

Northanger Abbey

by Jane Austen

Chapter Five: 'Why did you lie to me?'

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

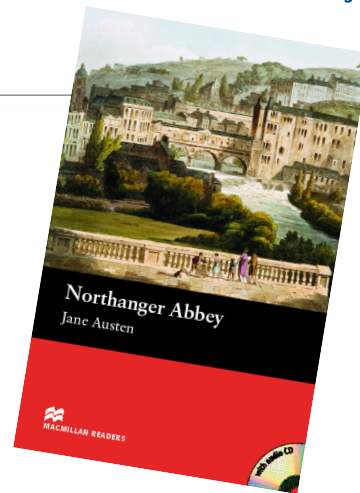
Activity 1

- 1 Play the first part of Chapter 5 from *On Friday morning...* until *but there were some clouds in the sky.*
- 2 Ask the students to predict the next piece of the story (they can do this by writing down their ideas and then comparing them in pairs or small groups).
- 3 Play the next piece of the recording: *At about eleven o'clock, it started to rain.* See how many of the students guessed correctly.
- 4 Play the next piece of the recording until *"It is the oldest castle in England!"* and again get students to predict what happens (you might want to give them a hint – *what do you think Catherine says?*).
- 5 Repeat this process, stopping and getting students to predict/guess at the following points:
 - *"I saw them this morning. They were driving out of Bath."* (Hint – *How do you think Catherine felt?*)
 - *Catherine shouted "There are Mr Tilney and Miss Tilney. I must speak to them."* (Hint – *What do you think John Thorpe did?*)
 - *John Thorpe stopped his horse. "What is wrong?" he asked.* (Hint – *Do you think they went to Blaize Castle? Why / why not?*)
 - *Later, Catherine went back to Pulteney Street. Mrs Allen spoke to her.* (Hint – *What do you think Mrs Allen said? Who do you think she had seen?*)

Note: This is an example of dual Top-down, Bottom-up processing.

Extension: What happens next?

Put students in pairs and ask them to write a few simple two-sentence stories (these could be about anything, e.g. something that happened to them at the weekend). Then pair the pairs and ask them to swap the first sentences of their stories. Students read the



sentences they have been given and try to predict what happens next. After some guesses have been made for each sentence, the pairs can then swap the second sentences to see how close they were.

Activity 2

- 1 Write the following lines on the board:-
 - *"The Tilneys will not come."*
 - *"But the clouds are going away."*
 - *"Come quickly!"*
 - *"Blaize Castle? What is that?"*
 - *"You will love Blaize Castle."*
 - *"It is old and very frightening."*
 - *"Oh, stop, stop!"*
 - *"Why did you lie to me, Mr Thorpe?"*
 - *"We'll go back then, I don't care."*
- 2 Put the students in pairs.
- 3 Play the recording, stopping after each line. Ask the students to take turns saying the lines trying to use the correct intonation and stress to add feeling.
- 4 Ask a few students to say each line out loud to the class.

Note: This is a good opportunity to use choral drilling (where the whole class say the line at the same time, focusing on the intonation).

Activity 3

- 1 Play the recording again, stopping at the same lines as Activity 2.

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- 2 Ask students to work with a partner and imagine they were Catherine. Ask them to discuss how they would feel at each point in the story (if they were Catherine).
- 3 You could also ask students what they would have said or done at each point if they were Catherine.
- 4 Ask a few students to report back to the class.

Extension: Role-play

Put students in pairs and ask them to imagine they were either Catherine or John Thorpe. Tell them it is the end of the day and they are telling a friend what happened that day (from their viewpoint).

Alternatively, you could ask students to imagine that they were Catherine and write a letter to a friend at home to tell them about what happened.

Transcript

On Friday morning, Catherine woke early. She got out of bed and she looked out of the window. The sun was shining, but there were some clouds in the sky.

At about eleven o'clock, it started to rain.

'The Tilneys will not come,' she said sadly to Mrs Allen.

'The streets are wet,' Mrs Allen replied. 'But the clouds are going away. Soon, it will stop raining.'

At half-past twelve, the sun was shining again. Catherine was in a room upstairs. She looked out of the window. She saw two carriages coming along the street.

'Here is Isabella, with my brother and Mr Thorpe!' she said. 'But I cannot go out with them. I must wait for the Tilneys.'

Then Catherine heard a noise. Somebody was running up the stairs.

'Come quickly!' John Thorpe shouted. 'We are going to Blaize Castle, Miss Morland.'

'Blaize Castle? What is that?' Catherine asked.

'It is the oldest castle in England!'

'I cannot go,' Catherine said. 'I am waiting for Mr Tilney and his sister, Eleanor. We are going to walk in the country. They will be here soon, I am sure.'

'They are not coming,' John Thorpe said. 'I saw them this morning. They were driving out of Bath.'

Catherine was very surprised. She did not say anything. But she believed John Thorpe's words.

Isabella came into the room.

'My dear Catherine, you must come with us,' she said. 'You will love Blaize Castle. It is old and very frightening! It is as frightening as a horror-story!'

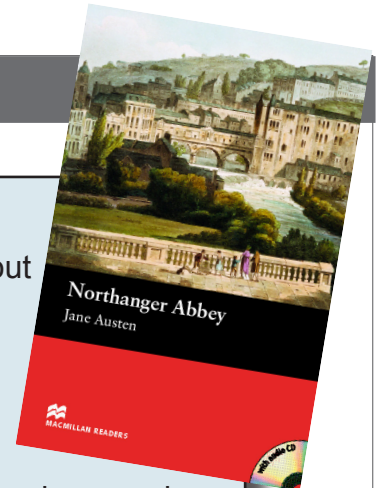
A few minutes later, Catherine was sitting next to John Thorpe in his carriage. Isabella was with James Morland in the other carriage. The two carriages were going along Pulteney Street.

'Oh, stop, stop!' Catherine shouted. 'There are Mr Tilney and Miss Tilney. I must speak to them.'

John Thorpe laughed. But he did not stop the horse.

The Tilneys heard Catherine's voice. They stopped walking and they turned round.

'Why did you lie to me, Mr Thorpe?' Catherine asked. 'The



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Transcript

Tilneys have not left Bath!

John Thorpe laughed again. But he did not stop the horse.

At first, Catherine was sad about the Tilneys. Then she started to think about Blaize Castle. It was a very old building. Catherine liked horror-stories. The stories were about old buildings and their secrets. They were frightening stories. But Catherine liked frightening stories!

After two hours, James Morland shouted from his carriage. 'Stop, Thorpe! Stop!'

John Thorpe stopped his horse.

'What is wrong?' he asked.

'We must go back,' James replied. 'It's three o'clock. We cannot go to Blaize Castle today. It is too late. Blaize Castle is too far away.'

'We'll go back then. I don't care,' John Thorpe said.

So they drove back to Bath.

Catherine had dinner with the Thorpes. Then, after dinner, they all played cards.

Later, Catherine went back to Pulteney Street. Mrs Allen spoke to her.

'Mr Tilney and Miss Tilney came here this morning,' Mrs Allen said. 'They wanted to see you.'

Catherine was very unhappy. She went to bed and she cried.

