

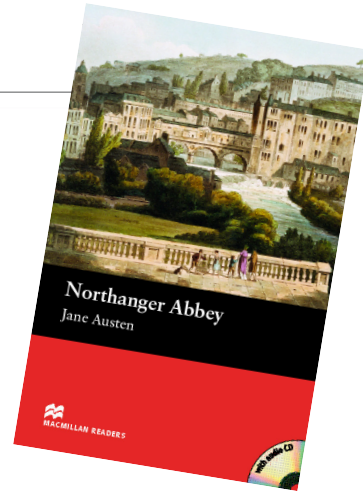
Northanger Abbey
by Jane Austen

Chapter Two: Catherine's New Friends

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Beginner – pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30 minutes approx

Activity 1

- 1 Ask your students to sit back and relax.
- 2 Tell them you are going to play Chapter Two, but that you will play it section by section. Tell them all you want them to do is listen.
- 3 Play the recording until *'Catherine was very happy.'*
- 4 Then, put students in pairs and decide who is student A and who is student B. (In each pair there should be one A and one B.)
- 5 Ask all the student As to start retelling the section of the story they heard to their partner.
- 6 Explain that the student Bs should interrupt if they remember things differently or if they can add more details.
- 7 Play the recording again and ask the students to listen to see how much they had remembered.
- 8 Now repeat the procedure with the next section of the story from *'It was Friday evening.'* until *'The Tilneys live at Northanger Abbey.'* This time ask student Bs to try to retell the story to their partner.
- 9 Again, play that part of the recording again.
- 10 Repeat this activity with the other sections of the story.
From *'Henry Tilney bowed to Catherine.'* until *'You must remember all of them.'* (Student As retell)
From *'The next morning, Catherine and Mrs Allen went to the Pump Room.'* until *'James stayed with us at Christmas.'* (Student Bs retell)
From *'Soon Catherine and Isabella were talking happily.'* until *'Then, we will walk together to the Royal Crescent.'* (Student As retell)
And finally from *'After that, Catherine and Isabella went everywhere together.'* until the end of the chapter. (Student Bs retell)



Note: Don't check how well students did, let them self-check when they are listening to the recording again. You will notice lots of things if you just watch the faces of your students.

Extension: A postcard from Bath

Ask students to imagine that they are Catherine. Have them write a postcard from Bath describing her life there.

Activity 2

- 1 On the board write the following verbs:
go drink meet take
sit hold see tell
- 2 Explain to the students that you will play the recording again and that you want them to put their hands up every time they hear the past tense of one of these verbs.
- 3 Play the recording again.
- 4 Watch carefully to see which students are looking at the other students and putting up their hands a split second after the word appears on the recording.
- 5 An alternative way is to ask the students to listen with their eyes closed to prevent any cheating.

Extension: Past simple practice

Ask the students to write out the verbs from the board and the correct past tense form of each one.

Chapter Two: Catherine's New Friends

Transcript

The Allens had an apartment in Pulteney Street, near the centre of Bath. Catherine loved the city. She loved the wide streets, the big houses and shops. The streets of Bath were crowded with people. And the shops were full of beautiful things.

In the evenings, people went to balls. There were balls in the large buildings called the Upper Rooms and the Lower Rooms. In the mornings, many people went to the Pump Room. They drank the water. And they met their friends.

They were many things to do in Bath. Catherine was very happy.

It was Friday evening. The Allens took Catherine to the Lower Rooms. The Rooms were crowded. People were eating, talking and dancing in the salons.

Mrs Allen and Catherine sat down together in a large salon. Mr Allen walked through the crowded room. Catherine wanted to dance. But she did not have a dancing-partner. Soon, Mr Allen returned, and there was a tall young man with him. He introduced the young man to Catherine.

'This is Mr Henry Tilney,' Mr Allen said. 'I know his father. but I have not seen him for a long time. The Tilneys live at Northanger Abbey.'

Henry Tilney bowed to Catherine. He was a very handsome man. He was about twenty-five years old.

'Will you be my partner for the next dance, Miss Morland?' he asked.

Catherine bowed. Mr Tilney held her hand and they started to dance. Catherine was very happy. She was dancing with a handsome young man! At the end of the dance, the young people sat down together.

'Do you know Bath well, Mr Tilney?' Catherine asked.

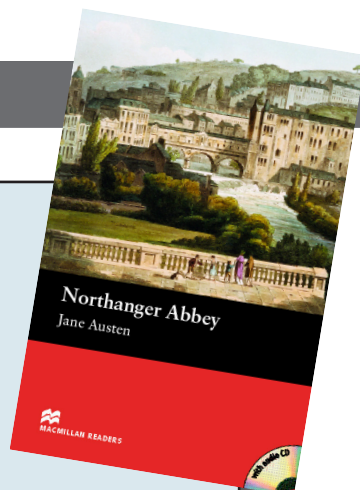
'I have visited Bath many times,' Mr Tilney replied. 'But I am the clergyman of a church many miles away.'

Mr Tilney smiled at Catherine. 'Now I must ask you some questions,' he said.

Catherine laughed. 'What questions?' she asked.

Mr Tilney smiled again and he spoke quickly.

'Have you been in Bath long? Have you been to the Upper



Chapter Two: Catherine's New Friends

Transcript

Rooms? Have you been to the theatre? Do you like Bath? These are my questions,' Mr Tilney said.

'I have been in Bath for a week,' said Catherine. 'My answer to the other questions is, yes!' And she laughed again.

'You are laughing at me!' said Mr Tilney. 'Will you write about me in your diary tonight?'

'I don't write in a diary,' Catherine said.

'I do not believe that. Every young girl writes in a diary,' Mr Tilney said. 'Many things will happen to you in Bath. You must remember all of them!'

The next morning, Catherine and Mrs Allen went to the Pump Room. Mr Tilney was not at the Pump Room. But Mrs Allen saw a friend. She had not met her friend, Mrs Thorpe, for many years.

'Mrs Thorpe!' said Mrs Allen. 'I haven't seen you for fifteen years!'

'My dear Mrs Allen,' Mrs Thorpe replied. 'I am very happy to see you! Here are my three daughters. This is Isabella. She is the eldest. Isn't she beautiful? And here are Maria and Anne.'

'And this is Miss Catherine Morland,' said Mrs Allen.

'Miss Morland?' Isabella asked. She looked at Catherine. 'Are you the sister of Mr James Morland? Mr Morland is the friend of my brother, John. They are both students at Oxford University. James stayed with us at Christmas.'

Soon, Catherine and Isabella were talking happily. Isabella was four years older than Catherine and she was very beautiful. She was wearing fine, fashionable clothes.

Isabella knew Bath well. She talked to Catherine about the balls. And she told her about the young men and the shops. Catherine listened, and the morning passed very quickly.

'Tomorrow is Sunday,' Isabella said. 'In the morning, we will go to church. Then, we will walk together to the Royal Crescent.'

After that, Catherine and Isabella went everywhere together.

They liked clothes. They liked theatres and balls. And they read horror-stories. They liked frightening stories!

Soon the two girls were very good friends.

