

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte



Bronte's Life

- Born in England in 1816
- Her dad was a preacher
- One of 5 daughters and 1 son
- Mom died of cancer when Bronte was 5
- Her dad's sister (Bronte's aunt) helped raise the kids
- Along with 3 of her sisters, she was sent to Clergy Daughters' School at Cowan Bridge

Clergy Daughters' School

- Poor conditions
- Her sisters became ill and upon arriving home, died of tuberculosis (consumption)



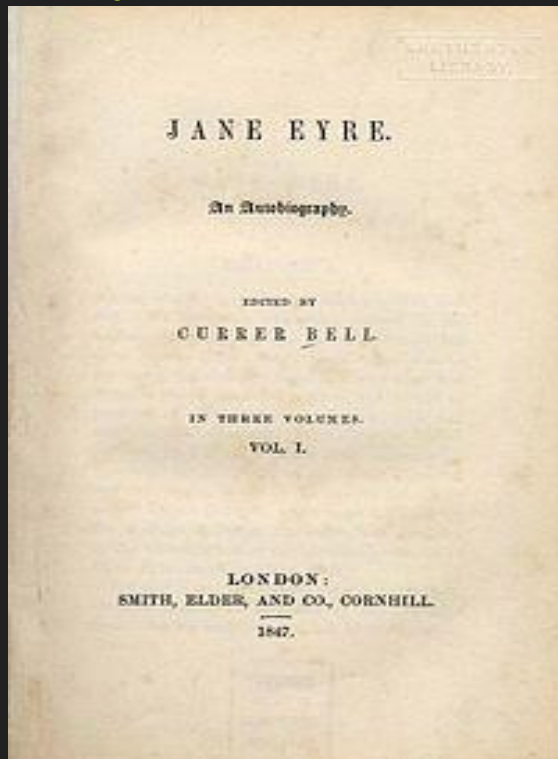
Charlotte Bronte

Spent her remaining
childhood with her
sisters, reading, writing
and creating
imaginary lands;



Returned to school in Roe Head, England, and later
became a teacher there sending home money to help
support family

Later left to become a private governess;



- She then joined her sisters and opened their own school for girls although this was never successful
- Sisters all began to write their own novels under androgynous pen names
- Charlotte, Anne, and Emily became **Currer**, Acton, and Ellis **Bell**
- Charlotte's first novel was unsuccessful; however, she published *Jane Eyre* in 1847 at the age of thirty-one
- *Jane Eyre* was immediately a popular best seller

After *Jane Eyre*



- Brother died an alcoholic and drug addict
- Sisters published books such as *Wuthering Heights* and *Agnes Gray*
- Sisters died
- Charlotte became an accepted member of literary society
- Unable to find true love, she settled for Reverend Nicholls
- She died pregnant at the age of 38, maybe of tuberculosis or sickness associated with her pregnancy

Jane Eyre

- Bildungsroman – a novel that traces the development of a character from childhood to adulthood
- Elements of Romantic literature such as human passion, belief in the supernatural, and individuality
- Elements of Transcendentalists, a philosophy that found God within themselves and nature and strived to be self-reliant
- Character absences and reappearances structure the novel
- Settings also structure the novel and character development, each place representing a quality of life