

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter I

1. What narrative point of view does Bronte use for this novel?
2. What can the reader expect in a story told from this point of view?
3. How does Bronte create sympathy for Jane in the first chapter?
4. Describe the exposition of the novel.
5. What is the purpose of including the descriptive passages of Berwick's *History of British Birds* at this point in the novel?
6. In the following, John Reed is speaking to Jane. Explain Bronte's social point.

"You have no business to take our books; you are a dependant, mamma says; you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not live here with gentlemen's children like us, and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes at our mamma's expense. Now I'll teach you to rummage my book-shelves: for they *are* mine; all the house belongs to me, or will do in a few years."
7. Do you believe Jane's description of her abuse by John Reed is realistic or exaggerated? Explain.

"I really saw in [John Reed] a tyrant: a murderer. I felt a drop or two of blood from my head trickle down my neck, and was sensible of somewhat pungent suffering: these sensations for the time predominated over fear, and I received him in frantic sort"

Chapter II

8. Describe how the weather sets the tone for this chapter in the novel.
9. Describe how Jane holds an ambiguous place in the Reed home and in society.
10. How does Miss Abbot try to frighten Jane before locking her in the red room?
11. What does the reader learn about Jane's character in this chapter?
12. Describe how Bronte's use of diction and sentence structure in the following sentence contributes to the overall meaning of the sentence:

"My heart beat thick, my head grew hot; a sound filled my ears, which I deemed the rushing of wings; something seemed near me; I was oppressed, suffocated; endurance broke down; I rushed to the door and shook the lock in desperate effort."
13. Consider the other characters' actions when Jane is locked in the red room. How do the other characters' dialogue and behavior help shape readers' opinions of them?

Chapter III

14. Describe how the tone of the chapter changes from beginning to end.
15. Describe the irony of Jane's thought: "Poverty for me was synonymous with degradation."
16. Explain how Jane suffers prejudice based on her appearance.

Chapter IV

17. What do readers learn from Jane's dialogue in the following quotation?

"I am glad you are no relation of mine: I will never call you aunt again as long as I live. I will never come to see you when I am grown up; and if any one asks me how I liked you, and how you treated me, I will say the very thought of you makes me sick, and that you treated me with miserable cruelty."
18. Identify three or more similes and / or metaphors that Bronte uses in this chapter. Explain the comparison that each makes and how they add to the overall meaning of the text.
19. Identify the hyperbole that Bronte incorporates in the following quotation and explain its effect on the text.

"Now, uttered before a stranger, the accusation cut me to the heart: I dimly perceived that she was already obliterating hope from the new phase of existence which she destined me to enter; I felt, though I could not have expressed the feeling, that she was sowing aversion and unkindness along my future path; I saw myself transformed under Mr. Brocklehurst's eye into an artful, noxious child, and what could I do to remedy the injury?"

20. Analyze Bronte's use of fire and ice in this chapter. Provide examples from the text to support your thoughts. What do these motifs represent in the text?
21. From Mr. Brocklehurst's description of Lowood, how do readers know that he is a hypocrite? How does this knowledge foreshadow Jane's experience at Lowood?
22. This chapter ends the first section of the novel, Jane's childhood at Gateshead. What has Jane learned from the relationship with Mrs. Reed?

Chapter V

23. This chapter marks the first time the reader is addressed directly. Why is this important?
24. Examine how Bronte uses onomatopoeia in this chapter and discuss its effect on the text.
25. In general, consider the connotations that Bronte employs in this chapter. Is the overall feeling of the language in this chapter positive or negative? Cite examples and explain Bronte's strategy.
26. What can readers infer about Mr. Brocklehurst's character from the information presented in this chapter?
27. Contrast Bronte's description of Superintendent Miss Temple with that of her employer, Mr. Brocklehurst.

Chapter VI

28. Detail the harsh physical conditions of the setting in this chapter.
29. Analyze the difference between Jane and Helen's beliefs about Christianity.
30. Evaluate Helen's diction in her lesson to Jane about strength of character. Explain how Bronte uses Helen's diction to exhibit her character.

Chapter VII

31. Using examples from this chapter, examine Bronte's use of light and dark.
32. How does Bronte indicate that Mr. Brocklehurst is a hypocrite in this chapter?
33. From Jane's point of view, how is Miss Temple's behavior unacceptable?
34. Explain the purpose of the figurative language in this paragraph:
 "Mr. Brocklehurst again paused – perhaps overcome by his feelings. Miss Temple had looked down when he first began to speak to her; but she now gazed straight before her, and her face, naturally pale as marble, appeared to be assuming also the coldness and fixity of that material; especially her mouth, closed as if it would have required a sculptor's chisel to open it, and her brow settled gradually into petrified silence."

Chapter VIII

35. What is the one thing that Jane truly wants?
36. Contrast Helen and Jane's views of solitude.
37. How does the tone of the chapter change from beginning to end?
38. Describe how Helen's actions foreshadow a later event in the novel.
39. Explain how Jane's temperament begins to change in this chapter because of her relationship with Helen and Miss Temple.

Chapter IX

40. Explain the symbolic significance of the names of the places where Jane has lived so far in her life: Gateshead and Lowood.
41. Contrast Helen's and Jane's views of death and religion.
42. Analyze how the weather parallels and contrasts the tone and events of the chapter.
43. Explain the figurative language Bronte uses here: "Disease had thus become an inhabitant of Lowood, and death its frequent visitor."
44. At this point in her life, Jane has only encountered two significant religious figures. Explain the effect that each has on Jane and her view of religion.

Chapter X

45. An aporia occurs when a character speaks directly to oneself or to the reader, especially when a character is trying to solve a dilemma or decide on a plan. Explain when and why Bronte uses an aporia in this chapter.

46. Explain the device that Bronte uses in this quotation: "I had had no communication by letter or message with the outer world: school rules, school duties, school habits and notions, and voices, and faces, and phrases, and costumes, and preferences, and antipathies: such was what I knew of existence." What effect does the device produce?
47. Discuss Jane's one real concern about venturing from Lowood.
48. Explain how Bronte uses the supernatural in this chapter.

Chapter XI

49. Examine how class issues are important in this chapter.
50. Explain what Jane means by this thought: "My couch had no thorns in it that night; my solitary room no fears."
51. Before Jane goes to sleep in her new room at Thornfield, she kneels to pray. This action does not correlate with Jane's previous beliefs concerning religion. Why have Jane's views changed?
52. Explain how Bronte uses foreshadowing and the supernatural in this chapter.

Chapter XII

53. In this chapter, Jane experiences a rare moment of equality with the male gender. Explain this incident and its significance.
54. Detail the importance of onomatopoeia in this chapter and provide specific examples.
55. Explain how Jane's attire exemplifies her ambiguous position in society.

Chapter XIII

56. Explain why Jane's paintings are atypical.
57. Evaluate Bronte's use of supernatural elements in this chapter and their effects. Provide examples from the text to support your ideas.
58. Explain the purpose and effect of the diction in this chapter; it changes from informal to formal.
59. Explain the significance of Mr. Rochester's comment to Jane: "Excuse my tone of command; I am used to say, 'Do this,' and it is done. I cannot alter my customary habits for one new inmate."
60. Assess the foreshadowing that occurs at the end of this chapter.

Chapter XIV

61. Explain how the weather contrasts with the mood of this chapter.
62. Examine how Bronte uses dialogue to illustrate the relationship between Mr. Rochester and Jane.
63. Judge Bronte's use of fire and light in this chapter. Provide examples from the text and argue the effect of each.
64. Summarize Mr. Rochester's feelings towards Celine Varens.

Chapter XV

65. Explain the effect of the literary technique that Bronte uses in this phrase: "I like this day: I like that sky of steel; I like the sternness and stillness ..."
66. Assess how Mr. Rochester and Jane seem to become equals in social status in this chapter.
67. Contrast the changes in tone caused exclusively by the supernatural elements that Bronte uses in this chapter.
68. Evaluate how the relationship between Mr. Rochester and Jane changes drastically in this chapter.
69. Justify why Jane now thinks of Adele favorably.

Chapter XVI

70. Generalize Jane's confusion about Grace Poole's position at Thornfield.
71. Explain the significance of the following phrase: "Portrait of a Governess, disconnected, poor, and plain."
72. Identify and explain the comparisons Bronte employs in the description of Blanche Ingram: "... eyes like Mr. Rochester's, large and black, and as brilliant as her jewels."

Chapter XVII

73. Identify the tangibles that Bronte uses to show wealth in this chapter.
74. In Blanche's verbal description of governesses, identify the negative connotations that she applies.

75. What effect does Bronte achieve by having Jane leave from her “asylum with precaution”?

Chapter XVIII

76. Explain the symbolism of the answers to the game of charades.

77. Above all, why is Jane most disturbed by the impending marriage between Mr. Rochester and Miss Ingram?

78. Contrast the perceptions of Mr. Mason by Jane and the other ladies at the party.

Chapter XIX

79. How does Bronte apply Gothic conventions in Ch. 19?

80. In this chapter, Mr. Rochester and Jane are momentary equals. When and why does this equality occur?

81. Explain the foreshadowing of Mr. Rochester’s statement: “They don’t look grave and mysterious, as if they had heard something strange.”

Chapter XX

82. How does Bronte effectively use Gothic elements in this chapter?

83. What effect does Bronte create in having Mr. Rochester refer to Jane as his “little friend” multiple times in this chapter?

84. Contrast how Mr. Rochester and Jane view Thornfield in different ways?

85. Mr. Mason has been seriously injured by the woman locked in the third story room. However, he obviously cares for her: “Let her be taken care of; let her be treated as tenderly as it may be: let her – ‘ he stopped and burst into tears.” What can readers infer from his words and actions?

Chapter XXI

86. Explain the superstition that Jane considers at the beginning of this chapter.

87. Explain and analyze the implication of Miss Ingram’s comment: “What can the creeping creature want now?”

88. Describe the mood of the scene where Mr. Rochester and Jane say goodbye.

89. What is the significance of having Jane travel back to Gateshead at this point in her life?

Chapter XXII

90. Examine and explain Bronte’s figurative language: “I thought of Eliza and Georgiana; I beheld one the cynosure of a ball-room, the other the inmate of a convent cell.

91. How do the setting and weather conditions mirror Jane’s mood in this chapter?

92. How does Bronte employ supernatural elements in the diction of this chapter, and what effect do they produce?

Chapter XXIII

93. Explain how the imagery Bronte uses at the beginning of this chapter creates a mood of optimism.

94. Explain the significance of the possible allusions, “Eden-like,” and “string somewhere under my left ribs.”

95. Analyze Bronte’s use of repeated words in this chapter and the effectiveness of this strategy.

96. After Jane accepts Mr. Rochester’s proposal, a thunderstorm begins, and a lightning bolt strikes a tree. What is the significance of the lightning bolt?

Chapter XXIV

97. Examine Bronte’s connotations in the diction she employs to describe Jane:

“While arranging my hair, I looked at my face in the glass, and felt it was no longer plain; there was hope in its aspect, and life in its color; and my eyes seemed as if they had beheld the fount of fruition, and borrowed beams from the lustrous ripple.”

98. Explain the irony present in Mr. Rochester’s desire to dress Jane in jewels and fancy clothing.

99. Evaluate the effect of the terms of endearment, such as “angel,” that Mr. Rochester uses to refer to Jane in this chapter.

Chapter XXV

100. Compare and contrast how Mr. Rochester and Jane view marriage.
101. Assess the importance of Bronte's unconventional description of Jane's dress:
"I shut the closet, to conceal the strange, wraith-like apparel it contained; which, at this evening hour – nine o'clock – gave out certainly a most ghastly shimmer through the shadow of my apartment."
102. Trace the weather conditions in this chapter and indicate how they relate to Jane's mood and events in the chapter.
103. Explain the significance of Jane's nightmares.

Chapter XXVI

104. Evaluate Bronte's use of fire and ice in this chapter.
105. After learning of Rochester's wife, what is surprising about Jane's behavior when she locks herself in the room?
106. Identify and analyze the effect of the literary technique Bronte employs here: "Without speaking, without smiling, without seeming to recognize in me a human being, he only twined my waist with his arm and riveted me to his side."
107. Evaluate Bronte's use of sarcasm in Rochester's words regarding Bertha Mason: "I must shut up my prize."
108. Identify and explain the effect of the literary technique that Bronte uses in the following quotation:
"The whole consciousness of my life lorn, my love lost, my hope quenched, my faith death-struck, swayed full and mighty above me in one sullen mass."

Chapter XXVII

109. Justify Jane's reasoning to leave Rochester. On what does she base her decision?
110. How does Bronte use Gothic conventions in this chapter?
111. Explain the literary techniques that Bronte employs in the following passage and explain the effect Bronte desires the techniques to produce:
"I never loved, I never esteemed, I did not even know her. I was not sure of the existence of one virtue in her nature: I had marked neither modesty, nor benevolence, nor candor, nor refinement in her mind or manners – and , I married her: gross, groveling, mole-eyed blockhead that I was!"
112. Explain the irony in Rochester's statement: "Hiring a mistress is the next worse thing to buying a slave: both are often my nature, and always by position, inferior: and to live familiarly with inferiors is degrading."
113. Identify the literary device that Bronte uses as Jane sneaks out of Thornfield mansion: "I had to deceive a fine ear: for aught I knew, it might now be listening."

Chapter XXVIII

114. Identify and explain the effect of the figurative language Bronte uses here: "Solitude would be no solitude – rest no rest – while the vulture, hunger, thus sank beak and talons in my side."
115. A poor beggar, how does Jane still not fit into society?

Chapter XXIX

116. Explain how Hannah decides Jane's class in society.
117. What is the ultimate purpose of this chapter?
118. How is Mr. St. John's description similar to that of Mr. Brocklehurst's?

Chapter XXX

119. Why does Jane find happiness and comfort at Moor House?
120. How does the weather mirror Jane's mood in this chapter?
121. Contrast St. John's personality with that of his sisters, Diana and Mary.
122. How is St. John a hypocrite?
123. Explain the significance of the fact that St. John's uncle is named "John."

Chapter XXXI

124. Analyze the internal conflict that Jane experiences regarding her new life.

Chapter XXXII

125. How does Jane surprise St. John in this chapter?
126. Compare Jane's and St. John's thoughts toward relationship and lust.

Chapter XXXIII

127. Explain Brontë's purpose in using an allusion in this chapter. What is the allusion?
128. Analyze Brontë's use of fire and ice in this chapter.
129. Analyze Jane's view of wealth.

Chapter XXXIV

130. Contrast St. John's behavior in this chapter with that of his sisters'.
131. Consider Helen Burns, Jane's childhood friend at Lowood Institution, and St. John. How do their views on religion differ?
132. Identify instances of the words in this chapter that use ice or coldness to refer to St. John and explain their effect.
133. At the end of Chapter 34, St. John asks Jane to marry him and to accompany him to India as his wife and work by his side. How does Brontë foreshadow his request earlier in this chapter?
134. Explain the significance of the diction that Brontë uses in St. John's description of his duty toward God.
135. What effect does Brontë produce by using fire and heat when referring to Jane?

Chapter XXXV

136. How does St. John attempt to use guilt to persuade Jane to marry him and accompany him to India?
137. At the end of Ch. 35, Jane feels the possibility of changing her mind – of becoming St. John's wife, as he is a powerful influence. What device does Brontë use that has Jane change her mind?

Chapter XXXVI

138. Identify the significance of the places Bertha Mason sets afire.
139. How does Brontë create sympathy for Rochester?

Chapter XXXVII

140. What is ironic about the first view Jane has of Rochester at Ferndean?
141. Analyze the significance of the following quote: "I told you I am independent, sir, as well as rich: I am my own mistress."
142. Identify and explain the effect of the literary technique that Brontë uses in Jane's remark: "He is not like you, sir; I am not happy at his side, nor near him, nor with him."
143. Identify and explain the effect of the literary technique that Brontë uses in the following quote: "Mr. Rochester, if ever I did a good deed in my life – if ever I thought a good thought – if ever I prayed a sincere and blameless prayer – if ever I wished a righteous wish – I am rewarded now."
144. Why does Jane feel like she and Rochester are true equals now – that she can accept his marriage proposal?

Conclusion

145. Explain what Brontë means by: "a sound English education corrected in a great measure by French defects."
146. Conclude St. John's and Jane's ideas of home.