



JANE EYRE

– EXTRA

Level 2

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least two years and up to three years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level A2.

SYNOPSIS

Jane Eyre is an orphan. She spends an unhappy childhood with a cruel aunt and then eight years at a harsh charity school. When she is 18, she takes a job as a governess to a young French girl at Thornfield Hall.

Edward Rochester is the master of Thornfield. He has travelled widely and seen the world, but he loves Jane's strong spirit and fresh innocence. She soon falls in love with him.

Frightening things happen at Thornfield. Jane hears terrible laughing and Rochester's bed is set on fire in the night. Rochester explains that it is Grace Poole, a strange servant who lives in the attic of the house.

Rochester plays an elaborate game with Jane's feelings. He pretends to be interested in a beautiful local lady, Blanche Ingram. Then a man called Mason arrives from Jamaica. He is an old acquaintance of Rochester's. Someone in the attic attacks him and he leaves.

Rochester proposes to Jane and she accepts, despite the difference in age and social position between them. The wedding is stopped, however, by Mason. He claims that Rochester is already married to his sister, who is kept in the attic. When Jane sees this madwoman for herself, she runs away from Thornfield.

She is close to death when a kind family take her in. She settles near them and takes a job in a school. A year later, a rich uncle leaves her money. She returns to find Mr Rochester.

Thornfield has burnt down, Mrs Rochester died in the fire and Rochester was badly burnt. Jane finds him in his new home. He is a broken man, but they renew their love and marry.

THE BACK STORY

Published in 1847, *Jane Eyre* is one of Britain's best-loved classic love stories. It is often taught in secondary school English courses. Many film and television versions have been made.

Charlotte Brontë's novel has passion, wonderful dialogue and Gothic horror. There are touches of the supernatural, and the whole story takes place against the drama of the natural world, with its sunshine and storms.

Charlotte Brontë drew on her own life experiences in the novel. 'Jane is as plain and as small as me,' she said. In fact, Jane's early years are very similar to Charlotte's. For more about Charlotte Brontë's life, see the Fact File on pages 62–3.

Jane is one of literature's most popular heroines. Although she lives her life within the conventions of Victorian society, she is a very modern woman. Her tough childhood teaches her to be independent but fair. She loves reading and studying, but she is not afraid of hard work. She wants to be economically as well as emotionally independent, at a time when wives 'belonged' to their husbands.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: *Jane Eyre* is available as a BBC DVD. The pictures in this reader come from the BBC's 2006 adaptation, starring Ruth Wilson as Jane and Toby Stephens as Rochester.

CD: A recording of *Jane Eyre* is available to accompany the Richmond reader.

Internet: The BBC site is: www.bbc.co.uk/drama/janeeyre. The Brontë Society is at www.bronte.org.uk.

HOW TO USE YOUR RICHMOND MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have the students heard of *Jane Eyre*? Motivate them with background information (see The Back Story above) and by reading aloud the first page of the story with dramatic atmosphere.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the Self-Study section at the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each chunk of reading. All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Using the DVD

Select the English language option on the DVD. The story is told in four episodes and is 232 minutes long. Select key scenes to show in parallel with the class reading schedule.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. The Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource sheet practises the new words in a different context.

The language of Charlotte Brontë's time

Jane Eyre was published in 1847. This adaptation is mostly told in modern English, but keeps a flavour of the original. Read through page 6 to prepare students for the language they will come across in the reader.

Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. These provide background information about Charlotte Brontë, the position of women and the lives of children in Victorian England.

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or spoken review of *Jane Eyre*. Compare opinions. Will they read the original, either in English or their own language? Did you like it?



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People and places

Match these questions and answers.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| a) Is Jane Eyre rich? | i) A husband. |
| b) Where does Adèle come from? | ii) No, she's poor. |
| c) What is Blanche Ingram looking for? | iii) Three. |
| d) How old is Mr Rochester? | iv) France. |
| e) How many children does Mrs Reed have? | v) About forty. |

Chapters 1–2

1 Tick (✓) the things that Jane likes. Cross (X) the things she doesn't like.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) reading | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) her cousin John Reed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) the red room | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) the idea of school | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Gateshead | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2 Are these sentences about Lowood true (T) or false (F)?

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| a) Girls can wear their own clothes. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Girls must read the Bible for one hour before breakfast. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Girls can stay inside after lessons if it is cold. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) All girls get a warm winter coat. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Supper is a small cup of coffee and half a piece of bread. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Who is speaking in these conversations, do you think? Choose from:

a teacher Helen Jane Jane Miss Brocklehurst
~~Mrs Brocklehurst~~

- | |
|--|
| a) <u>Mrs Brocklehurst</u> 'I like pretty dresses in the latest fashions.' |
| b) 'Me too, Mamma. Those brown dresses are horrible.' |
| c) 'Drink this. You will feel better then.' |
| d) 'You are very kind to me. I never had a friend before.' |
| e) 'Is she going to die?' |
| f) 'I'm sorry. She's very ill.' |

4 Work with a partner. You are starting a new school for girls with no family or no money. What will the school be like? Write down your ideas.

Chapters 3–5

1 Circle the mistakes in these sentences.

- Everyone at Thornfield is very angry with Jane.
- Jane thinks she is pretty.
- Mrs Fairfax thinks Jane is strange.
- Jane hears a strange animal at the top of the house.
- She loves the beautiful house and kitchens.
- Rochester is angry when he falls from his bike.

2 Circle the correct words in *italics*.

- Adèle / Jane loves presents.
- Mr Rochester likes Jane's *piano playing* / *drawing*.
- Something *good* / *bad* happened to Mr Rochester in the Caribbean.
- Mr Rochester *cares* / *doesn't care* about Jane's feelings.
- Adèle *looks* / *doesn't look* like Mr Rochester.
- Jane wakes when she *hears someone outside her door* / *smells the fire*.

3 Tick (✓) the things that happen at the house party.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| a) Adèle and Jane eat their meals with the guests. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Mr Rochester takes his guests out for a ride across the country. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Jane puts a Parisian dress and shoes on for the evening. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) The guests drink coffee in the drawing room. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Jane watches Mr Rochester with his guests. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) The Ingrams laugh about governesses. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Blanche plays the piano and Mr Rochester sings with her. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Mr Rochester doesn't speak to Jane. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4 Work with another student. You are guests at Mr Rochester's house party. Talk about the other guests, Mr Rochester and Thornfield.

Chapters 6–8

1 Put these events a–j in the right order.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a) A letter comes from Gateshead for Jane. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) A month later, she returns to Thornfield. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) A terrible scream wakes all Mr Rochester's guests. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Dr Carter takes Mr Mason to his house. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Jane and Mr Rochester walk in the garden. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Jane looks after Mr Mason and waits for Mr Rochester. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Jane visits her aunt. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Mr Rochester asks her to marry him. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i) She learns about her uncle John Eyre. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j) When the house is quiet, Mr Rochester comes to Jane's door. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) Jane likes beautiful dresses and bright colours.
- b) Jane tells her uncle about her wedding in a letter.
- c) A terrible woman pulls Jane's veil to pieces.
- d) Jane tells Mrs Fairfax about it.
- e) Jane and Mr Rochester have a long, lazy breakfast before the wedding.
- f) Jane's uncle comes to the church and stops the wedding.
- g) Mr Rochester is secretly married to Grace Poole.
- h) Mr Rochester is married to Mr Mason's sister.

3 Talk to a partner. At the moment that Mr Rochester asks Jane to marry him, a storm hits the old tree. What does this mean, do you think?

Chapters 9–11

1 Complete the sentences with names and places.

India Jane Elliott John Eyre Mr Briggs Mr Rochester
Mrs Fairfax Morton Rivers ~~Whiteross~~

- a) Jane gets off the coach at *Whitcross*
- b) She is nearly dead when she arrives at the house of the family.
- c) She tells them her name is
- d) Jane starts a new school for girls in
- e) St John gets a letter from It asks about Jane Eyre.
- f) leaves Jane twenty thousand pounds.
- g) St John asks Jane to go to with him.
- h) Jane writes to for news about Mr Rochester.
- i) Jane hears 's voice from far away.

2 Why are these things important in Jane's story?

- a fire
- a letter to an uncle
- an advertisement
- typhoid fever

FINAL TASKS

1 You are Mr Rochester. Write about your feelings at one of these moments in your life:

- the first time you see Jane Eyre
- when Briggs stops the wedding
- when you discover that Jane has left Thornfield
- when you hear Jane's voice at Ferndean
- when you see your baby for the first time

2 You are Grace Poole. You look after Bertha Rochester in the attic at Thornfield. Write about an ordinary day in your life.

3 You write for the Millcote newspaper. You are at Thornfield on the night of the fire. Write a report for the next day's newspaper.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

Look at the 'New Words' at the back of *Jane Eyre*.

1 Find words to complete these sentences.

1. After the terrible storm, the house needed a new *roof*
2. When the went out, the room was very dark.
3. Suddenly the wind came up and a tree hit the window. The children and ran to their mother.
4. The rich old man must have a Look at his big house!
5. The young girl thought she saw a ghost. Her face went very and then she
6. A man escaped from hospital and killed three people.
7. You can't drive before you are 17. It is against the
8. The in the newspaper said the job was exciting and fun.
9. A wheel came off the and one of the passengers fell out.
10. The old woman said she saw dancing over the water at night.

2 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

coach feelings governess ~~ladies~~ master
servants spirit veil

1. The *ladies* had tea and played the piano in the afternoons.
2. The got up at 5.30am and lit the fires in the rooms downstairs.
3. The locked the door in the schoolroom and went down to the river.
4. The went out on his horse. He carried his gun and his dogs ran behind him.
5. The children said unkind things to their aunt and hurt her
6. The girl put her in a cupboard after the wedding. She never wore it again.
7. The boy has a strong and always does what he wants.
8. The drove from London to Edinburgh. It took three days.

CHARLOTTE BRONTË (pages 62–3)

Comparing lives

Writers often use events and feelings from their own lives in their novels. Students work in pairs. Give them these topics: *family life, school, work, travel, illness, marrying, having children*. They compare these aspects of Charlotte's life and Jane's life, for example: *Jane had no sisters or brothers, but Charlotte had four sisters and one brother. Jane and Charlotte both lived with an aunt after their mothers died.*

A letter

Charlotte Brontë was good friends with another famous writer, Mrs Gaskell. They often wrote letters. Students choose a point in Charlotte's life from the Fact File, for example, 1848, the year that both Branwell and Emily Brontë died. They write a letter from Charlotte to Mrs Gaskell. Charlotte tells her about what has happened, how she feels now and her hopes for the future.

WOMEN IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND (pages 64–5)

Interviews

Students work in groups of five or six. Each group chooses two students to be Victorian women and one to be a modern woman. The other members of the group interview the three women about their lives for a lifestyle magazine.

CHILDREN IN VICTORIAN ENGLAND (pages 66–7)

Project

'What was life like for children in your country a hundred years ago?' Students find out about rich and poor children's lives, presenting their information as bullet points, an article or a fact file. Research tools: parents and other family members, the internet, the library.

Children's Charter

Society is moulded by the way its children are brought up. They are the next generation and in a few years' time, they will be in charge! Students write a Charter for Children, listing how they think children should be brought up. They can include these topics: human rights, schooling, work, play, discipline, free time, screen time, pocket money, manners.

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

DVD: Meeting Bertha

Get students to write down what they think Bertha Rochester looks like. Then play the encounter between the wedding party and Bertha in the attic. Students say how the BBC's Bertha compares with their own idea of her. Is their Bertha frightening?

DVD: Choosing scenes

The adaptation is nearly four hours long. Write a list of key scenes on the board. Students vote for the scenes they would most like to watch. Examples:

- Jane's first day at Lowood
- the death of Helen Burns
- the first meeting between Jane and Mr Rochester
- Jane's final conversation with Mrs Reed at Gateshead
- Jane hearing Mr Rochester's voice calling to her
- Jane's return to Thornfield
- the ending

CD: What happens next?

Choose a key moment on the CD in the section that students are going to read next. Play part of the scene, but stop it before something dramatic happens. Students note down or discuss what they think will happen next. Don't tell them or play the next section. When they read, they will see if they were right or wrong. Check back after the class has read the next section.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 68–72)

- 1 a) servant b) lawyer c) lady d) master/gentleman e) master/gentleman f) governess
- 2 a) a veil b) a coach and a carriage c) advertise d) pale e) fortune f) spirit
- 3 a) Mr Rochester b) Grace Poole c) St John Rivers d) Blanche Ingram e) Jane herself f) Lowood School
- 4 a) right b) wrong c) right d) wrong e) right f) right
- 5 a) bad b) thin c) unpopular d) unloved e) better f) decides to
- 6–8 Open answers.
- 9 a) People are not usually kind to Jane. b) They own all the land. c) Grace Poole. d) It is full of life. e) No, he never stays more than two weeks at a time. f) Because her mother left her alone in Paris with no family and no money. g) Because she sees smoke and smells fire.
- 10–12 Open answers.
- 13 a) Grace Poole b) Mr Rochester c) Blanche Ingram d) Jane, Adèle e) Lady Ingram f) Mr Mason g) Grace Poole
- 14–16 Open answers.
- 17 a) Because Mrs Reed is dying and wants to see her. b) Because she loves him. c) Because she did not want Jane to become rich. d) She thought that he was suddenly poor. e) A horrible woman pulls it to pieces. f) They know that Mr Rochester already has a wife. g) Mr Rochester's mad wife lives on the top floor. h) She looks after Mr Rochester's wife. i) Jane's uncle asked them to stop it.
- 18–20 Open answers.
- 21 The correct order is: d, f, g, a, e, b, h, c.
- 22 a) There was a fire and the roof fell down. b) She jumped off the roof and died. c) He lost an eye and a hand.
- 23–24 Open answers.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- a) ii b) iv c) i d) v e) iii

Chapters 1–2

- 1 a) ✓ b) ✗ c) ✗ d) ✓ e) ✗
- 2 a) F b) T c) F d) F e) T
- 3 a) Mrs Brocklehurst b) Miss Brocklehurst c) Helen d) Jane e) Jane f) a teacher
- 4 Open answers.

Chapters 3–5

- 1 a) angry with > kind to b) pretty > not pretty c) strange > kind (or Jane > Rochester) d) animal > laugh/person e) kitchens > gardens f) bike > horse
- 2 a) Adèle b) drawing c) bad d) cares e) doesn't look like f) hears someone outside her door
- 3 a) ✗ b) ✓ c) ✗ d) ✓ e) ✓ f) ✓ g) ✓ h) ✗
- 4 Open answers.

Chapters 6–8

- 1 The correct order is: c, j, f, d, e, a, g, i, b, h.
- 2 a) F b) T c) T d) F e) F f) F g) F h) T
- 3 Open answers.

Chapters 9–11

- 1 a) Whitcross b) Rivers c) Jane Elliott d) Morton e) Mr Briggs f) John Eyre g) India h) Mrs Fairfax i) Mr Rochester
- 2 Open answers.

Vocabulary Builder

1. roof 2. candle 3. screamed 4. fortune 5. pale, fainted 6. mad 7. law 8. advertisement 9. carriage 10. spirits
2. 1. ladies 2. servants 3. governess 4. master 5. feelings 6. veil 7. spirit 8. coach