North and South

Book key

1  a  gazed  b  strike  c  inherit  d  clergyman  
   e  haughty  f  sighed  g  tenant  h  tutor

2  a  Margaret Hale is a beautiful, clever, proud young woman who everyone loves and admires. Her family are upper-class and her father is a clergyman. Mr Thornton is a wealthy mill owner who Margaret finds unsympathetic to his workers.
   b  It is about the differences between the north and south of England. Industry was very important in the north. There was less industry and more agriculture in the south, where the upper classes lived unproductive lives.
   c  Unitarianism emphasised the importance of upbringing and of improving conditions for the poor. In several of her novels, Gaskell wrote about working-class people and the need to improve their conditions.
   d  The conditions of the factory workers were bad. Their wages were low and they fought to talk to the cotton mill owners as equals.

3  a  T  b  T  c  T  d  F  e  T  f  F  g  T  h  F

4  Mrs Shaw is Margaret’s aunt and Edith’s mother. Her husband died many years ago but she has a comfortable life. Frederick is Margaret’s brother. He was in the navy and took part in a mutiny. He is now unable to return to England. Dixon is Mrs Hale’s servant and loves her very much. Mr Bell is an old friend of Mr Hale’s from Oxford University. He owns property in Milton-Northern and feels that Mr Hale can earn a living there as a private tutor.
   Helstone is a beautiful, isolated village in the middle of a forest. The Hale family live there in a vicarage.

5  a  Margaret and Edith are cousins and Margaret has lived with Edith in her aunt’s house for nine years. They love each other. Edith is getting married and is going to live in Greece, so they will not see each other for a long time.
   b  Henry Lennox will soon become Edith’s brother-in-law. He asks Margaret to marry him, but she refuses because she only sees him as a friend.
   c  Mr and Mrs Hale love each other, but Mrs Hale is discontented because her husband is a clergyman and does not make much money. When he decides to stop being a clergyman and move the family to the north, Mrs Hale is very distressed.

6–8  Open answers

9  a  Heston  b  Crampton, wallpaper  c  interest  d  servant  e  die  f  tradesman  g  health  h  arrested/hanged

10  a  Margaret is talking to her mother about Mr Thornton after meeting him for the first time.
   b  Nicholas Higgins is talking to his daughter Bessy after Margaret has offered to visit her.
   c  Mrs Thornton is thinking to herself about Margaret after Mr Thornton has told her that Margaret treated him like a servant.
   d  Mr Thornton is talking to Margaret when they are arguing about which is better, the north or the south of England.
   e  Mr Thornton is describing his difficult early life to the Hale family.
   f  Bessy is telling Margaret how she became ill because of cotton dust in the factory air.
   g  Mrs Hale is talking to Margaret about Frederick and the mutiny that he took part in.

11  a  Mr Thornton admires Margaret’s beauty but her lack of interest in him makes him feel rough and uncivilised and he decides that she is very proud and unpleasant.
   b  Margaret doesn’t like Mr Thornton or feel interested in him. She thinks that his expression is powerful and determined, and that he looks like what he is, ‘a great tradesman’. She finds him hard and unsympathetic towards people who are less fortunate than himself. However, she likes his smile.

12–13  Open answers

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

15  a  Fanny says something that makes Mrs Thornton believe that Margaret has been criticising her fondness for Milton-Northern. Mrs Thornton is also displeased that Margaret isn’t interested in visiting Milton’s factories.
He decides that he will have to bring in workers from Ireland.

We learn that he has a sick wife and five young children. He does not earn enough money as a mill worker to be able to support his family.

She thinks that he needs to learn the truth gradually or it will kill him.

He returns home from a walk with Margaret and discovers that his wife nearly died an hour earlier. Dr Donaldson then tells him the truth.

The Thorntons have a water-bed and Dr Donaldson feels that it might help Mrs Hale.

Margaret's response shows that she is very brave and cares about people very much. She refuses to leave Mr Thornton and begs him to go out and speak to the strikers instead of allowing the soldiers to attack them. When she sees that Mr Thornton is in danger, she throws her arms around him to protect him. Like Margaret, Mr Thornton does not show any fear. He asks the soldiers to come and protect the house, but he goes out to speak to the workers and walks out into the middle of the crowd, telling them to kill him if that is what they want. Fanny is very frightened and faints. Mrs Thornton is frightened but brave, and says she will stay with her son. However, when Fanny faints, she carries her upstairs.

Margaret is very cold and refuses Mr Thornton's offer, saying that any woman would have done the same. But afterwards she cannot stop thinking about him. After Margaret has refused him, Mr Thornton wants to cry like a child. He goes into the countryside and thinks about every word she has said to him. He realises that nothing can stop him from loving her.
North and South

29  a  2  b  5  c  1  d  7  e  3  f  6  g  4

30  a  The fact that it concerned an attractive young man. Mr Thornton believes that Margaret lied in order to protect this man, who he thinks is her lover.

b  Because he knows that Higgins waited five hours to see him and he has learnt that Higgins’s story about the Bouchers is true.

c  ‘Is Miss Hale so well-known for truthfulness?’

d  In Frederick’s first letter he says that Henry Lennox thinks that there is no real hope of finding witnesses, and that he no longer considers himself English. In his second letter he says that he has married Dolores, whose family own a large manufacturing company, and that he is certain to achieve a high position in it.

e  He says she will inherit all his money when he dies and that he will give her more than £250 a year. He has also asked his lawyer to arrange the sale of her house.

f  Margaret’s shock is so great that she can hardly speak or move. Mr Bell and Mrs Shaw come to look after her and Mrs Shaw takes Margaret to London to live with her family.

30  a  b  5  c  1  d  7  e  3  f  6  g  4

31–33  Open answers

34  a  bored

b  rich

c  Henry Lennox

d  Frederick

e  business

f  Mr Colthurst

g  about £18,000

h  roses

35  Since Margaret is back in Harley Street, she and Henry Lennox see each other again, but they usually meet in the presence of others and this prevents them from feeling embarrassed. When Margaret inherits Mr Bell’s fortune, Lennox becomes her legal adviser and the two spend time alone. They start to become closer to each other and Lennox feels that Margaret may care for him. After Edith’s dinner party, Margaret asks to see him alone and his hopes grow even higher. But when she tells him that she wants to lend Mr Thornton a large sum of money, he realises that she has no wish to marry him and tells Edith this.

36  Mr Thornton learns that the man he saw at the station with Margaret was her brother, not her lover. He already knows that Frederick will be arrested if he is seen in England, and he finally understands the reason for Margaret’s lie and why she could not tell him the truth. He is forced to give up his business, and comes to London to discuss rent payments for Marlborough Street with Henry Lennox. At Edith’s dinner party he sees Margaret again and she overhears him talking about his ideas for discussions with workers about his business plans. This, and other things he says, make Margaret realise that Mr Thornton has changed and become more sympathetic to his workers. Margaret has admitted to herself for some time that she loves him and the next day she offers to lend him a large sum of money so that the mill can continue. The two declare their love and it is clear that they will marry.

37–47  Open answers

Discussion activities key

1  Possible answers:

Perhaps she is in early 20s.

She’s wearing a brown hat, a brown jacket and a shawl.

Probably she doesn’t do anything. I think she does some house work. I think she might be looking after her parents.

It looks like it’s snowing, but it might be some cotton dust.

2  Open answers

3  People travelled by trains, carriages and ships.

4  a  She is eighteen.

b  Corfu (Greek island).

c  Margaret is tall and stately. Edith is much shorter, beautiful and sweet.

d  Captain Lennox is tall and handsome. Mr Henry Lennox is not handsome, but has a clever, interesting face.

e  It’s like a village in a poem. There’s a church, with a few cottages near it with roses growing all over them.

5  Open answers

6  a  In London, she had a luxurious social life. In Helstone, Margaret had to give up many luxuries. Life is quieter and more simple.

b  Her mother was deeply discontented and complained a lot. Her father had lines of anxiety on his face. Each day he seemed more lost and confused.
Because the memory was generally happy.

Because her mother's bad health started from the time of the mutiny. Also because of her father's anxious face.

Because she has only ever thought of him as a friend.

Because her father has doubts about the authority of the Church and can no longer be a clergyman.

Because Mr Thornton brought workers in from Ireland.

Because Margaret asked him to go outside to speak to the workers.

Because she saw some younger men were aiming their shoes at Mr Thornton, she wanted to save him.

Open answers

Just like Mr Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice*, Mr Thornton's first impression is not great. As in *Pride and Prejudice*, Mr Thornton offers marriage and is rejected. *Pride and Prejudice* is purely a love story, but *North and South* deals with the problems across the social divide.

Open answers

When Mr Thornton looked at her, she blushed. When Mr Thornton made a bitter comment, she didn't get up and leave as she would have done formerly. She glanced at Mr Thornton in sad surprise, with the expression of a hurt child. When she sighed, her whole body trembled. When Mr Bell made an ill-judged comment on Mr Thornton, she defended him by saying, 'He was not his usual self tonight,' and 'Something must have happened to upset him.'

Open answers

He couldn't complete some of his business contracts because of the strike. The commercial value of cotton had fallen. He had spent a lot of money on expensive new machinery. No new orders were coming in, and there were the huge expenses of paying the workers and maintaining the mill. Several American firms that he did business with had failed.

Open answers

(page 20) Mr Thornton went towards Margaret to shake hands with her, as was the custom in Milton. But it was not custom in the south and Margaret just bowed. Mr Thornton walked off angrily.

(page 29) Mr Thornton got up to go. Margaret smiled at him but did not put out her hand, and again, as he left, he told himself that she was unpleasant proud.

(page 44) Mr Thornton refused the hand that Margaret held out, then turned and left the room.

(page 87) Mr Thornton took the hand Margaret offered to him as if it were a dead flower.
39  a  She didn’t use to like people in trade. Having lived in Milton, she has great respect for them.
   b  He used to think of the workers as enemies and treated them like a child. Now he’s learnt to believe that an organisation can be much more successful if the employers and workers talk freely to one another and see each other as people.

40  Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1  a  shawls  b  stately  c  vicarage  d  mutiny  e  clergyman  f  manufacturing  g  tutor  h  tenant

2  a  When Mrs Hale began to compare her sister’s comfortable life in London with her own life at the vicarage, Margaret would stop talking and listen to the rain as it fell on the sitting-room window.
   b  ‘I think it’s much better for us to know poor country people, people who do not claim to be better than they are.’
   c  He had joined the navy some years ago, and had taken part in a mutiny, with the result that he was now unable to return to England, as he would be arrested if he did.
   d  The little sitting-room was looking its best in the morning sunlight; the window was open and roses crept around the corner, while the garden was bright with flowers of every colour.
   e  It was a relief to all of them when Mr Lennox said that he needed to leave immediately in order to catch the five o’clock train.
   f  ‘He feels certain that I can earn a living there as a private tutor.’

3  a  Roses.
   b  Mr Thornton.
   c  Margaret’s short upper lip, strong chin and the way she moved her head and body.
   d  Because Mr Thornton asked for something to be done.
   e  They were recommended by either Mr Bell or Mr Thornton.
   f  9 Frances Street.
   g  He invited Mr Thornton.

4  a  He thought it was rather disdainful.
   b  She thought it was much too powerful and determined.
   c  She was frightened.
   d  She was upset.
   e  He thought she would come.
   f  She didn’t like her immediately.
   g  He thought it was much more comfortable and attractive than any of the rooms in his own large house.
   h  He thinks that the mill owners used to have more power but now it’s more evenly balanced.
   i  He thought she was the proudest, most unpleasant girl he had ever met.

5  a  Mrs Thornton
   b  Margaret
   c  Mrs Thornton
   d  Mr Hale
   e  John Boucher
   f  Tobacco smoke
   g  Margaret
   h  Dr Donaldson
   i  Margaret
   j  A big basket of food

6  a  Fanny more than John > John more than Fanny
   b  Hales > mill
   c  the same opinion > different opinions
   d  unlikely > likely
   e  Scotland > Ireland
   f  fell in love with Margaret > thought he would have fallen in love with Margaret if he was thirty years younger
   g  would > would not
   h  watermelon > water-bed

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

8  a  3
   b  1
   c  2
   d  4

9  a  was absorbed
   b  porter
   c  alibi
   d  inquest
   e  despise
   f  sighed
   g  contempt
**North and South**

10  
(a) Mrs Thornton to Mr Thornton about their servant  
(b) Mrs Thornton to Mr Thornton about visiting Margaret  
(c) Margaret to Mrs Thornton about Mrs Hale’s request to Mrs Thornton  
(d) Mrs Thornton to Margaret about Margaret saving Mr Thornton during the riot  
(e) Margaret to Mr Hale about Mr Henry Lennox who can’t find the witnesses to prove the truth about the mutiny  
(f) Mr Bell to Mr Hale about Margaret  
(g) Margaret to Mr Bell about Mr Hale’s death

11  
(a) Dinner parties.  
(b) Margaret’s servant.  
(c) They shared similar intellectual interests.  
(d) Heart attack.  
(e) Cromer.  
(f) Nicholas Higgins.  
(g) Mr Thornton’s.  
(h) He wanted to see the place where Margaret grew up.

**Progress test key**

1  
(a) Edith  
(b) Mr Hale  
(c) Mr Bell  
(d) Mr Thornton  
(e) Frederick  
(f) Nicholas Higgins  
(g) Mrs Thornton

2  
(a) He had killed a man > he took part in a mutiny  
(b) wants > doesn’t want (He would rather be a working man in the north than a rich man in the south.)  
(c) was > was not (Mary came to inform her.)  
(d) they didn’t like their work > they wanted higher wages  
(e) shoe > stone  
(f) Irish workers > riot  
(g) Mr Hale > Mrs Hale  
(h) lawyers > witnesses

3  
(a) T  
(b) F  
(c) F  
(d) T  
(e) T  
(f) F  
(g) F  
(h) T

4  
(a) servant  
(b) admired  
(c) disgusted  
(d) strength  
(e) rude  
(f) deeply  
(g) contempt  
(h) realised

5  
(a) 2  
(b) 3  
(c) 1  
(d) 2