

Jane Eyre

CHARLOTTE BRONTË

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CONTENTS

Chapter 1 <i>A Miserable Child</i>	5
Chapter 2 <i>The Red-room</i>	9
Chapter 3 <i>Mr Lloyd</i>	11
Chapter 4 <i>Mr Brocklehurst</i>	15
Chapter 5 <i>My Life at Lowood</i>	19
Chapter 6 <i>Helen Burns</i>	23
Chapter 7 <i>A Great Loss</i>	25
Chapter 8 <i>A New Place and A new Life</i>	28
Chapter 9 <i>A Strange Encounter</i>	33
Chapter 10 <i>My New Master</i>	36
Chapter 11 <i>The Fire</i>	41

Chapter 12	
<i>Mr Rochester's Future Wife</i>	43
Chapter 13	
<i>The Gypsy</i>	47
Chapter 14	
<i>Tragedy at Gateshead</i>	51
Chapter 15	
<i>An Unexpected Proposal</i>	57
Chapter 16	
<i>My Happiness</i>	61
Chapter 17	
<i>The Wedding Day</i>	64
Chapter 18	
<i>Goodbye Thornfield</i>	69
Chapter 19	
<i>My Cousins</i>	71
Chapter 20	
<i>My Final Destination</i>	73
Activities	75
Characters	81
Glossary	84
Answer Key	95

JANE EYRE

Chapter 1

A Miserable Child

It was a miserable morning for me. There was no possibility of taking a walk. The rain was pouring down on the leafless trees and the winter wind was blowing powerfully. I didn't like long walks especially on chilly days. Coming home with cold fingers and toes was terrible. So I was happy to be inside.

Eliza, John and Georgina were in the drawing room with their mother. Mrs Reed was very happy and content to be surrounded by her three darlings. She was lying down on a sofa by the fire. There was no chance for me to join the group because I was not good enough to be a part of the family. I was in the breakfast room which was next to the drawing room. I could hear them laughing and having a great time together.

I got a book from the bookshelf to engage myself in reading. I sat by the window and began to read the introductory pages of "A History of British Birds".

I found the book profoundly interesting. There were lots of pictures in the book and each told a story. As I was reading the lines I felt like I was a bird living in solitary. I was happy in a way; reading the book and listening to the sound of the ceaseless rain. Suddenly I heard John Reed shouting my name.



Chapter 7

A Great Loss

In the beginning, my life at Lowood was a struggle with new rules and tasks. Life was unbearable for me, especially in winter. We had no boots and no warm clothes. The snow always got into our shoes and melted there. Sundays were miserable in winter. We repeated the fifth, sixth and seventh chapters of St. Matthew all the time and listened to long sermons which were read by Miss Miller. She taught us many basic rules of Christianity but I was bored all the time. Later on I realized that it was time to face the fact. I had to get used to my new life at Lowood and I did so. I tried very hard to overcome hardship. I always felt happier when it was spring time. Lowood was all green and all flowery. I took long walks with other girls and enjoyed the beauties of the season. It was wonderful to see flowers budding by the roadside, under the hedges. Thanks to the sweet smell of spring flowers, I started to take a great pleasure in life. I really wanted to make many friends and earn respect.

Miss Temple was very warm and affectionate towards me. She taught me how to draw and let me learn French.

I felt excited about the good news. All preparations were made. The rooms were cleaned and arranged. I even helped with the cooking. I learned how to make custard, cheese-cake and French pastry. After three days we all got impatient about Mr Rochester's return. Adèle flew to the window and shouted happily: 'They're coming! They're coming!' I went after her to look to see if he was really coming. I saw two carriages approaching. Everyone became joyful in the house as he arrived. Mr Rochester had some ladies and gentlemen with him. He was too engaged to think about Adèle and me.



Chapter 16

My Happiness

I was happy and overexcited about my future with Mr Rochester. I wanted to scream my happiness to the world. Mrs Fairfax was surprised by the news. She asked me some questions while we were having our breakfast.

‘Is it really for love he is going to marry you?’ she said looking at me coldly.

I was hurt by her question.

‘I am so sorry if I hurt you but you are very young and inexperienced,’ she said.

Mr Rochester had joined us before I answered Mrs Fairfax’s question.

‘This beautiful young lady will be Mrs Rochester soon,’ he said to Mrs Fairfax. She was happy for both of us.

‘I want you to see the world with me. We will conquer Europe, Asia, America and Australia. I will make you the happiest woman in the world,’ he said to me passionately.

‘I am not an angel.’

I was surprised when I found out that St John and his sisters were my cousins.

One day St John had a letter and gave us some bad news.

‘Unfortunately our uncle John is dead.’

‘We never met Uncle John, Jane,’ Mary said tiredly.

‘He argued with my father about a business deal years ago. My father lost money and Uncle John made a fortune of twenty thousand pounds. He never married and we all inherited his money.’

We shared twenty thousand pounds equally.

JANE EYRE

Activities

Chapters 1-4

Read Chapter 1-4 and circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Who did Jane live with?

- a) She lived with her grandparents.
- b) She lived with her aunt and her three children.

2. Who did Jane have a fight with?

- a) John Reed.
- b) Eliza Reed.

3. Where did they lock Jane in?

- a) They locked her in the black-room.
- b) They locked her in the red-room.

4. What did Mr Reed want from his wife?

- a) He wanted her to keep Jane away from the family.
- b) He wanted her to look after Jane.

5. What happened to Jane in the red-room?

- a) She felt scared and sick.
- b) She felt happy and content.

6. Who treated Jane after her terrible experience in the room?

- a) Mrs Reed
- b) Mr Lloyd

Characters

A. Put the names of the characters in the correct place.

Mrs Reed

Jane Eyre

Adèle Mrs

Fairfax

Mr Rochester

Mr Brocklehurst

Miss Ingram

Mr Llyod

Helen Burns

John Reed

1. was a physician.
2. All the upper teachers and girls were waiting for to pass.
3. was very ill.
4. I put on my knees and she sang an infant song for me.
5. opened her eyes with a great difficulty.
6. was an elegant woman but she was not genuine.
7. was a schoolboy of fourteen years old.
8. seemed to be a warm-hearted lady.
9. shut me in the red-room.
10. 'Well,, are you a good child?'

B. What do you know about these people? Write the correct name next to each sentence.

Bessie

Mrs Temple

Celine

Briggs

John Eyre

St John

Georgina

Bertha

1. She was a French opera dancer.
2. He was a solicitor.
3. She was Mrs Reed's daughter.
4. She was one of the maids at Gateshead.
5. He was Jane Eyre's cousin.
6. She was Mr Rochester's wife.
7. She worked at Lowood School.
8. He was Jane Eyre's uncle.

Glossary

admit	allow someone to enter a place * He <i>admitted</i> the children to the theatre without tickets.
affectionate	loving * Mothers are very <i>affectionate</i> towards their children.
ajar	slightly open * The back door was <i>ajar</i> .
alive	living, not dead * Is your great grandfather still <i>alive</i> ?
altar	a type of table used for ceremonies in a church * I felt excited the moment I reached the <i>altar</i> .
anxiously	worriedly * The old man looked at me <i>anxiously</i> .
appear	start to be seen * She <i>appeared</i> at the door looking worried.
appearance	the way someone looks * Personality is more important than physical <i>appearance</i> .
approach	come nearer * I felt better as spring <i>approached</i> .
argue	quarrel * She always <i>argues</i> with her father.
bad-tempered	angry * He is nice but he is <i>bad-tempered</i> .
battle	a fight * They lost the <i>battle</i> in the war.

terrified	scared very much * She looked <i>terrified</i> .
typhus	an infectious disease spread by lice * <i>Typhus</i> was a common disease in the past.
tray	a flat container used for carrying food and drink * She is carrying a big <i>tray</i> with four sandwiches and four glasses of water.
tremble	shake because of fear or cold * The little girl <i>trembled</i> with cold.
truth	the state of being true * We finally learned the shocking <i>truth</i> about your past.
undress	take off clothes * She quickly <i>undressed</i> and got into her bed.
unfortunate	unlucky * She had an <i>unfortunate</i> life.
useless	not achieving what is needed * It was a <i>useless</i> attempt.
wanderer	a person who travels aimlessly * I want to be a <i>wanderer</i> and see many places in the world.
wicked	evil or morally wrong * He is a <i>wicked</i> politician.
witness	see an event happening * I <i>witnessed</i> the best party in my life.