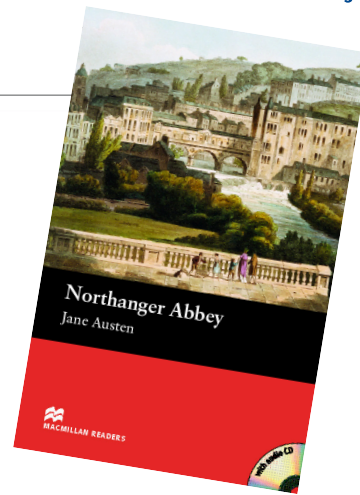


Northanger Abbey

by Jane Austen

Chapter Seven: Isabella is in Love

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Beginner – pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Preparation: Activity 1 – alternative procedure: make copies of the sentences for each pair / group of students, cut up and put into envelopes. Activity 2 – extension: make enough charades cards for each group of 6-8 students.



LISTENING SKILLS TEACHER'S NOTES

Activity 1

- Elicit from the students the names of the five main characters in the story (Catherine, Isabella, James – Catherine's brother, John Thorpe and Henry Tilney).
- Explain that the first four of these characters appear in this chapter.
- Write the following questions on the board:
 - Who wrote a letter to Catherine?
 - Who is in love with Isabella?
 - Who is getting married?
 - Who is going to speak to their parents?
 - Who sang a song?
 - Who can't sing?
- Tell the students you will play the recording once and they should try to answer the question.
- Play the whole chapter straight through.
- Put students in pairs and get them to compare their answers.
- Play the recording one more time and then check.

Key

Who wrote a letter to Catherine? (Isabella)
 Who is in love with Isabella? (James)
 Who is getting married? (James and Isabella)
 Who is going to speak to their parents? (James)
 Who sang a song? (John)
 Who can't sing? (Catherine)

Alternative procedure

Make enough copies of the sentences for each pair or group of 3-4 students. Cut up each sentence into individual words and put each sentence in an envelope. Give each pair / group a set of envelopes and have them make the questions before you play the recording.

Extension: Family role-play

Ask students to imagine the conversation between James Moorland and his parents. Ask the students to write out a possible dialogue and then act it out. Ask a few pairs to act out their dialogue to the class.

Activity 2

- Tell students you are going to play a short piece of the recording for Chapter Seven and all you want them to do is listen.
- Ask the students to put their pens down and relax.
- Play the recording of the letter (From *My dear Catherine*, until *Your dear friend, Isabella*).
- Put students in pairs and ask them to try to remember as much as possible.
- Ask them to write down everything they can remember.
- Play the recording one more time and ask the students to try to reconstruct the letter.

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7 Pair the pairs and ask students to compare their letters.

8 Finally, play the recording again and ask them to listen and silently compare it to their version(s).

Note: This is a form of dictogloss. The idea behind a dictogloss is that it encourages students to pool their ideas and knowledge together and helps them discover things they hadn't noticed themselves. It is important to emphasise that you are not looking for a verbatim transcript.

Extension: Charades

Make a set of charades cards for each group of six to eight students. Form groups and explain that the students should take turns picking a card and then miming the word(s) on the card for the other students to guess.

Suggested words: *waiting, eating breakfast, clever, wedding, laugh, in love, get married and wife.*

Transcript

The next Tuesday, a letter arrived for Catherine. It was from Isabella.

*My dear Catherine,
Please come immediately. I must tell you
something. I am waiting for you.
Your dear friend, Isabella*

Catherine went to Edgar's Buildings. Isabella was eating her breakfast. She ran towards Catherine. She put her arms round her friend and laughed.

'Your dear, dear brother!' Isabella said. 'Oh, I am very excited! What will your parents say? Will they like me?'

'My dear Isabella!' Catherine said. 'What are you saying? Are you in love with James?'

'I am! I am!' said Isabella. 'And James is in love with me. He told me yesterday. I am very, very happy! I have always loved him! He is handsome and clever! Why did he choose me? I cannot understand it!'

'James is going to ride to your home in Fullerton today,' said Isabella. 'He is going to speak to your father. He is going to tell your father and mother about me. We want to get married. Will Mr and Mrs Morland agree?'

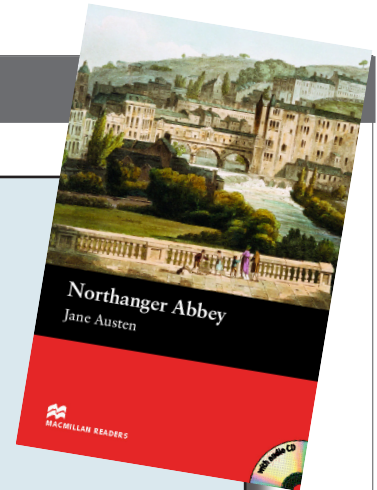
At that moment, James came into the room.

'Now you know everything, Catherine!' he said. 'I am a very happy man. Isabella, I am leaving Bath now. I shall write to you tonight.'

'Yes, go, dear James,' said Isabella. 'Go quickly! Come back to me soon!'

James' letter arrived a few days later. Catherine was with Isabella. All was well. Mr and Mrs Morland were happy. They had agreed to the marriage.

Isabella laughed and cried. 'James and I will get married soon,' she said.



Transcript

John Thorpe had not gone back to Oxford. He was waiting for Isabella's news. Isabella showed him James' letter.

'James Morland is the best man in the world!' John Thorpe said. 'You will be very happy.'

Mrs Thorpe and Isabella wanted to tell the news to Maria and Anne. They left the room. John Thorpe was alone with Catherine.

'I must say goodbye to you, Miss Morland,' he said. 'I am leaving Bath today.'

He walked around the room. Then he spoke again.

'What do you think about this marriage? It is a good idea, isn't it?'

'Yes, I think it is,' Catherine said.

John Thorpe laughed. 'I know a song,' he said. He sang a few words – 'One wedding leads to another.' Then he asked, 'Will you be at Isabella's wedding?'

'Yes, I will be there,' Catherine replied.

'Then we can sing that song together, Miss Morland.'

Catherine did not understand. 'But I don't sing, Mr Thorpe,' she said. 'I must go now. Goodbye.'

'Wait, Miss Morland!' John Thorpe said. 'I shall be in Oxford for many weeks. But I want to see you again. I will come to Fullerton.'

'Then my family will meet you in Fullerton.'

'But will you meet me, Miss Morland?'

'Oh, I shall be in Fullerton,' Catherine said.

'That is good,' John Thorpe replied. 'Every man wants a pretty wife and a big house. Don't you agree, Miss Morland?'

'Oh yes, Mr Thorpe. Goodbye.'

Catherine left the room. John Thorpe smiled.

'Yes,' he said to himself. 'Miss Morland is in love with me!'

