

Northanger Abbey

Book key

1–2 Open answers

- 3 a heir: The speaker is his/her mother's heir.
 b clergyman: Clergymen lead church services.
 c acquaintance: The speaker and his/her listener are acquaintances.
 d interpreter: The speaker is talking to an English/Japanese interpreter.
 e chaperone: The speaker seems to need a chaperone for the event.
 f fiancé: The speaker is planning the wedding with his/her future wife/husband.
- 4 Open answers
- 5 a Catherine Morland b Mrs Allen
 c Henry Tilney d Mrs Thorpe
 e John Thorpe, James Morland f Isabella Thorpe
- 6 a Mr and Mrs Allen take Catherine to Bath, therefore allowing the story to be centred around Bath's meeting rooms.
 b Mr King introduces Catherine to Mr Henry Tilney as a dance partner. This gives our heroine an appropriate person to fall in love with.
 c Mrs Thorpe is an old friend of Mrs Allen's. This brings together the Thorpes and the Morlands and their complicated connections.
- 7 a The novel, according to Jane Austen, has humour, mystery, culture and elegance. From novels, the reader can learn everything about human nature in the most delightful language and through the most entertaining plots.
 b (But) Many people of this period considered novels as nothing more than foolish nonsense.
- 8 Open answers
- 9 a T b F c F d T e F f F g T h T
 i T j F
- 10 Possible answers:
 a Isabella is flirtatious around James Morland. She is selfish when she dances while Catherine sits and waits for John Thorpe to arrive.
 b Catherine is surprised when her brother arrives in Bath. She is confused when she hears John Thorpe talking about Mrs Radcliff. She is disappointed when Isabella abandons her. She is naive when she thinks her brother has come to Bath to see her, and when she does not notice the attraction between him and Isabella.

- c Mr Thorpe is rude when he makes comments on women's appearance and when he keeps Catherine Morland waiting to dance. He is exaggerated in his claims when he talks about the journey from Tetbury to Bath, and about his horse, his carriage and his knowledge of Mrs Radcliff's novels.

11 Open answers

12 a 5 b 7 c 8 d 2 e 3 f 6 g 4 h 1

13 a disappointed b shocked c hurt d thrilled
 e astonished f uncomfortable g relieved

14 Open answers

15 Possible answers:

Catherine is excited about seeing a real abbey. She thinks it will be similar to places often described in the Gothic novels she loves. She is also pleased that she will spend more time with Henry and Eleanor Tilney. She enjoys their company very much and is already in love with Henry.

16 Possible answers:

- a a low building without even an ancient chimney
 b pretty wallpaper; a lovely carpet; a handsome, comfortable and even cheerful room
 c a beautiful, new white blanket, folded neatly
 d some laundry lists, and others of household purchases
 e a very elegant monument to the memory of Mrs Tilney
 f a clean, beautiful, modern, light lady's bedroom with handsome furniture and an attractive view

17 Possible answers:

At their lodgings in Bath, he gives Catherine a warm welcome and looks after her every need. He suggests that Catherine might see more of the countryside on the way to Northanger Abbey if she joins Henry in his carriage. He is kind and attentive towards her at dinner. He is very polite about Mr Allen's dining-room. He hints that he would like to buy a new set of dishes for Henry and her. He is pleased by her admiration of Northanger Abbey. He expresses the hope that there will be visitors from Fullerton to the Abbey one day.

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18 Possible answers:

He always takes an early walk.

He avoids his wife's favourite walk.

His face says that he did not behave well towards his wife.

He does not want his wife's picture in the sitting-room or in his apartment.

He has dark, dangerous secrets like a character from a Gothic novel.

His guilt stops him from letting Catherine see the room in which Mrs Tilney died.

His late hours indicate secrets. Perhaps he is keeping his wife a prisoner in another part of the house.

He appears unemotional as he sits in church in front of the monument to his wife.

Catherine comes to the conclusion that he was not very fond of his wife, was not attentive during her illness, and was not full of grief and sorrow when she died.

19 Open answers

20 a tenth b 30 c 2 d 20 e 6 f 2 g 3
h 11 i 7 j 70

21 Possible answers:

a At the beginning of Chapter 9, Catherine believes that Isabella will marry her brother and be her sister-in-law one day. She is looking forward to receiving a letter from her dear friend. By the end of Chapter 10, Catherine never wants to see Isabella or hear from her again because Isabella has treated her brother James so badly.

At the beginning of Chapter 9, Catherine believes that General Tilney is very fond of her and is hoping that she will marry his son, Henry. By the end of Chapter 10, Catherine is shocked by the General's rude, unkind treatment of her, and by the fact that there seems to be no explanation for his behaviour towards her.

b Jane Austen reveals Isabella's character through two letters to Catherine: one from James and then one from Isabella herself.

Jane Austen reveals the General's character by having him arrive at Northanger Abbey very late one evening and instruct his daughter to throw Catherine out of the house almost immediately and without explanation.

c Catherine is forced to question people's behaviour, and she begins to interpret their words and actions more carefully.

22 Open answers

23 a the two youngest Morland children

b Mrs Morland c Eleanor Tilney

d the Allens e Henry Tilney f John Thorpe

g Eleanor Tilney h Catherine Morland

24 Possible answers:

a It is a shocking and strange business and not worth worrying about.

b Catherine has done very well and should be proud of taking care of herself and acting like an adult.

c Catherine should go to bed early and get a good night's sleep.

d These were disappointing and should now be forgotten.

e After some time it will be a pleasure for Catherine and Eleanor to meet again.

f James is very sad but must learn from his unlucky experience.

g Old friends can be relied on. Their affection and good opinion is very valuable.

h Catherine needs to realise that there is a time for travel and balls and entertainment, but there is also a time for work and helping one's family.

25–34 Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–2 Open answers

3 skinny, plump, chubby, flabby, slender, stocky, fit, well built, wavy/curly/frizzy/straight hair, bald
+ Open answers

4–5 Open answers

6 Mrs Allen: Well, my dear, how was your ride in the country?

Catherine: The country was beautiful but I'm afraid my travelling companion proved to be a crashing bore.

MA: Really! He seemed a very lively fellow.

C: If you consider talking about yourself all the time as something that contributes to lively conversation, I am sure you're mistaken. He just talked about his horse, his ...

7–11 Open answers

12 polite, charming, unfriendly, rude, faithful, happy, quiet, kind, generous, determined, amusing, modest, naïve, innocent, honest, sincere, jealous, flirtatious, lively, affectionate

13 It is modern. She finds a blanket. She finds a roll of papers. She thinks he murdered his wife. The picture is in Eleanor's room. Henry is angry because Catherine told him she suspected his father didn't love his mother.

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- 14 Suggestions: abandoned churches, ghouls, vampires, werewolves, creaking doors, shrill cry, petrified, shadows, howling wind, full moon, corpses
- 15 Example questions: Does it use electricity? Is it made of wood / plastic / metal / porcelain? Is it usually found in the bathroom / bedroom / living room?
Does it have a function? Do you use it for cooking?
Does every house have it?

16–19 Open answers

- 20 Eleanor: Maybe my father doesn't like the attention you are paying to Henry.
Catherine: But I don't make anything obvious. And besides I thought he was pleased to have me here, after all he did invite me.
E: My father is a strange man. Maybe he doesn't like your manners.
C: My manners! What are you talking about?
E: Well you do ...

21–22 Open answers

- 23 Suggested vocabulary: drowsy, bemused
- 24 The boy/Catherine's brother was six years old.
Catherine wrote a very short note to Eleanor.
General Tilney's lodgings in Bath were rented the day after he and his family left. Mrs Morland wasn't happy to hear Catherine talk about French bread at breakfast. Henry was sorry he had arrived without an invitation. John Thorpe had invented a rich aunt for James. Eleanor's husband had inherited a title.
Catherine got married when she was eighteen years old.

25–28 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a X b X c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f X g ✓
- 2 a delighted b purse c knowledgeable
d an actor e might not have f her
g was reading
- 3 a Catherine wasn't an expert in matters of the heart.
b Catherine thought that Bath was an exciting city.
c The young lady with Mr Tilney was his sister.
d Mr Thorpe only wanted to have conversations about himself.
e Mr Drummond gave his daughter a set of pearls.
f Miss Tilney suggested that they go for a walk.
g Mr Thorpe told Catherine that her friends weren't coming.
- 4 a offensive b cross c blush d dull
e significant f wonder g scheme

- 5 look – forward to
accept – an apology
break – a promise
hide – your feelings
meet – by chance
fall in – love
change – your opinion
do – harm
- 6 a Eleanor b Catherine c James d John
e Isabella f Henry g General Tilney
- 7 a nervous > happy
b silver > gold
c afternoon > morning
d disappointed > impressed
e days > years
f tidiest > easiest
g laughed > trembled
- 8 a Captain Frederick Tilney.
b An old aunt.
c Eleanor's.
d A diary of a girl called Matilda.
e Down a narrow, dark path.
f A picture of Mrs Tilney.
g In the hall, outside Mrs Tilney's room.
- 9 a wrote b marrying c to d amongst e if
f onto g nor
- 10 a wealthy b furniture c dishonest d servant
e offended f sleepless g handkerchief
- 11 a Catherine b Mrs Morland c Mrs Allen
d Henry e The General

Progress test key

- 1 a 6 b 3 c 8 d 10 e 1 f 9 g 5 h 7
i 2 j 4
- 2 a Catherine b Mrs Allen c John Thorpe
d Isabella e James f The General g Henry
h Mrs Tilney i Eleanor j Mrs Morland
- 3 a X b X c ✓ d X e ✓ f ✓ g ✓ h ✓
i X j X
- 4 a He was a clergyman.
b James Morland and John Thorpe.
c John Thorpe.
d Two or three years.
e General Tilney.
f His dead wife's room.
g To be socially well connected and to have money.
h In Henry's house, in Woodston.
i Captain Tilney.
j Because he had been told she was poor.