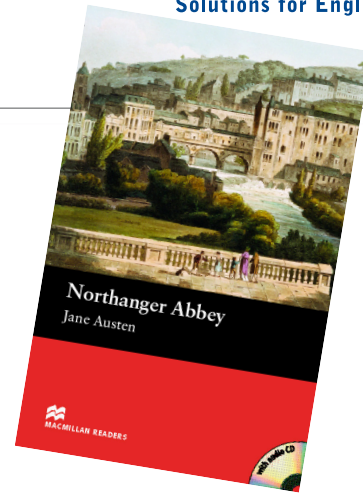


Northanger Abbey
by Jane Austen

Chapter Twelve: A Visit to Woodston

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Beginner – pre-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Preparation: Activity 1 – copy of the letter with gaps for each student.



Activity 1

- 1 Tell students you are going to play a letter written by James to his sister Catherine and all you want them to do is listen.
- 2 Ask the students to put their pens down and relax.
- 3 Play the recording of the letter (from 'Dear Catherine', until 'Your brother, James').
- 4 Put students in pairs and ask them to try and remember as much as possible.
- 5 Hand out a copy of the gapped letter and ask students to try and complete the gaps.
- 6 Play the recording one more time and ask the students to check and complete the letter.
- 7 Put students in pairs and get them to compare their answers. Play the recording again if necessary.
- 8 Finally, discuss the content of the letter. *Who wrote it? Why? What's the problem? etc.*

Answers: Dear; left; never; will; two; going; Is; do; sister; carefully; fall; brother

Extension activity: Role-play

Put students in pairs and ask one of them to be Catherine and the other one to be James. Ask each 'Catherine' to talk to 'James' about the letter. Tell them to try and make 'James' feel better.

Activity 2

- 1 Put students into groups of three and ask them to decide who is student A, B and C.
- 2 Tell students you will play the rest of the chapter and you want them to focus on Catherine.
- 3 Tell them they will be listening and thinking about different things about Catherine.
- 4 Ask all student As to listen and write down all the things Catherine sees.
- 5 Ask all student Bs to listen and write down all the things Catherine does.
- 6 Ask all student Cs to listen and write down all the things Catherine feels.
- 7 Play the recording.
- 8 Ask students to work in their groups and tell the other two students what they noted down.
- 9 Monitor and listen.
- 10 Ask a few students to tell the whole class and encourage all the students to add anything else to the discussion.

Alternative procedure:

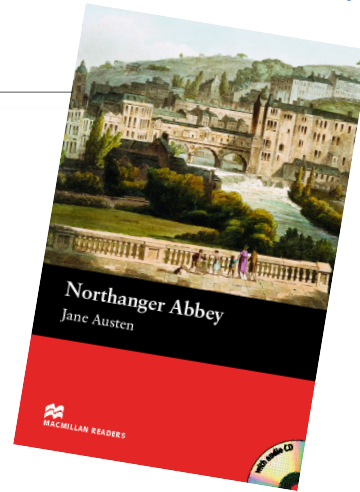
Divide the class into three groups: A, B and C. Set the same task, but after listening once ask the students to work in their group checking their task focus. Play the recording again and then put students into groups of

Chapter Eleven: A visit to Woodston

three, with one A, B and C student in each new group. Then ask them to tell the other two people in their group.

Extension activity: A place I visited

Ask students to remember a place they have visited and liked. Then ask them to take turns telling the other two students in their group about the place, what they did there and why they liked it.



Letter gap-fill

Oxford

_____ Catherine,

I _____ Isabella in Bath yesterday. I will _____ see her again. She _____ not wait for me. She will not wait _____ years. She is _____ to marry Captain Tilney. _____ he at Northanger Abbey? Please _____ not speak to him.

My dear _____, think _____ about people. Do not _____ in love.

Your _____

James



Chapter Twelve: A Visit to Woodston

Transcript

A week passed. On Thursday morning, Catherine was talking to Henry and Eleanor. A letter arrived for her. It was from James. He was in Oxford.

Oxford

Dear Catherine,

I left Isabella in Bath yesterday. I will never see her again. She will not wait for me. She will not wait two years. She is going to marry Captain Tilney. Is he at Northanger Abbey? Please do not speak to him.

My dear sister, think carefully about people. Do not fall in love.

Your brother

James

Catherine read the letter. She started to cry.

'My dear Miss Morland!' Henry said. 'What is wrong?'

'Dear Catherine, can I help you?' Eleanor asked.

'James is very unhappy,' Catherine replied. 'Isabella Thorpe is not going to marry him. She is going to marry your brother, Captain Frederick Tilney. Please read the letter, both of you.'

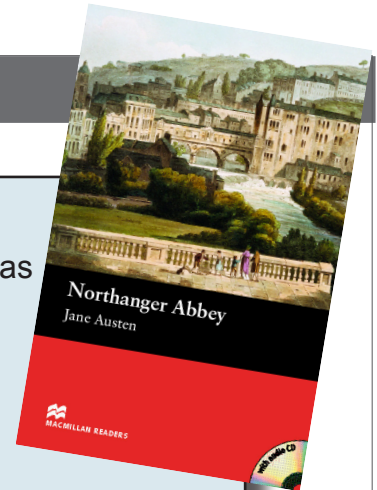
'Isabella is not a good person,' Eleanor said. 'She has not been a good friend.'

On Saturday, Henry was going back to Woodston.

'We will all visit you next Wednesday, Henry,' General Tilney said. 'We will come at eleven o'clock.'

Catherine wanted to see Henry again. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday passed slowly. At last, Wednesday came. Catherine, Eleanor and General Tilney got into the General's carriage. Soon they were in the pretty village of Woodston.

The carriage stopped outside a modern house. Henry was waiting for them.



Chapter Twelve: A Visit to Woodston

Transcript

‘Do you like my son’s house, Miss Morland?’ the General asked. ‘It is not large. But it is big enough for a young man. Show Catherine all the rooms, Henry.’

Catherine liked the house very much. One of the rooms downstairs was empty.

‘What a pretty room!’ Catherine said. ‘You can see the garden from this big window. It is a beautiful view. Why don’t you use this room, Mr Tilney? It is the best room in the house.’

The General smiled.

‘One day, there will be a lady in the house,’ he said. And he smiled again.

‘Now show us the garden, Henry,’ he said.

Catherine was very happy. The General wanted her to marry Henry. But what did Henry think? Catherine did not know.

Everybody walked in the garden. Catherine liked everything – every flower and every tree. She walked happily next to Henry.

Later, Catherine and the Tilneys looked at Henry’s horses. Then they walked through the village. After that, they had dinner.

Soon, it was time to go.

‘Have you enjoyed your visit, Miss Morland?’ the General asked. ‘Do you like my son’s house?’

‘Oh, yes,’ Catherine replied. ‘I like it very much.’

‘Will you come again?’ the General asked. ‘You will always be welcome here – and at Northanger Abbey.’

Catherine did not speak. But she understood.

‘General Tilney likes me,’ she said to herself. ‘But does Henry love me? Does he want to marry me?’

