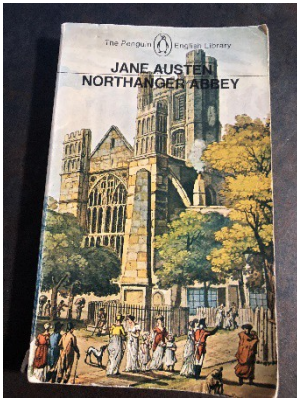


BOOK WORMS – Northanger Abbey, by Jane Austen



At our March meeting we discussed ‘Northanger Abbey’ by Jane Austen. This novel was completed in 1799 and published posthumously in 1817. It is generally considered the least popular of her novels and is her earliest major work. The novel satirises the popular Gothic literature of its time. It is also a coming-of-age story where the main protagonist Catherine Moreland learns to value common sense and reality rather than Romantic fiction.

It’s true to say that none of us loved the book although it produced a highly spirited and lively discussion! Some of us were more enamoured with it than others but in general we agreed it lacked structure. There were pockets of excellence particularly, for example, with the characterisations of Catherine and Isabella. Some of the gentle irony regarding Gothic Literature was also well done. Some of us, however, found it very tedious and long drawn out.

It’s probably best to read some of her masterpieces first before attempting this one!

Celia Moss