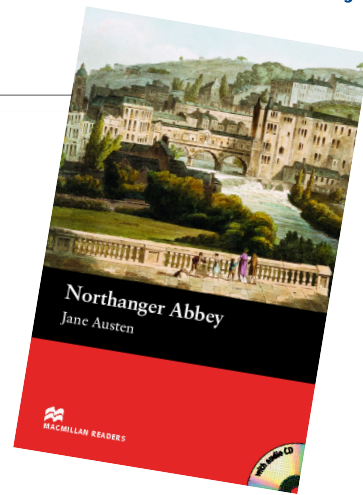


Northanger Abbey
by Jane Austen

Chapter Four: A Ball at the Upper Rooms

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



Activity 1

- 1 Tell students you want them to listen to the recording of Chapter Four and write between three and five questions about the story.
- 2 Play the recording (you might want students to make notes, or simply to listen).
- 3 Put students in pairs and get them to write their questions.
- 4 Play the recording up to two more times (but make it clear to the students at the start that you will do this).
- 5 Monitor, in between playing the recording, and help students with their questions (in terms of form / grammar, not content).
- 6 Get pairs to swap their questions, read the questions they have been handed, and see how many they can answer.
- 7 Play the recording one more time and have students answer the questions.
- 8 Pair the pairs and get them to check and discuss the questions and answers.

Extension: Writing practice

Ask students to imagine they are Catherine or John and to write a diary entry for that day.

Activity 2

- 1 Write the following adjectives on the board:
unhappy angry happy

- 2 Tell students you will play the chapter and they need to write down the name of the person who feels unhappy, angry or happy and why (the reason they feel this way).
- 3 Play the recording.
- 4 Put students in pairs and have them compare.
- 5 Play the recording again and then check the answers.

Answers:

*Catherine was unhappy because she didn't have anyone to dance with.
John (Thorpe) was angry because Catherine was dancing with (Mr) Henry Tilney.
Catherine was (very) happy because she had a new friend.*

Extension: Describing feelings

Ask students to think of situations where they have felt unhappy, angry and happy. Put the students in small groups of three to five and have them tell each other about these situations.

Chapter Four: A Ball at the Upper Rooms

Transcript

It was Thursday evening. James and Catherine Morland went to the Upper Rooms with Mrs Allen. They met Isabella Thorpe in the Upper Rooms. They all sat down in a large salon.

'Isabella, will you dance with me?' James asked.

'My brother is not here,' Isabella said. 'Catherine doesn't have a dancing-partner. I will wait until John comes.'

But a few minutes later, Isabella stood up,

'John will be here soon,' she said. 'I am going to dance with James now.'

Catherine Morland was unhappy. She was a pretty girl without a dancing-partner. She looked round the room. Suddenly, she saw Mr Tilney. But he had a beautiful young woman with him!

The young woman went towards some other people. Mr Tilney moved slowly across the room. He bowed to Catherine and Mrs Allen.

'I am very happy to see you again, Mr Tilney,' Mrs Allen said.

'My sister, Eleanor, is here with me tonight,' Mr Tilney said. Then he smiled at Catherine and he asked her to dance.

'I am very sorry,' Catherine said. 'But I am waiting for Mr Thorpe. I am going to dance with him.'

At that moment, John Thorpe came towards them.

'Now we will dance, Miss Morland,' he said.

At the end of the dance, John Thorpe left the room.

Isabella Thorpe walked up to Catherine.

'Your brother wants to dance with me again!' she said. 'But you must dance again too, my dear friend.'

Mr Tilney walked towards Catherine. 'Will you be my dancing-partner now?' he asked.

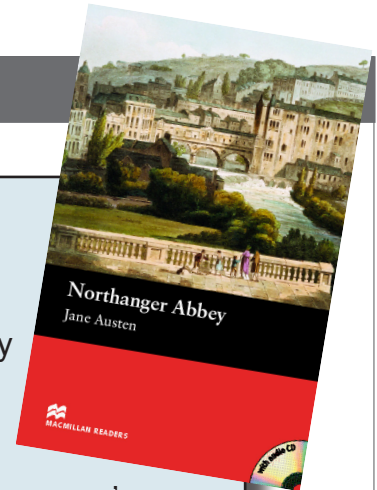
Catherine was very happy. She stood up and Mr Tilney held her hand. At that moment, John Thorpe came back into the room. He walked towards them.

'Miss Morland!' John Thorpe said. 'Why are you not dancing with me? Who is this man?'

'This is Mr Henry Tilney,' Catherine said. 'He wants to dance with me. You were not in the room.'

'I am Miss Morland's dancing-partner now,' Henry Tilney said. He spoke very politely. 'The dance is beginning. Please excuse us.'

John Thorpe was angry. He walked away.



Chapter Four: A Ball at the Upper Rooms

Transcript

Catherine and Mr Tilney started to dance.
'You have been in Bath for three weeks, Miss Morland,' said Mr Tilney. 'Are you bored? Or are you enjoying yourself?'

'Bath is not boring,' Catherine said.
'But your family is not in Bath?'

'My brother is here,' said Catherine. 'And I have some good friends.'

Mr Tilney smiled. 'My sister Eleanor will be your friend too,' he said.

A few minutes later, the dance ended. Catherine saw somebody looking at her. He was a tall, handsome old man.

Mr Tilney went towards the old man. He spoke with him. Then Henry Tilney walked back to Catherine,
'That man is my father, General Tilney,' he said. 'He was asking me your name.'

Catherine danced with Henry Tilney once more. Then Mr Tilney introduced her to his sister. Catherine sat down and Eleanor Tilney sat next to her. Eleanor was about twenty-two years old. She was beautiful and she was wearing a white dress.

'The country around Bath is very beautiful,' Eleanor Tilney said. 'Henry and I often walk in the country together. Please come with us one day. Please, come tomorrow!'

'Oh, yes,' Catherine replied. 'I am living with the Allens. They have an apartment in Pulteney Street. Let's meet there at twelve o'clock.'

Catherine had another new friend. She was very happy.

