

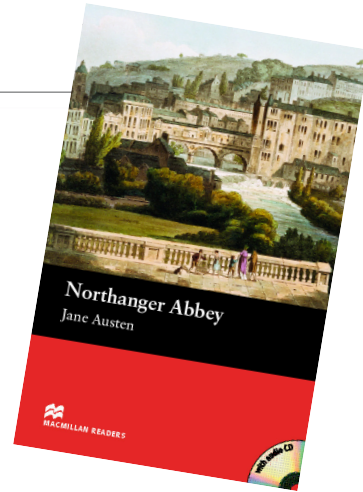
Northanger Abbey

by Jane Austen

Chapter Ten: Northanger Abbey

LISTENING SKILLS TEACHER'S NOTES

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Beginner – pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Preparation: Copies of the questions for activity 1.



Activity 1

- Put students into groups of four. Ask two students to be A and two students to be B and to sit together in their group.
- Hand out the questions to each pair in the group, giving the As the A questions and the Bs the B questions.
- Ask them to read the questions to themselves.
- Explain that you will play the recording and that you want them to answer their own set of questions.
- Play the recording through until the sentence 'Were they secret papers?'
- Ask students to answer the questions together.
- Monitor and play the recording again if necessary.
- Now ask students to work in their group of four to try to reconstruct the story from the chapter using the answers to their questions to help them.



A – Questions

- Where did Catherine go?
- Where does Henry live?
- What does Henry tell Catherine about her bedroom?
- What was the weather like that night?
- What was in the corner of the room?



B – Questions

- Who did Catherine go with?
- What is Henry's job?
- What time is dinner?
- What was Catherine's bedroom like?
- What did Catherine find in the cupboard?

Activity 2

- Tell the students that they need a pen and paper and that they are going to do a dictation.
- Explain that the students will be in control of the recording.
- On the board draw the controls: << (rewind) □ (stop) > (play) etc.
- Tell the students that if they shout 'stop' you will stop the recording; if they say rewind to 'X' you will rewind the recording to the point they ask; and when they want you to play they should shout 'play'.
- Start from, 'At that moment the flame of Catherine's candle went out' and stop at 'She put her head under the bed-covers'.
- Remind the students that they are in control and then start the recording and follow the procedure above.

Note: At first students might be reluctant to shout out, but they soon get into the activity.

Alternative procedure:

You might want to read the text yourself rather than play the recording as it might be easier to control in terms of going back to certain points in the story.

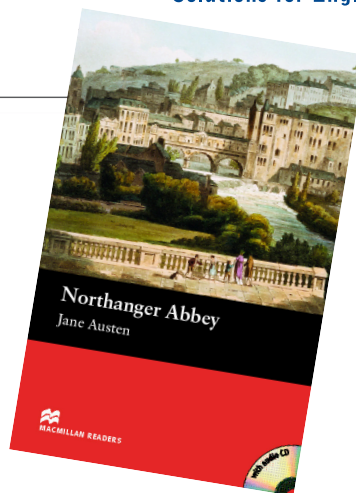
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Activity 3

- 1 Play the recording from, 'Catherine got into bed' until, 'She put her head under the bed-covers'.
- 2 Ask the students what they think Catherine did that night and write their predictions / ideas down on the board.
- 3 Then play the next bit of the recording until, 'At last, she fell asleep.'
- 4 Then ask the students what they think Catherine did in the morning and what the papers were about.
- 5 Play the rest of the recording until the end of the chapter.

Extension: I remember...

Ask students to remember a time when they were frightened and make some notes about where they were and what made them frightened. Put students in small groups and ask them to tell each other about their frightening experience.



Transcript

The carriages travelled towards Northanger Abbey. Henry Tilney spoke to Catherine.

'My sister is happy,' said Henry. 'She is often alone at the Abbey. Now, you will be there with her.'

'But don't you live there?' Catherine asked.

'No,' Henry replied. 'I don't live there all the time.

My home is at Woodston, twenty miles from Northanger Abbey. I am the clergyman of the church at Woodston.'

'Tell me about Northanger Abbey!' Catherine said. 'I have often read about abbeys. They are always old buildings, with lots of big dark rooms.'

'And there will be a big cupboard in your bedroom,' Henry said. 'You will try to open it. Then the flame of your candle will go out! And you will be alone, in the dark!' Henry was smiling.

'Oh, please, Mr Tilney, do not frighten me!' Catherine said.

It was a happy journey. Very soon, the travellers arrived at Northanger Abbey.

And then, Catherine was inside the Abbey. Eleanor took her upstairs. At last, Catherine was in her bedroom.

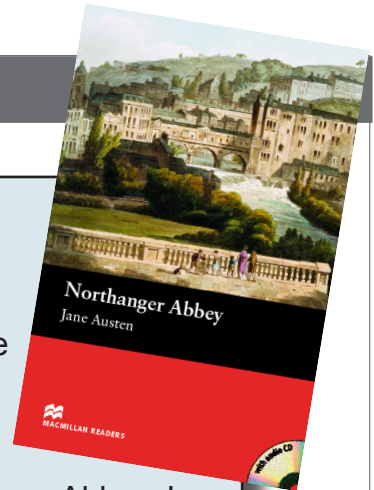
'Dinner will be at five o'clock,' Eleanor told her. 'I will come for you then.'

The dining-room was very large and the food was very good. General Tilney smiled and all was well. Catherine and the Tilneys had a happy evening.

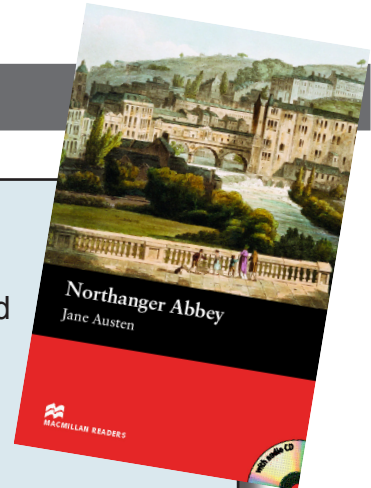
At ten o'clock, Catherine went to her bedroom. The night was stormy. It was raining and the wind was blowing loudly. Catherine looked round her bedroom. It was a fine room. She smiled.

'I like this house,' Catherine said to herself. 'It is different from the abbeys in horror-stories. The girls in horror-stories sleep in cold, dark rooms. But this is a fine room. I will look at everything before I go to bed.'

In one corner of the room, there was an old black cupboard. Catherine remembered Henry's words. The key was in the cupboard door and Catherine turned the key. At first, the door did



Transcript



not open. She turned the key again.

Then suddenly, the door opened. Catherine looked inside. Was the cupboard empty? No! There were some papers in the corner! Were they secret papers?

At that moment, the flame of Catherine's candle went out. The rain crashed against the windows. The wind made a terrible sound. Catherine remembered all the horror-stories about old abbeys. She was very frightened. Was somebody outside her door? Was somebody opening her window?

Catherine got into bed. She put her head under the bed-covers. She wanted to look at the writing on the papers in the cupboard. But she was too frightened. Was the writing on the papers about a terrible death – a murder? Was it about some jewels?

'I will look at the papers in the morning,' Catherine said to herself. At last, she fell asleep.

The next morning, Catherine woke up and got out of bed quickly. She ran towards the cupboard. She was excited! She was going to learn the terrible secret of Northanger Abbey!

Catherine picked up one of the papers and looked at it.

'Shirts. Stockings. Bed-covers,' she read. She picked up another paper. 'Three white shirts and two pairs of trousers.'

No terrible secrets! No jewels! The papers were lists of things for washing – laundry lists!

'I am very foolish,' Catherine said to herself. 'I have read too many horror-stories. I cannot tell Henry about the laundry lists. He will laugh at me.'

And Catherine went downstairs for breakfast.