

# Agnes Grey

Anne Brontë

## The story step by step

- 1 Listen to Chapter 1 (from 'My father, Richard Grey...' to '... or play with the cat.'). Tick the sentences you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.8–10 of the book or in the key.
- a He lived quite well on a small salary and had a pleasant little house of his own.
  - b A carriage and a maid were certainly nice things to have; and luckily my mother had both of these things.
  - c Her father told her that she could marry the vicar if she wanted to, but that if she did, she would lose her fortune.
  - d My mother gave birth to six children, but my sister Mary and I were the only two that survived the dangers of early childhood.
  - e We lived a very protected life and my sister and I did not go to school.
  - f Sometimes we went to a tea party at a nearby house or visited our mother's parents and other family members.
  - g My mother seemed very unhappy and told her husband that she had nothing that she needed in life.
  - h One day, a dishonest friend suggested to him a way of making a lot of money within just a few weeks.
  - i My father was excited and so were we all.
  - j The ship, which contained the goods and therefore our fortune, had been caught in a terrible storm.
  - k My mother concentrated on taking care of what little money we still had, and my sister and I tried to cheer up my father.
  - l Over time he became ill with the worry of it all and none of us could give him any hope.
  - n My father dismissed both of our two servants and my mother and sister began to help with the cooking.
  - o I offered to help, too, but although I thought of myself as a young woman, I was still a child in the eyes of my family.
  - p Go and help your mother.

- 2 Listen to Chapter 2 (from 'The journey was cold and long ...' to '... I had hoped she would be.'). Match the beginnings of the sentences you hear (1–12) with the ends (a–l). The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.13–14 of the book or in the answer key.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 The journey was cold and long  | a where some lunch had been put out on a long table.                                 |
| 2 As the carriage moved through the large gates and the impressive house and gardens came into view, | b with fair hair, blue eyes and a small turned up nose.                              |
| 3 I hoped that Mrs Bloomfield was a kind, generous woman   | c I began to feel very nervous.  |
| 4 She was a tall, serious-looking woman,   | d and most of the time I ate in silence.   |
| 5 With some difficulty I found my way into the dining room   | e she asked for the children to be brought to meet me.                               |
| 6 When she spoke, she spoke quite formally,  | f and it was one o'clock in the afternoon when I arrived at Wellwood House.          |
| 7 She rang a bell and when a servant appeared,   | g and that I would get on well with the children.                                    |
| 8 Master Tom Bloomfield was a handsome, tall boy of about seven                                      | h the children began to argue with each other and Tom pushed his sister roughly.     |
| 9 Mary Ann, who was a year or so younger than her brother,   | i with thick black hair, cold grey eyes and very pale skin.                          |
| 10 As soon as we were in the school room   | j I could not help feeling that she was cold, serious and even a little frightening. |
| 11 Later that evening, after the children had gone to bed,   | k was also a tall girl for her age.  |
| 12 Although I really wanted to like her,   | l Mrs Bloomfield talked to me again.   |

- 3 Listen to Chapter 3. Match the first and second parts of the compound words. Then mark where the stress falls on them. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.16–21 of the book or in the answer key.

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 <u>dining</u> | a nest    |
| 2 lunch         | b behaved |
| 3 school        | c bell    |
| 4 bird's        | d bag     |
| 5 well          | e room    |
| 6 work          | f room    |

- 4 Listen to Chapter 4 (from 'The next morning I woke up feeling nervous ...' to '... comfort and happiness.'). Complete the sentences from the chapter with the correct words. The first one is an example. Check your answers on p.23 of the book or in the answer key.

The next morning I woke up feeling *nervous*, but also curious to know what my new \_\_\_\_\_ would be like in this house. I went down to the school room to begin what would be the first day of two \_\_\_\_\_ of teaching the girls.

I do not want to bore you with all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the first year or two with this family. I will \_\_\_\_\_ describe the family and give you a general idea of this time.

The head of the family, Mr Murray, was a tall, \_\_\_\_\_ man who I did not see very often. Apart from going to church on Sundays, he spent his time horse-riding, \_\_\_\_\_, laughing loudly and yelling at the servants.

Mrs Murray was not an \_\_\_\_\_ lady. She was about forty years of age and she certainly enjoyed her food. Her main interests seemed to be either holding or going to parties and wearing the very latest \_\_\_\_\_. When I met her for the first time, which was not until half way through my first day, she told me what my duties were going to be.

'And remember,' she said after she had \_\_\_\_\_ the importance of good \_\_\_\_\_ and not working the girls too hard, 'that it is best to be \_\_\_\_\_ with them.' While Mrs Murray talked a lot about the \_\_\_\_\_ and happiness of her children, she never once talked about my comfort and happiness.

- 5 Listen to Chapter 5 (from 'But I'm afraid ...' to '... yes to all those things.'). Put the sentences in the correct order to complete the conversation you hear between Rosalie and Agnes. Then write in the names of the speakers (Rosalie or Agnes). The first and the last are done for you. Check your answers on pp. 25–26 of the book or in the answer key.

|   |       |  |    |
|---|-------|--|----|
| a |       | 'A quiet little vicarage with a small old-fashioned garden and—'   |    |
| b | Agnes | 'I expect that she'll not only manage to live there, but will be very happy. You did not ask me if he is a good, kind or wise man. I could have answered yes to all those things.' | 11 |
| c |       | 'Is he handsome?'  |    |
| d |       | 'Is he rich?'  |    |
| e |       | 'Mr Richardson, a vicar who lives just a few miles away.'  |    |
| f | Agnes | 'My sister is going to get married. I want to be at home with her to help her prepare.'  | 1  |
| g |       | 'No, not really.'  |    |
| h |       | 'Not really.'  |    |
| i |       | 'Oh stop! I don't want to hear any more. How on earth can she live there?'   |    |
| j |       | 'Oh! Who is she going to marry?'   |    |
| k |       | 'Then what sort of a house does he own?'   |    |

6 Listen to Chapter 6. Who said the following things, to whom and about what and/or why? The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.27–30 of the book or in the answer key.

|   | Who says       | this  | to whom    | about who? |
|---|----------------|---|------------|------------|
| 1 | Rosalie Murray | 'What did you think of the new curate?'   | Agnes Grey | Mr Weston  |
| 2 |                | 'I have seen him, but I haven't yet spoken to him.'   |            |            |
| 3 |                | 'Did you see how he walked out of the church? He walked along, not looking left or right, as if there was nobody there apart from himself!' |            |            |
| 4 |                | 'He always makes sure that he's waiting outside to help me climb into the carriage.'  |            |            |
| 5 |                | 'He comes to see me a lot more than Mr Hatfield used to.'   |            |            |
| 6 |                | 'Once when he came he kicked my cat.'   |            |            |

7 Listen to Chapter 7. Put the words into the correct column according to their stress patterns. The first two are examples. Check your answers in a dictionary or in the answer key.

accompany   admirer   attractive   bearable   beautiful   conversation   expected  
 experience   generous   intelligent   nervously   pretended   primroses   reminded  
 sensible   unimportant

| • ● • •            | ● • •           | • • ● • | • ● • |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------|-------|
| <i>intelligent</i> | <i>sensible</i> | _____   | _____ |
| _____              | _____           | _____   | _____ |
| _____              | _____           | _____   | _____ |
| _____              | _____           | _____   | _____ |
| _____              | _____           | _____   | _____ |

8 Listen to Chapter 9. Write the direct speech you hear under the reported speech below. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.39–43 of the book or in the answer key.

- a Rosalie said that she wished Mr Hatfield hadn't proposed so soon.  
*'I wish Mr Hatfield hadn't proposed so soon!'*  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- b Matilda said that he would never come again.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- c Rosalie had to admit that she was sorry to lose Mr Hatfield.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- d Rosalie wondered how he would look and whether he would be able to read his sermon.  
 \_\_\_\_\_

e Mr Weston remarked to Miss Grey that she was alone again.

f Agnes said that she didn't really have any friends in Horton.

g Rosalie said that she had shot him through the heart.

h Rosalie asked Mr Weston at what time he thought he might go to see her.

i Agnes said that she didn't mind the rain.

j Matilda said that she couldn't possibly go for a walk.

k Matilda said that Miss Grey had to go with her.

- 9 Listen to Chapter 11 (from 'Sunday came ...' to '... And very happy, of course.'). Read the text below as you listen and correct the mistakes you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.45–46 of the book or in the answer key.

Sunday came and I was able to go to <sup>school</sup>church and hear Mr Weston talk. It had been several weeks since I had been to church and I was happy to be able to see him and listen to him. I walked home then with Matilda, but he did not come to talk to us and nor did he walk home with us. Matilda was as unhappy as I was that we had to walk home alone. Now that her sister had got married, Matilda had started to think about when her time would come to do the same. Mrs Murray, too, had time to think about her younger daughter and to look for a husband for her. I was told that I must work very hard because the young lady's education needed to be much better. Matilda was told that she was no longer allowed to go swimming every day or play with the dogs. Just when I thought my job had become much easier, it began to get harder again.

In addition to long hours in the school room, Mrs Murray had decided that Matilda needed practice and should go on walks every day. It was on one of these walks that Matilda and I saw Mr Weston by the church. I had hoped this would happen for such a long time, but now I felt very frightened. My heart was beating very fast. I was sure that how I was feeling would be clear to both Matilda and Mr Weston himself. However, I need not have worried because he hardly noticed me and spoke first to Matilda. He asked if she had heard from her sister, Rosalie.

'Yes,' she replied, 'She was in Venice when she last wrote to us and she was very well. And very happy, of course.'

- 10** Listen to Chapter 12. Put these events in the correct order. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.49–53 of the book or in the answer key.
- a Agnes and Mr Weston had a long conversation. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b Agnes' father was buried. 1
  - c Agnes had a long discussion with her mother and sister. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d Agnes met Mr Weston again at church and he said goodbye to her. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e Agnes met Mr Weston walking in the fields. \_\_\_\_\_
  - f Agnes said that the money she had earned would help to buy furniture for the school. \_\_\_\_\_
  - g Agnes went back to Horton Lodge for another six weeks. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h Agnes's mother said that she was going to buy a house near the coast and open a school for young ladies. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i She asked Agnes if she wanted to run the school with her. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11** Listen to Chapter 15. Tick the sentences you hear. The first one is an example. Check your answers on pp.62–65 of the book or in the key.
- a The school that my mother owned in Scarborough was a short distance from the sea.
  - b I walked along the long, empty beach and watched the blue waves as they came up onto the sand. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c As I approached the end of the beach I heard a dog bark behind me, then suddenly a small animal came running round in front of me and stopped right at my feet. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d He could not have come so far on his own, so I looked to see who he might be with. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e 'I imagine you must live quite close to the town, then. In what part of the town do you live?' \_\_\_\_\_
  - f 'You haven't asked me why I have come here,' he said after a few moments' silence. 'Surely you can't think that I am rich enough to be here on holiday.' \_\_\_\_\_
  - g In fact, I have nothing but loneliness to complain about. \_\_\_\_\_
  - h I am looking for a very special type of woman to share my life with. \_\_\_\_\_
  - i I have come both morning and afternoon and I have never seen you until now. \_\_\_\_\_
  - j He walked with me to the end of the street where I lived. \_\_\_\_\_
  - k 'And when will you come to meet my mother?' I asked him. \_\_\_\_\_
  - l I had been given another chance and I hoped that this time I would be happy. \_\_\_\_\_