

Northanger Abbey
by Jane Austen

Chapter Eight: Captain Frederick Tilney

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

Activity 1

1 Write up the following list of events on the board:

- a) Catherine dances with Henry Tilney.
- b) Catherine plans to write to her parents.
- c) Catherine sees Henry Tilney.
- d) Catherine visits the Tilney's house.
- e) Eleanor Tilney invites Catherine to Northanger Abbey.
- f) Isabella dances with Frederick Tilney.
- g) Isabella says she is tired.
- h) Isabella says she won't dance with anyone.

2 Explain that you will play Chapter Eight straight through. Students should listen and put the events in the order they occur.

3 Play the recording through once.

4 Put students in pairs and get them to check their answers together.

5 Play the recording again.

6 Check as a class.

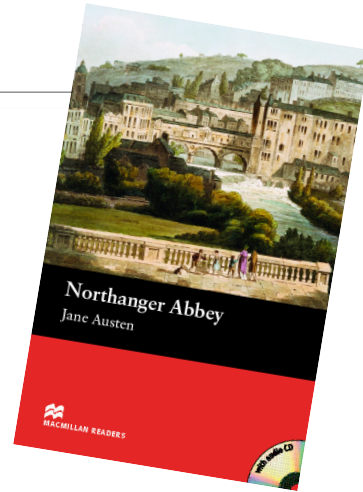
Note: You might want to create a worksheet with the sentences and make a photocopy for each student.

Key

h), c), a), f), g), d), e), b)

Extension: Dear mother and father

Ask students to imagine what Catherine writes to her parents. Put students in pairs and ask them to write a short note from Catherine to her parents starting, 'Dear mother and father...'



Activity 2

Note: You are now just over halfway through the story (there are a total of 15 chapters). So, it's a good point at which to recap the story so far.

1 Put students in small groups and ask them to make a list of the characters so far.

2 Ask the students for the names and write them up on the board.

3 Then ask students to work in their group and try to remember what has happened so far. Encourage them to work together, monitor and help if asked.

4 Play the eight chapters again so that students can check their memories.

Extension: TV news

Tell the students that Northanger Abbey has been made into a TV film. Explain that a brief summary of the story needs to go into the TV guide / magazine so that people can decide whether they want to watch the programme. Put students in small groups and ask them to write a brief summary (around 60-80 words) for the TV guide.

Chapter Eight: Captain Frederick Tilney

Transcript

It was Friday evening. Catherine was with the Allens and the Thorpes in the Upper Rooms.

'I will not dance!' Isabella said. 'James is not here. I will not dance with anybody else. I shall sit and think about my dear James.'

'Another letter from James arrived today,' Isabella said. 'We will get married, but we must wait for two years. After two years, James will leave Oxford. He will have a little money then.' Isabella spoke sadly.

Soon, Catherine saw the Tilneys. A tall man in uniform was with them. Henry introduced the man to Catherine.

'This is my brother, Captain Frederick Tilney,' he said.

Then Henry danced with Catherine. Catherine was happy. She was Henry's dancing-partner. For a few minutes, he talked and Catherine listened to him.

'Miss Thorpe will dance with Frederick,' said Henry.

'Oh no,' Catherine replied. 'Isabella is not going to dance tonight. James is not here. Isabella is going to get married to James. She will not dance with anybody tonight.'

'Won't she? Are you sure?' Henry asked. He smiled.

'Isabella said to me, "I will not dance with anybody tonight."'

'And you believed her!'

A few minutes later, Isabella was dancing with Captain Tilney. Catherine was very surprised.

At the end of the dance, Isabella sat next to Catherine.

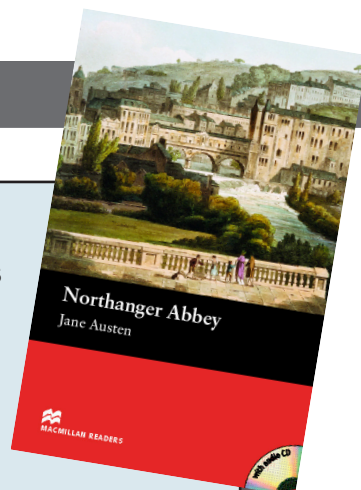
'I am very tired!' Isabella said. 'And Captain Tilney talks so much. I did not want to dance.'

'Then why did you dance?' Catherine asked.

'Captain Tilney asked me to dance five times!' Isabella replied. 'I could not say no. He is a very handsome man. We danced. Everybody looked at us. I did not enjoy it. But James will come back to Bath soon. Then I shall be happy again.'

One evening, Catherine was at the Tilneys' house in Milsom Street. She had been in Bath for nearly six weeks.

'The time has passed very quickly!' Catherine said to Eleanor Tilney. 'But I have good news. The Allens are staying for two more weeks. And I shall stay with them!'



Chapter Eight: Captain Frederick Tilney

Transcript

'Oh,' Eleanor said. 'We are leaving at the end of next week. My father wants to go home to Northanger Abbey.'

'I am very sorry,' Catherine said. This was sad news.

'My father—' Eleanor said.

But at that moment, her father came into the room.

'Have you asked Miss Morland?' he said to Eleanor. 'Does she agree?'

'Catherine,' Eleanor said. 'My father – all of us – want you to come to Northanger Abbey. Will you come?'

Northanger Abbey! With Henry and Eleanor!

'Thank you!' Catherine said happily. 'You are very kind. I will write to my parents immediately.'

