary wealth.

Innocence: Catherine, a quiet country girl, is totally unaware of the ways of the world especially where love is concerned. Her naivety about men is contrasted with Isabella's cynical understanding of them.

Discussion activities

Chapters 1–2

Before reading

- Quiz:** After the students have read the Introduction, put them in groups of three and tell them they are going to answer some questions about facts contained in the Introduction. Then read out the following questions which the students have to write the answer to: *When was Jane Austen born?* (1775) *How many novels did she write?* (Six) *Was the village of Steventon in the east, west, north or south of England?* (South) *At what age did Austen write Love and Friendship?* (Fourteen) *When did her father retire?* (1801) *How old was she when she died?* (Forty-one) *What was Austen's older sister's name?* (Cassandra) *Which English king kept her novels in his houses?* (King George IV)
- Discuss:** Put the students in small groups and ask them to think about how life was different in early Victorian England compared with life today. Ask them to consider the following: *Do you think people ate healthier food? Did they drink alcohol? Did people eat more or less than today? Was life more or less stressful? What types of transport did they use? What type of houses did they live in? How did they communicate over distances with each other? What did they do for entertainment? What type of music did they listen too? What types of work did they do?*

While reading (p. 2, after 'To be almost pretty is a great prize to a girl who has been plain for fifteen years.')

- Write:** Put the students in pairs and ask them to make a list of all the words they know in English to describe a person's physical appearance. Put their suggestions on the board and add some of your own. Then ask them to discuss the following questions: *How important are a person's looks to finding love, friends or a good job? Do you think the media puts too much emphasis on looks? Do you have a problem of young people going on drastic diets to get very thin in your country? Do you think it's alright to have plastic surgery to alter the way you look?*

(p. 8, after 'It cost me more than any other dress in my wardrobe.')

- Discuss:** The students will know that Mrs Allen is obsessed by clothes. Put them into groups to discuss the following questions about clothes: *How important are clothes to you? Are women more interested in clothes than men? How much do you spend on clothes a year? Are there any shops you regularly buy clothes in? Do you think the way you dress says something about your personality? What is your country's national dress? Should there be dress codes for formal events such as weddings, funerals, dinner parties, business meetings?*

After reading

- Research:** The two girls are interested in Gothic novels. Ask the students to look for information on the Internet about this genre. Then they have to give an oral presentation, pointing out the main themes of Gothic literature, its principal writers and a brief description of one important novel.

Chapters 3–4

While reading (p. 24, after 'Don't you agree, dear Catherine?')

- Role play:** Put the students in pairs and tell them they are going to act out a conversation between Catherine and Mrs Allen. Mrs Allen asks about Mr Thorpe and the ride in the carriage and Catherine answers very truthfully what she thinks.

After reading

- Write and ask:** On the board, write *What was the real reason for Catherine's brother's visit?* Elicit the answer (To see Isabella). Ask students to write other questions about something in Chapters 3–4. Now have students stand up and walk around the class, asking and answering each others questions.
- Discuss:** Put the students into groups, remind them that Catherine can't tell lies and ask them to talk about the following questions: *Have you ever told a lie? If so, when? Do you think it is sometimes better to tell a lie than to tell the truth, and if so, in which situations? Do you think politicians tell lies to get votes? Do you think doctors tell lies to their patients? Do you think parents tell lies to their children and children to their parents?*

Chapters 5–6

While reading (p. 36, after 'That was a good idea of mine, wasn't it?')

- Act:** Put the students in groups of three and tell them they are going to write and then perform a short scene featuring John Thorpe, Catherine and Isabella. Catherine is very angry that John has tried to trick her a second time, Isabella accuses Catherine of not being her friend and John insists Catherine will have a much better time with him than her other friends.

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(p. 49, after 'I did not mean to encourage your brother.')

10 Write: Tell the students to write a letter from Catherine to John Thorpe explaining that she didn't encourage him and would not encourage him as she thought him a very disagreeable person. The students don't have to write in a very formal style.

After reading

11 Write and guess: On the board, write *At the beginning of the sixth act, Catherine saw Henry Tilney.* Elicit which word is wrong from the students (fifth not sixth). Now students choose a sentence from Chapters 5–6 and rewrite it changing one word. Students walk around the class, reading out their sentences and the other students have to identify and correct the mistake.

12 Game: Put the students in pairs and tell them there are twenty words in Chapter 6 that are used to describe a person's character. Tell them they have up to ten minutes to find the words. Tell them they may have to change the form of some of the words. The pair that finishes first with all twenty words, or the pair with most words after ten minutes, wins. See Discussion activities key for list of words.

Chapters 7–8

Before reading

13 Predict: Put the students in pairs and ask them to predict the answers to the following questions: *Is the Abbey very old/modern? Does Catherine find a blanket/book/clothes in a chest in her room? Does Catherine find a knife/a roll of papers/old clothes in the cupboard in her room? Does Catherine think that the General murdered/loved/his wife? Is there a picture of Eleanor's mother in her mother's room/Eleanor's room/Catherine's room? Henry is angry because Catherine went into his mother's room/told him that she suspected his father didn't love his mother/insults his sister?*

While reading (p. 55, after 'Please, go on!')

14 Write: Ask the class for suggestions of vocabulary that might be used to write a scary horror story, and put their suggestions on the board, adding some of your own. Then put the students in pairs and tell them they are going to write a story of what happens to Catherine in the Abbey on one dark night. The students then read out their story and the class votes for the best one.

(p. 60, at the end of Chapter 7.)

15 Game: Remind the students that a lot of household items are mentioned in the chapter. Put them in groups of four and tell them they are now going to play the twenty questions game. Student A thinks of something that is normally found in a typical house. The other students have to ask Student A questions to try and guess the item. Student A can only respond 'yes', 'no' and 'sometimes'. The group can ask up to twenty questions. If they can't guess correctly, Student A wins.

After reading

16 Discuss: Catherine has a vivid imagination and a love of horror stories. Put the students in small groups to discuss the following questions: *Do you like horror books, films and video games? What is the scariest film you have ever seen and what happened in it? Do you prefer psychological horror films or ones with lots of bloody murders in them? Do you think some films can affect some people badly? Do you believe children become more violent when they spend a lot of time playing violent video games?*

Chapters 9–10

Before reading

17 Discuss: Catherine is going to receive two letters, both of which upset her. The first one is from her brother, saying that he has broken off his relationship with Isabella. Put the students in groups and ask them to discuss the following questions: *Is it possible to remain friends with somebody you have broken up with? What are the reasons couples separate? Do you think the divorce rate is going up in your country and if so why? Should couples live together for a while before they get married?*

While reading (p. 79, at the end of Chapter 9)

18 Write: Ask the students to write a summary of Chapter 9. Tell them the summary must be exactly 50 words long, not one more or less. They then read out their stories to the rest of the class who vote for the best summary.

After reading

19 Write and guess: Put students in pairs and ask them to choose a short paragraph from Chapters 9–10. Tell them to write it again, making five changes to words in the text. Students then read out their paragraphs to the other students, who have to identify the mistakes.

20 Role play: Put the students in pairs and tell them they are going to act out a conversation between Catherine and Eleanor. Eleanor could invent some reasons for the General throwing Catherine out and Catherine can deny them.

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21 Predict: Put the students in pairs and ask them to predict the reason for Catherine being told to leave the house. Ask them to consider the following possibilities: *The General finds out something scandalous in Catherine's past. He finds out that her brother has behaved immorally. He realises that Henry is in love with her and doesn't want the friendship to continue. He finds out that she had thought he had murdered his wife or hidden her somewhere in the house. He had been told she was wealthy and later finds out she isn't. He thinks she has stolen some money. He doesn't approve of her friend Isabella's relationship with his older son. He realises he is in love with her and wants to get her out of the way of temptation. He has gone mad.*

Chapters 11–12

While reading (p. 86, after 'But you must remember that the Morland family would not have high expectations of any great achievements or successes for Catherine.')

22 Discuss: Put the students in small groups to discuss the following questions about family life: *Do you come from a big family? Do you think it is an advantage to have a lot of brothers and sisters or to be an only child? Do you think your position in the family has affected your character? Do you get on well with your family? Do you have arguments with your brothers and sisters and if so what about?*

(p. 95, after 'The General had been deceived by John Thorpe at their first meeting, at the theatre in Bath.')

23 Game: Put the students in groups of three and tell them they are going to play the truth and lies game. Choose a word for each group that the students are unlikely to know. The words could be very colloquial, and avoid choosing scientific words which are often similar in their language. Put the words on the board and ask the students if they know what they mean. If they don't, give a word to each group and tell each group what their word means without letting the other groups hear. Then ask them to write one true definition and two false ones for their word. Encourage them to write imaginative descriptions and to make the false definitions realistic. Each person in the group then reads out their definition. The rest of the groups can ask questions and then must decide on who is telling the truth.

After reading

24 Pair work: Write the following words on the board: *six, note, lodgings, bread, invitation, aunt, title, eighteen.* Ask the students to talk and write in pairs to say how these words were used in Chapters 11–12.

25 Discuss and write: Put the students in pairs and ask them to write a summary of a Chapter 13 for the book, outlining what becomes of the main characters in the future. Ask them to consider the following possibilities: *Catherine and Henry have children. Isabella marries a man who mistreats her or even murders her. John Thorpe starts a business and because of his arrogance goes bankrupt. The General catches the same disease as his wife and dies.*

26 Research: Ask the students to look for reviews of the book on the Internet and to choose one good review and one bad one. They then have to read out their reviews to the rest of the class.

27 Quote Quiz: Put the students in groups of three or four and tell them to write a list of all the characters in the book. Then tell them they are going to hear a list of quotes from the book and they have to write down the name of the person who said each quote. Then read out the following:

- 1 'I must say I have not seen one dress in the whole room that I prefer to mine.' (Mrs Allen)
- 2 'He is a good-natured fellow. Perhaps a little too full of opinions sometimes, but you girls like that in a gentleman, don't you?' (James)
- 3 'How could you have told me they had gone out of town? Stop, stop, I must speak to them.' (Catherine)
- 4 'I do not approve of young men and women who are not related driving around the country in open carriages, going to inns and public places together.' (Mr Allen)
- 5 'I told her you had sent me to say that having just remembered a private engagement of going to Clifton with us tomorrow, you could not walk with her until Tuesday.' (John Thorpe)
- 6 'Such a small income is hardly enough to pay for the essential requirements of life.' (Isabella)
- 7 'If I understand what you are implying, you had come to a conclusion too horrible for me to put into words.' (Henry)
- 8 'My father was never satisfied with the picture and would not hang it in the sitting room or his apartment.' (Eleanor)
- 9 'No ... , it is cold and damp along that path. I will go across the park and meet you later, but don't show our guest around the inside of the house until I join you.' (General Tilney)
- 10 'You are not the same little girl that we said goodbye to eleven weeks ago.' (Mrs Morland)

The team with the most correct answers wins the quiz.

28 Discuss: Put the students in small groups to discuss the following questions: *Did you enjoy the book? Do you think it would make a good film? Would you like to read more of Jane Austen's books?*

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While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a When she was a child, Catherine liked to draw people.
- b Mr Allen went to Bath for business reasons.
- c Catherine's sister wasn't upset when Catherine went to Bath.
- d Mrs Thorpe and Mrs Allen had been at the same school together.
- e Both Catherine and Isabella were interested in Gothic novels.
- f Isabella liked men with medium brown hair.
- g Isabella pretended she wasn't interested in one of the men in the Pump Room.

2 Circle the right word or words.

- a Catherine was *delighted* / *disappointed* when her music teacher left.
- b Catherine's father gave her a *book* / *purse* to take to Bath.
- c Mrs Allen wasn't a very *knowledgeable* / *contented* person.
- d When Henry Tilney talked, he sounded like *an actor* / *a clergyman*.
- e Catherine told Henry that she *might not have* / *had* a journal.
- f The Thorpe sisters thought Catherine looked like *their* / *her* brother.
- g Catherine *had read* / *was reading* the book *Udolpho*.

Chapters 3–4

3 Put the words in the right place to make a sentence.

- a wasn't the in Catherine an matters heart expert of
.....
- b exciting an thought city Catherine Bath that was
.....
- c sister the was Mr Tilney with young his lady
.....
- d wanted have himself Mr Thorpe about to conversations only
.....

- e set his Mr Drummond daughter a pearls gave of
.....
- f suggested for they walk Miss Tilney that a go
.....
- g weren't her Mr Thorpe coming that Catherine told friends
.....

4 Find the right words in Chapters 3–4.

- a A word to describe unpleasant, violent or rude behaviour. (p. 15)
- b It is similar to angry or annoyed. (p. 18)
- c You do this when you are embarrassed and your face goes red. (p.18)
- d Something is this if it is very boring or tedious. (p. 22)
- e Something very noticeable and/or important. (p. 26)
- f You do this when you think to yourself. (p. 28)
- g It is similar to plan and sometimes has a negative meaning. (p. 32)

Chapters 5–6

5 Put a word or words on the left with a word or words on the right.

- | | |
|---------|---------------|
| look | a promise |
| accept | love |
| break | your feelings |
| hide | harm |
| meet | forward to |
| fall in | an apology |
| change | your opinion |
| do | by chance |

6 Write the name of the person who says or thinks this.

- Isabella General Tilney Eleanor James
Catherine Henry John
- a 'I wasn't avoiding you, my father ordered me to go with him.'
 - b 'Why did you tell her I couldn't go walking?'
 - c 'My parents have given me permission to marry in three years.'
 - d 'I would like to pay a visit to Fullerton to get to know you better.'

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- e 'The people in that family must be very arrogant not to have spoken to you.'
.....
- f 'Don't think my brother wanted to dance with your friend out of kindness.'
.....
- g 'I am inviting you to come and stay at Northanger Abbey.'
.....

Chapters 7–8

7 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- a Catherine felt very nervous sitting next to Henry in the carriage.
- b The cupboard in Catherine's room had silver handles.
- c Catherine read the sheets of paper in the afternoon.
- d Catherine was very disappointed with the size and design of the gardens.
- e The late Mrs Tilney had suffered from an illness days before her death.
- f Henry's father was not the tidiest man to live with.
- g Catherine laughed when she looked at the chest and cupboard after talking to Henry.

8 Answer the questions.

- a Who stayed behind when the group went to Northanger Abbey?
.....
- b Who did Henry say had died in the room Catherine was going to sleep in?
.....
- c Whose apartment was very near to Catherine's room?
.....
- d What did Catherine expect to see written on the sheets of paper?
.....
- e Where did the General not want to go in the gardens?
.....
- f What was hung on the wall in Eleanor's room?
.....
- g Where did Catherine have an uncomfortable meeting with Henry?
.....

Chapters 9–10

9 Circle the wrong word in the sentences.

- a Catherine understood why Isabella had not wrote written to her.
- b Henry didn't believe that his brother would ever marry marrying Isabella.
- c Catherine was very happy with to the idea of seeing Henry's house.
- d Isabella was worried there had been a misunderstanding amongst between her and James.
- e Catherine didn't know whether if to leave or stay at the Abbey.
- f When she heard the news, Catherine sank into onto a chair.
- g Catherine wasn't bothered by either the wind nor or the darkness.

10 Put the underlined letters in the right place to make a word.

- a Catherine said that the Thorpe's were not a teylwah family.
- b The sitting room in Henry's house didn't have any neutfuirr in it.
- c Catherine thought Isabella's letter was very ostdehins
- d Catherine didn't have a vetsarn to accompany her home.
- e Catherine didn't know how she had nfdeefdo the General.
- f Catherine's last night in the Abbey was a psleselse one.
- g Catherine covered her face with a nefhhdakecir

Chapters 11–12

11 Write the name of the person who says or thinks this.

- The General Catherine Henry
Mrs Allen Mrs Morland
- a 'He can't possibly have found out about my suspicions about his wife.'
.....
 - b 'I must admit your friendship with that girl is a very strange one.'
.....
 - c 'Do you remember the lovely dress I was wearing at the ball?'
.....
 - d 'I'll say I want to talk to the neighbours so I can be alone with her.'
.....
 - e 'I knew I should never have listened to that man's stories of her wealth.'
.....

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1 What's first? Number the sentences 1–10.

- a Catherine is invited to stay at Northanger Abbey.
- b Catherine apologises to Henry, and explains the reason for her absence.
- c James sends Catherine a letter saying the engagement has been broken off.
- d The General finally gives his consent to the marriage of Henry and Catherine.
- e Catherine is introduced to Henry Tilney at a ball in Bath.
- f Catherine is thrown out of Northanger Abbey by the General.
- g Isabella dances with Captain Tilney at a ball.
- h Henry sees Catherine coming out of his late mother's room and becomes angry.
- i Isabella and Catherine unexpectedly meet their respective brothers in the street.
- j Isabella tells Catherine she is engaged to her brother.

2 Finish the sentences with the right names.

Mrs Tilney Mrs Morland John Thorpe Eleanor Isabella Catherine Henry James Mrs Allen The General

- a wasn't interested in books at first but became a fan of the Gothic novel.
- b was continually worried about not seeing her friends at dances.
- c was arrogant, boring and often deceitful.
- d was vane, devious and treated nearly all men with contempt.
- e fell in love with someone, was treated badly, and luckily escaped marrying her.
- f liked to control everything and everybody and could fly into a rage.
- g didn't always stay at his father's because he had his own house.
- h died nine years previously from a long illness.
- i persuaded her father to change his opinion about a marriage.
- j was a practical woman who spoke a lot of common sense.

3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Mrs Allen had one son and two daughters.
- b Catherine was amused at John Thorpe's praise of his horse and carriage.
- c Isabella and James made Catherine feel left out of their company.
- d At first, the General is very cold and unfriendly towards Catherine.
- e When James was away from Bath, Isabella flirted with Captain Tilney.
- f Isabella was disappointed when she received James's second letter.
- g Henry teased Catherine and tried to frighten her on their journey to the Abbey.
- h Henry told Catherine that his father had really cared for his wife.
- i Henry and Eleanor were very sad that James and Isabella had split up.
- j The General's decision to condone the marriage wasn't influenced by money.

4 Answer the questions.

- a What did Henry Tilney do for a living?
.....
- b Which two people were studying together at Oxford University?
.....
- c Who refused to stop his carriage when Catherine asked him to?
.....
- d How long did James and Isabella have to wait before they could marry?
.....
- e Who insisted on being punctual?
.....
- f What room did the General not want Catherine to enter?
.....
- g What did the General think were the most important requirements for marriage?
.....
- h Where did the General plan a dinner party?
.....
- i Who did Isabella say she disliked in her letter?
.....
- j Why did the General throw Catherine out of his house?
.....

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Book key

1–2 Open answers

- 3 a heir: The speaker is his/her mother's heir.
 b clergyman: Clergymen lead church services.
 c acquaintance: The speaker and his/her listener are acquaintances.
 d interpreter: The speaker is talking to an English/Japanese interpreter.
 e chaperone: The speaker seems to need a chaperone for the event.
 f fiancé: The speaker is planning the wedding with his/her futurewife/husband.
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a Catherine Morland b Mrs Allen
 c Henry Tilney d Mrs Thorpe
 e John Thorpe, James Morland f Isabella Thorpe
- 6 a Mr and Mrs Allen take Catherine to Bath, therefore allowing the story to be centred around Bath's meeting rooms.
 b Mr King introduces Catherine to Mr Henry Tilney as a dance partner. This gives our heroine an appropriate person to fall in love with.
 c Mrs Thorpe is an old friend of Mrs Allen's. This brings together the Thorpes and the Morlands and their complicated connections.
- 7 a The novel, according to Jane Austen, has humour, mystery, culture and elegance. From novels, the reader can learn everything about human nature in the most delightful language and through the most entertaining plots.
 b (But) Many people of this period considered novels as nothing more than foolish nonsense.
- 8 Open answers
- 9 a T b F c F d T e F f F g T h T
 i T j F
- 10 Possible answers:
 a Isabella is flirtatious around James Morland. She is selfish when she dances while Catherine sits and waits for John Thorpe to arrive.
 b Catherine is surprised when her brother arrives in Bath. She is confused when she hears John Thorpe talking about Mrs Radcliff. She is disappointed when Isabella abandons her. She is naive when she thinks her brother has come to Bath to see her, and when she does not notice the attraction between him and Isabella.

- c Mr Thorpe is rude when he makes comments on women's appearance and when he keeps Catherine Morland waiting to dance. He is exaggerated in his claims when he talks about the journey from Tetbury to Bath, and about his horse, his carriage and his knowledge of Mrs Radcliff's novels.

11 Open answers

12 a 5 b 7 c 8 d 2 e 3 f 6 g 4 h 1

13 a disappointed b shocked c hurt d thrilled
 e astonished f uncomfortable g relieved

14 Open answers

15 Possible answers:

Catherine is excited about seeing a real abbey. She thinks it will be similar to places often described in the Gothic novels she loves. She is also pleased that she will spend more time with Henry and Eleanor Tilney. She enjoys their company very much and is already in love with Henry.

16 Possible answers:

- a a low building without even an ancient chimney
 b pretty wallpaper; a lovely carpet; a handsome, comfortable and even cheerful room
 c a beautiful, new white blanket, folded neatly
 d some laundry lists, and others of household purchases
 e a very elegant monument to the memory of Mrs Tilney
 f a clean, beautiful, modern, light lady's bedroom with handsome furniture and an attractive view

17 Possible answers:

At their lodgings in Bath, he gives Catherine a warm welcome and looks after her every need. He suggests that Catherine might see more of the countryside on the way to Northanger Abbey if she joins Henry in his carriage. He is kind and attentive towards her at dinner. He is very polite about Mr Allen's dining-room. He hints that he would like to buy a new set of dishes for Henry and her. He is pleased by her admiration of Northanger Abbey. He expresses the hope that there will be visitors from Fullerton to the Abbey one day.

Northanger Abbey

18 Possible answers:

He always takes an early walk.

He avoids his wife's favourite walk.

His face says that he did not behave well towards his wife.

He does not want his wife's picture in the sitting-room or in his apartment.

He has dark, dangerous secrets like a character from a Gothic novel.

His guilt stops him from letting Catherine see the room in which Mrs Tilney died.

His late hours indicate secrets. Perhaps he is keeping his wife a prisoner in another part of the house.

He appears unemotional as he sits in church in front of the monument to his wife.

Catherine comes to the conclusion that he was not very fond of his wife, was not attentive during her illness, and was not full of grief and sorrow when she died.

19 Open answers

20 a tenth b 30 c 2 d 20 e 6 f 2 g 3
h 11 i 7 j 70

21 Possible answers:

a At the beginning of Chapter 9, Catherine believes that Isabella will marry her brother and be her sister-in-law one day. She is looking forward to receiving a letter from her dear friend. By the end of Chapter 10, Catherine never wants to see Isabella or hear from her again because Isabella has treated her brother James so badly.

At the beginning of Chapter 9, Catherine believes that General Tilney is very fond of her and is hoping that she will marry his son, Henry. By the end of Chapter 10, Catherine is shocked by the General's rude, unkind treatment of her, and by the fact that there seems to be no explanation for his behaviour towards her.

b Jane Austen reveals Isabella's character through two letters to Catherine: one from James and then one from Isabella herself.

Jane Austen reveals the General's character by having him arrive at Northanger Abbey very late one evening and instruct his daughter to throw Catherine out of the house almost immediately and without explanation.

c Catherine is forced to question people's behaviour, and she begins to interpret their words and actions more carefully.

22 Open answers

23 a the two youngest Morland children
b Mrs Morland c Eleanor Tilney
d the Allens e Henry Tilney f John Thorpe
g Eleanor Tilney h Catherine Morland

24 Possible answers:

a It is a shocking and strange business and not worth worrying about.

b Catherine has done very well and should be proud of taking care of herself and acting like an adult.

c Catherine should go to bed early and get a good night's sleep.

d These were disappointing and should now be forgotten.

e After some time it will be a pleasure for Catherine and Eleanor to meet again.

f James is very sad but must learn from his unlucky experience.

g Old friends can be relied on. Their affection and good opinion is very valuable.

h Catherine needs to realise that there is a time for travel and balls and entertainment, but there is also a time for work and helping one's family.

25–34 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–2 Open answers

3 skinny, plump, chubby, flabby, slender, stocky, fit, well built, wavy/curly/frizzy/straight hair, bald
+ Open answers

4–5 Open answers

6 Mrs Allen: Well, my dear, how was your ride in the country?

Catherine: The country was beautiful but I'm afraid my travelling companion proved to be a crashing bore.

MA: Really! He seemed a very lively fellow.

C: If you consider talking about yourself all the time as something that contributes to lively conversation, I am sure you're mistaken. He just talked about his horse, his ...

7–11 Open answers

12 polite, charming, unfriendly, rude, faithful, happy, quiet, kind, generous, determined, amusing, modest, naïve, innocent, honest, sincere, jealous, flirtatious, lively, affectionate

13 It is modern. She finds a blanket. She finds a roll of papers. She thinks he murdered his wife. The picture is in Eleanor's room. Henry is angry because Catherine told him she suspected his father didn't love his mother.

Northanger Abbey

- 14 Suggestions: abandoned churches, ghouls, vampires, werewolves, creaking doors, shrill cry, petrified, shadows, howling wind, full moon, corpses
- 15 Example questions: Does it use electricity? Is it made of wood / plastic / metal / porcelain? Is it usually found in the bathroom / bedroom / living room?
Does it have a function? Do you use it for cooking?
Does every house have it?
- 16–19 Open answers
- 20 Eleanor: Maybe my father doesn't like the attention you are paying to Henry.
Catherine: But I don't make anything obvious. And besides I thought he was pleased to have me here, after all he did invite me.
E: My father is a strange man. Maybe he doesn't like your manners.
C: My manners! What are you talking about?
E: Well you do ...
- 21–22 Open answers
- 23 Suggested vocabulary: drowsy, bemused
- 24 The boy/Catherine's brother was six years old.
Catherine wrote a very short note to Eleanor.
General Tilney's lodgings in Bath were rented the day after he and his family left. Mrs Morland wasn't happy to hear Catherine talk about French bread at breakfast. Henry was sorry he had arrived without an invitation. John Thorpe had invented a rich aunt for James. Eleanor's husband had inherited a title.
Catherine got married when she was eighteen years old.
- 25–28 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a X b X c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f X g ✓
- 2 a delighted b purse c knowledgeable
d an actor e might not have f her
g was reading
- 3 a Catherine wasn't an expert in matters of the heart.
b Catherine thought that Bath was an exciting city.
c The young lady with Mr Tilney was his sister.
d Mr Thorpe only wanted to have conversations about himself.
e Mr Drummond gave his daughter a set of pearls.
f Miss Tilney suggested that they go for a walk.
g Mr Thorpe told Catherine that her friends weren't coming.
- 4 a offensive b cross c blush d dull
e significant f wonder g scheme

- 5 look – forward to
accept – an apology
break – a promise
hide – your feelings
meet – by chance
fall in – love
change – your opinion
do – harm
- 6 a Eleanor b Catherine c James d John
e Isabella f Henry g General Tilney
- 7 a nervous > happy
b silver > gold
c afternoon > morning
d disappointed > impressed
e days > years
f tidiest > easiest
g laughed > trembled
- 8 a Captain Frederick Tilney.
b An old aunt.
c Eleanor's.
d A diary of a girl called Matilda.
e Down a narrow, dark path.
f A picture of Mrs Tilney.
g In the hall, outside Mrs Tilney's room.
- 9 a wrote b marrying c to d amongst e if
f onto g nor
- 10 a wealthy b furniture c dishonest d servant
e offended f sleepless g handkerchief
- 11 a Catherine b Mrs Morland c Mrs Allen
d Henry e The General

Progress test key

- 1 a 6 b 3 c 8 d 10 e 1 f 9 g 5 h 7
i 2 j 4
- 2 a Catherine b Mrs Allen c John Thorpe
d Isabella e James f The General g Henry
h Mrs Tilney i Eleanor j Mrs Morland
- 3 a X b X c ✓ d X e ✓ f ✓ g ✓ h ✓
i X j X
- 4 a He was a clergyman.
b James Morland and John Thorpe.
c John Thorpe.
d Two or three years.
e General Tilney.
f His dead wife's room.
g To be socially well connected and to have money.
h In Henry's house, in Woodston.
i Captain Tilney.
j Because he had been told she was poor.