

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

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ISBN 978-1-58049-094-8
Item No. 300560

Jane Eyre

Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to

1. recognize the three different ways the author uses first-person narration:
 - Jane is the narrator using “I” to tell the story.
 - Jane as the narrator seems to speak directly to the reader.
 - Rochester, a temporary narrator, takes over, still in first person, to relate a past event from his experience.
2. point out and give examples of how the descriptions of nature mirror the changes in Jane’s life.
3. refer to the story to support or refute the following: “Above all, the novel *Jane Eyre* is a love story in which the heroine searches for an earthly love that is acceptable to God.”
4. point out the ways in which Jane’s quest makes this a “coming of age” story.
5. point out where and when the following themes emerge:
 - One must endure life’s hardships while striving to follow God’s teaching.
 - Despite earthly temptations, the laws of God must be obeyed.
6. discuss how and where the following topics emerge:
 - poverty
 - forgiveness
 - cruelty
7. support or refute the following statement of theme by referring to the novel: “To grow into healthy, mature adults, in addition to both love and discipline, we need to develop inner resources and have a purpose in life.”
8. discuss the use of the following literary figures of speech:
 - metaphor
 - simile
 - personification
9. identify and point out the following literary devices:
 - allusion
 - foreshadowing
 - foil
10. point out how light is used as a symbol for hope and eternal life.

Jane Eyre

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Discuss the various types of first-person narration and the reason Brontë occasionally employs more than one narrator in this novel.
2. The introduction states, “The narrative is compelling and moving as a work of romantic fiction. Following the classic trajectory of that form the heroine moves from isolation through trials and complications toward marriage as an ideal resolution.” Trace the incidents in the story that show this is an example of romantic fiction.
3. Review the definition of a symbol. In Jane’s dreams, what do “light,” the “child,” and the “chestnut-tree” symbolize?
4. How does the author use foreshadowing to add suspense and keep the reader’s interest?
5. Discuss the author’s use of nature to mirror Jane’s life. If she is happy, the weather is great. If she is in trouble, there is a storm. Find an instance when the weather confirms to the reader that Jane has made a correct decision according to the Lord.
6. In the novel, how important is physical beauty for a person’s ultimate happiness?
7. Do you think Jane’s religious beliefs, which prevent her from staying with Rochester after she learns about his marriage, lead her to ultimate happiness or unnecessarily complicate her life?
8. Jane clearly believes in premonition, signs or dreams, and sympathetic-familiar connections. Find examples of each of these in the novel.
9. In what ways does the character of Miss Temple represent the “ideal” Victorian woman of Jane’s class? In what ways does Bessie do the same thing for the lower class?
10. What lessons about life and God does Jane learn from her friend Helen?
11. Family connections are important to Jane. Which of the characters in the novel are her “blood” relations?
12. Write a character sketch of Rivers, contrasting him to Rochester. Why do you think Jane prefers Rochester?
13. How does Jane’s artistic talent help her to find love and her long lost family?

Jane Eyre

Chapter I

All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Classics edition of *Jane Eyre*, copyright 2006

VOCABULARY

antipathy – having a strong dislike
bilious – bad tempered
bleared – blurred
borne – taken along
cavilers – fault-finders
diffidence – shyness, insecurity
fervently – earnestly
gallows – a structure made for hanging people
impudence – boldness, rudeness, nerve
lamentable – regrettable
lineaments – facial features
melancholy – depressed, sad
moreen – a heavy woolen cloth
predominated – prevailed
pungent – sharp; a strong taste or smell
sprightly – lively
subjoined – added at the ends
sweetmeats – candy; candied fruit
thence – from there
torpid – inactive, sluggish
tottered – stumbled, faltered
tyrant – a cruel authoritarian figure
vignettes – small designs on pages of a book
visage – an appearance, face

1. Why does Jane enjoy looking at the pictures in the book *History of British Birds*?

2. What explanation does Helen give for enduring her punishment from Miss Scatcherd without complaining.

3. In what modern sense is Helen a perfect victim?

4. State a theme for this story based on the following passage:

A great deal: you are good to those who are good to you. It is all I ever desire to be. If people were always kind and obedient to those who are cruel and unjust, the wicked people would have it all their own way: they would never feel afraid, and so they would never alter, but would grow worse and worse.

5. What is your reaction to Helen's response? She says, "Would you not be happier if you tried to forget her severity, together with the passionate emotions it excited? Life appears to me too short to be spent in nursing animosity, or registering wrongs."

6. What evidence is there that the author believes in a happy afterlife?

2. State a generalization from this novel based on a paragraph in this chapter. What does the author say about women's rights in Victorian society?

3. Why does Jane walk to Hay? Why is she apprehensive when she hears a horse approaching?

4. Briefly describe Pilot and the fallen rider. What about the rider's appearance makes Jane bold enough to offer assistance?

5. How does Jane discover the fallen rider is Mr. Rochester?

6. What is your opinion of Mr. Rochester and his behavior?

8. What answer does Jane give to the following question?

Is the wandering and sinful, but now rest-seeking and repentant man justified in daring the world's opinion, in order to attach to him for ever this gentle, gracious, genial stranger; thereby securing his own peace of mind and regeneration of life?"

9. Support the following statement: Mr. Rochester is not serious about wanting to marry Miss Ingram.

Chapter XXI

VOCABULARY

affliction – a burden
amity – goodwill, friendship
apoplectic – the sudden onset of nerve dysfunction
ascetic – severe
assiduously – busily, diligently
aught – anything
augmented – magnified, enlarged
crape – a piece of fabric
cumber – to burden or hamper
dandled – bounced
deglutition – swallowing
despotic – authoritative, tyrannical
emphatically – forcefully, assertively
entreated – begged, pleaded
equivocal – unclear, obscure
eradicated – removed, uprooted, exterminated
forbearance – patience, tolerance
formalist – a person who pays strict attention to worship
hoard – a private fund
indissoluble – impossible to force
inexorable – rigid, inflexible

3. Support the following statement with a quotation from this chapter: Jane is not staying with Mr. Rochester out of pity or obligation.

4. Support the following statement: The weather improves because Jane is happy helping Rochester.

5. How does Jane convince Rochester that she loves him more now than before his accident?

6. Why does Rochester think it is God's will that he is blind? Why is he grateful?

7. Why does Jane not tell Rochester that she heard him call her name when she was trying to decide if God wanted her to be a missionary?
