

In literature, a **conceit**<sup>[1]</sup> is an extended metaphor with a complex logic that governs a poetic passage or entire poem. By juxtaposing, usurping and manipulating images and ideas in surprising ways, a conceit invites the reader into a more sophisticated understanding of an object of comparison. Extended conceits in English are part of the poetic idiom of Mannerism, during the later sixteenth and early seventeenth century. (Wikipedia, 10/21/2011)

1. Check out this conceit and explain why it is relevant to some aspect of the novel beyond the plot.

“But as his wife—at his side always, and always restrained, and always checked—forced to keep the fire of my nature continually low, to compel it to burn inwardly and never utter a cry, though the imprisoned flame consumed vital after vital—this would be unendurable” (437).

2. Connect one of your vocabulary words to a significant understanding of the novel as a whole.

3. Currer Bell ends his “passionate gothic romance” with a description of St. John Rivers and his God. Why?

4. Has Jane mastered or has she been mastered? Explain.

5. List and explain three major themes of *Jane Eyre*.