

# “Jane Eyre”

Nastya Moiseeva

# Charlotte Brontë

- Charlotte Brontë was an English novelist and poet, the eldest of the three Brontë sisters who survived into adulthood and whose novels became classics of English literature.
- She enlisted in school at Roe Head in January 1831, aged 14 years. She left the year after to teach her sisters, Emily and Anne, at home, returning in 1835 as a governess. In 1839 she undertook the role as governess for the Sidgwick family but left after a few months to return to Haworth where the sisters opened a school, but failed to attract pupils. Instead, they turned to writing and they each first published in 1846 under the pseudonyms of Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell. Her first novel *The Professor* was rejected by publishers, her second novel *Jane Eyre* was published in 1847. The sisters admitted to their Bell pseudonyms in 1848, and by the following year were celebrated in London literary circles.
- Brontë experienced the early deaths of all her siblings. She became pregnant shortly after her marriage in June 1854 but died on 31 March 1855, almost certainly from hyperemesis gravidarum, a complication of pregnancy which causes excessive nausea and vomiting.



# Time, Places of Action

- “Jane Eyre” takes place in Britain during the 19th century. There are few places where the action takes place: Lowood, Thornfield Hall, Moor House and Gateshead. Most of the story takes place in Thornfield Hall where Janes main adventure begins.

# Characters

- From all characters of the novel I can highlight only two characters as main characters, those are Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester. They are most revealed as characters and the whole plot is twisted around them. I can clearly pinpoint their traits of character, because in this novel they were fully featured in various life situations in which the rest of the characters were not shown.
- Jane is a very nice and kind girl, although she is in a relationship with Mr. Rochester she doesn't need money, his presents or his money, she loves him and the only thing that she wants is his love for her. According to her description of herself we can imagine her as a regular woman with a regular appearance.
- Mr. Rochester is a fine man. He is smart, kind and generous. He tried to make Jane happy and was raising a child. He's also very generous and caring. Although he's not a handsome man at all he is interesting to people because of his charm and sense of humor.

# Retelling

- Jane Eyre, daughter of a clergyman becomes orphan at a young age and is adopted by her maternal uncle who dies as well leaving Jane at the mercy of his cruel wife who becomes extremely harsh towards her. Jane's cousins as well as the maids of that house torture her and beat her as well. She is often reminded that she is dependent on them.
- Being fed up with her, Mrs. Reeds sends her to a charitable School called Lowood School where she meets the same fate as the director of that school namely Mr. Brocklehurst is cruel as well as a miser. However, a teacher namely Miss. Temple shows sympathy towards her.
- Jane makes friendship with Helen Burns whose religious devotion, simplicity and piousness attract her. But soon their friendship ends as Typhus breaks out resulting in the death of a number of schoolgirls including Helen Burns who though dies of Consumption instead. Jane remains as a student for eight years and then teaches in the same school for two years. After that, she decides to change the job.
- Jane Eyre gets a job of governess to a young French girl namely Adele at Thornfield Hall. There she feels quite comfortable and often goes to the roof and gazes the sky. She often hears unusual laughing in the top storey of Thornfield House that troubles her.
- Once while she is out for a walk, a man falls off a horse and Jane helps him getting up. Jane returns and finds the same person there. Thus, she is introduced to Mr. Rochester, a man of 38, who is the owner of Thornfield Hall.
- After a course of time, Jane and Rochester become good friends and soon Jane secretly falls in love with Rochester. Mrs. Reeds dies without having any regret for her past deeds. Jane returns to Thornfield House and Rochester, who has also fallen in love with Jane proposes her for marriage. Jane readily accepts it. At the time of marriage, a person namely Mr. Briggs arrives at the Church discloses that Rochester is already married to his sister Bertha.
- After roaming for a day and being extremely hungry, she falls at the door of a farm-house that belonged to a clergyman namely St. John Rivers. He lived there along with his sisters Diana and Marry. They allow Jane to live with them.
- Jane starts working as a teacher at a girls school and also gets a lodge to live in. She comes to know that a beautiful lady namely Rosamond is in love with John Rivers, however, the latter does not want to marry her because he wants to go to India as a missionary and considers Rosamond unsuitable for the journey.
- John starts proposing Jane for marriage but gets rejected every time. While she is there, a good news comes to her that makes her quite happy. First, she comes to know that her uncle John Eyre has died and has left twenty thousand pounds for her. Second Rivers turn out to be her cousins. She divides her fortune equally among the four and thus each of them gets five thousand pounds.
- The very next day, she leaves for Thornfield Hall and reaching there she finds it in ruins. She comes to know that Bertha, the wife of Rochester put the house on fire and killed herself. Rochester tried to save her and became blind as well as a cripple.
- Jane Eyre goes to Manor House in the forest where Rochester lives now. Both get married. Rochester recovers partially and gets the sight in one of his eyes. Both live happily after that and have children.

# Main Idea

- I think that the main message of this story is to relieve the hard hearts of the people of that time and give them a new dream of tomorrow. This story also teaches readers to believe in love, to follow their dreams and to be kinder to other people.

# My Opinion

- I don't really like "Jane Eyre", because I think that this story is too naïve and too easy to understand. I usually read more complicated books with sad endings, because I love the feeling that I can't understand the message and I like that feeling to haunt me all the way through the book to the very end. Though this novel is not my type, I liked to read it as a summer reading, because it was easy to read and understand the story.