**Lesson Schedule**

* Quiz on last weeks’ words (15 mins)
* Opening activity (10 mins)
* Read extract (10 mins)
* Comprehension questions (15 mins)
* Read through vocabulary (10 mins)

**Match the word to the definition!**

1. Asunder
2. Abdicate
3. Susurration
4. Elixir
5. Affable
6. Hinder
7. Accuse
8. Spontaneous
9. Monotone
10. Apathetic
11. Feeling or showing little emotion
12. In separate parts; usually burst or torn
13. Something in which everything has one tone
14. To give up a position or right to power
15. Friendly or welcoming
16. Make a claim of wrongdoing against someone
17. Whispering or rustling
18. A magical or medicinal potion
19. Occurring as a result of a sudden impulse; without premeditation
20. Make it difficult for someone to do something

St. Edward’s Oxford 13+ Examination (2016)

**Read this extract from the novel ‘Northanger Abbey’ by Jane Austen**

*Difficult words are highlighted in bold, but do make a note as we read of any words that you are finding difficult.*

The night was stormy; the wind had been rising at **intervals** **throughout** the whole afternoon and by the time the party broke up, it blew and rained **violently**. Catherine, as she crossed the hall, listened to the **tempest** with a sense of **awe**; and, when she heard it rage round a corner of the **ancient** building and close with sudden **fury** a distant door, felt for the first time that she was really in an abbey. Yes, these were **characteristic** sounds; they brought to her mind a countless variety of **dreadful** situations and **horrid** scenes that often took place in such buildings and on stormy nights such as this. She was happy that the circumstances in which she entered the solemn walls of the building were happy ones!

She had nothing to dread from midnight **assassins** or drunken men. In a house so furnished, and so guarded, she could have nothing to explore or to suffer, and might go to her bedroom as securely as if it had been her own chamber at Fullerton. **Thus** wisely **fortifying** her mind, as she proceeded upstairs, she was **enabled**, especially on realising that Miss Tilney slept only two doors from her, to enter her room with confidence and a brave heart. Her spirits were immediately lifted also by the cheerful blaze of a wood fire. “How much better is this,” said she, as she walked to the fireplace — “how much better to find a fire ready lit, than to have to wait for a **faithful** old servant to frighten one by coming in with a bundle of sticks to light it! How glad I am that Northanger is what it is! If it had been like some other places, I do not know that, in such a night as this, I would have felt so confident: but now, to be sure, there is nothing to be **alarmed** about.”

She looked round the room. The window curtains seemed to be moving. It could be nothing but the violence of the wind **penetrating** through the cracks in the shutters; and she stepped **boldly** forward, carelessly humming a tune, to reassure herself that this was the case. She **peeped** **courageously** behind each curtain, saw nothing on either low window seat to scare her, and on placing a hand against the shutter, felt the strong force of the wind. She **scorned** the **causeless** fears produced by her imagination, and began with a carefree attitude to prepare herself for bed as the fire died away. On glancing round the room, however, she was struck by the appearance of a high, old–fashioned black cabinet, which, though in a **conspicuous** position in the room, had never caught her notice before. She took her candle and looked closely at the cabinet. It was black and yellow of the **handsomest** kind, and as she held her candle, the yellow had very much the effect of gold. The key was in the door, and she would not sleep till she had examined it. So, placing the candle with great caution on a chair, she seized the key with a very **tremulous** hand and tried to turn it; but it resisted her **utmost** strength. Alarmed, but not **discouraged**, she tried it another way; a bolt flew, and she believed herself successful; but how strangely **mysterious**! The door was still **immovable**. She paused a moment in breathless wonder. The wind roared down the chimney, the rain beat in **torrents** against the windows, and everything seemed to speak the awfulness of her situation. Again, she tried the key, and after moving it **determinedly** in every possible direction in a final effort to open it, the door suddenly **yielded** to her hand: her heart leaped with **exultation** at such a victory, and having thrown open each folding door, a double range of small drawers appeared in view, with some larger drawers above and below them. Catherine’s heat beat quickly, but her courage did not fail her. With a cheek flushed by hope, and an eye **straining** with curiosity, her fingers grasped the handle and drew the mysterious drawer forth.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the passage in one or two sentences.

2. Using your own words as far as possible, describe the impression you are given of the weather outside Northanger Abbey in the first paragraph.

3. How does Catherine react to the atmosphere in the abbey that night and reassure herself that she has nothing to fear? Use examples from the whole passage to support your ideas.

4. What is interesting about the language that Austen uses to describe the room in which Catherine is staying? How does she create a mysterious atmosphere and a feeling of suspense? You might like to consider the imagery, diction (the words Austen chooses to use), the different lengths of sentences, and other features.

5. What do you think will happen next in the story?

**Vocabulary**

Is the word a noun, verb, adverb or adjective? And what does it mean? Can you think of any synonyms or antonyms?

1. Intervals – a pause between two things
2. Throughout – in every part of a place or object
3. Violently – using physical force intended to hurt or damage something or someone
4. Tempest – a raging and violent storm
5. Awe – a feeling of respect mixed with fear or wonder
6. Ancient – belonging to the very distant past
7. Fury – wild or violent anger
8. Characteristic – typical of a particular person or place
9. Dreadful – causing great suffering, fear or unhappiness; extremely bad
10. Assassin – a person hired to kill another person
11. Thus – therefore
12. Fortify – strengthen
13. Enable – give someone the means to do something
14. Faithful – remaining loyal
15. Alarmed – frightened or disturbed
16. Penetrate – to into or through something with force or effort
17. Boldly – in a confident or courageous way
18. Courageous – brave, not deterred by fear or pain
19. Scorn – feel or express contempt or dislike for
20. Causeless – without cause, for no reason
21. Conspicuous – clearly visible; obvious
22. Handsome – attractive and pleasing to look at
23. Tremulous – shaking or quivering slightly
24. Utmost – most extreme; greatest
25. Discouraged – having lost confidence or enthusiasm
26. Immovable – something that cannot be moved
27. Torrent – a strong or fast moving stream of water
28. Determined – having made a firm decision to do something
29. Yield – give in
30. Exultation – elation or extreme happiness
31. Strain – make an unusually great effort

**Homework**

* Revise today’s terms
* “When eventually we face our fears, we often realise that we had nothing to fear in the first place.” Do you agree? Use examples to illustrate your views, either from your own life and experience or from the lives of others.