Catherine is an imaginative young girl whose obsession with gothic fiction has led her to many fantasies and misconceptions about the real world. When she visits Northanger Abbey for the first time, her mind is filled with anticipation of mystery and horror stories. Mistakenly believing that the monastery hides gothic novel-like secrets, she looks forward to discovering the shadowy corridors, secret rooms and hidden crimes in the ancient castle. This can be shown when she find a common chest in her room.What’s more, from the latter passage, we can see that she was disappointed that Northanger Abbey was too bright,which is different from her imagination.Besides, she even suspects that General Tierney is hiding something about his wife's death and even fantasizes that he may be a murderer.

These plots seems to illustrate how over-indulgence in fiction can lead to a misunderstanding of reality, and this was indeed the dominant view of the novel at the time. The author of “Tom Jones”, Samuel Johnson,once said:”The rational requirement of fiction is the dissemination of truth”.This represents the fact that people do not believe that the supernatural elements in gothic novels bring positive effects to the reader.But Jane Austin is more supportive of the novel's ability to influence readers to explore the world and seek to understand it. Through the contrast between the plot of the gothic novel and Northanger Abbey, Catherine not only grows into a more mature individual, but also demonstrates the positive impact that reading fiction has had on her. She began to understand that fictional plots, while exciting, should not completely replace the understanding and judgment of real life.

However, illusions are not likely to be enduring, but will be gradually shattered as one's knowledge of the world increases. When Catherine’s fantasies are exposed by Henry,she felt shame and disappointed. I think such painful experiences are essential to growing up, and the only way to make a strong enough impression is to do it this way. It was actually a process of reflection on her fantasies and also an exercise of her judgment. This realization has contributed to her gradual growth from a fantastical girl to a more rational and mature woman.

The movie's portrayal of Catherine's upbringing is much more vivid. Upon first entering Northanger Abbey, the film mostly uses more dimly lit and gloomy scenes, and the music highlights the mystery as a way to emphasize the gothic elements and enhance the drama of Catherine's fantasies.

And as the story progresses, the tone and atmosphere of the movie gradually shifts from gothic fantasy to brightness and reality. For example, when Catherine discovers that the items in the chest are just ordinary household items, the movie uses bright lighting and calming music to symbolize her return to reality.

This exemplifies the difference between a movie and a novel, where a novel would use a character's internal monologue to show his or her personality, whereas a movie subtly translates this into visual and auditory representations, making it easier for the audience to understand Catherine's mental state.