

Study Questions for Jane Eyre

Chap. 1

1. How does the weather mirror Jane's mood as the book opens?
2. Why does Jane retreat to the window seat? What does this reveal about her position in the Reed house?
3. Why do you think Jane enjoys reading books about faraway lands, particularly places that are solitary and dreary?
4. What Cinderella-like aspects of Jane's life are revealed in the first chapter?

Chap. 2

7. Contrast the ways the two servants, Miss Abbot and Bessie, treat Jane.
8. Why does Jane dread being locked in the red-room?
9. Describe Jane's impression of herself in the red-room mirror.
10. Explain Jane's family relationship to the Reeds and her presence at Gateshead Hall.
11. Is the ghost of Mr. Reed really present in the red-room?
12. Why is the color of the room where Jane is locked up significant?
13. Is Mrs. Reed's treatment of Jane at all justified?

Chap. 4

14. How does Bessie reinforce Jane's notion that she had indeed seen Mr. Reed's ghost?
15. Jane is filled with sadness when Mr. Lloyd, a stranger, leaves her. What does this tell us about her life at Gateshead Hall?
16. Why is Jane unwilling to exchange her life at Gateshead for the life of poverty?
17. How does Jane feel about the prospect of going away to school? Why might this be ironic?
18. What new information about her background does Jane overhear from the servants?

Chap. 4

19. Why does Jane feel such strong affection for her doll and for Bessie?
20. Jane's first impression of Mr. Brocklehurst is that he is like "a black pillar." Later she notices his features. What fairy tale character does her description of him bring to mind?
21. What fault is Jane accursed of having? Why is this ironic?

Chap. 5

22. How is Lowood different from what Jane had anticipated?
23. What is the significance of Miss Temple's name?
24. What is ironic about the strict religious observances at the school and conditions there? How does this irony help contribute to the development of character and theme?

Chap. 6

25. Is Helen Burns a believable character? Why or why not?

Chap. 7

26. Contrast the attitudes toward religion and goodness held by Mr. Brocklehurst and Helen Burns.

27. How does Helen help Jane endure her abuse from Mr. Brocklehurst? What impression does this create about Helen?

Chap. 8

28. What dispels Jane's fears that the other girls will hate her because of her humiliation?

29. Why does Miss Temple's invitation to tea mean so much to Jane?

30. What hints about Helen's future are disclosed in this Chapter?

31. What effect does Miss Temple's public affirmation of Jane's honesty have on Jane's willingness to work? Is Jane's reaction natural? Why or Why not?

Chap. 9

32. What is ironic about the coming of spring and the lessening of the girls' suffering from the hardships of winter?

33. why is life more relaxed than usual for the healthy girls?

34. Describe Helen's attitude toward her approaching death.

35. Do you think that Helen dies because she is too good for this earth. Explain your answer.

Chap. 10

36. What hint of psychic intervention in Jane's life appears in this chapter?

37. What information provided by Bessie foreshadows trouble for the Reeds?

38. What new and significant information does Bessie reveal about Jane's own family?

Chap. 11

39. What impression does Adele make on Jane?

40. What is Mrs. Fairfax's opinion of Mr. Rochester, the absent master of the house?

Chap. 12

41. Describe Jane's attitude during her early months at Thornfield.

42. What feminist argument is advanced in this chapter?

43. What is Jane's first impression as the horse and rider approach her on the road?

44. Why do you think both Jane and Rochester are described as being physically unattractive?

Chap. 13

45. Why is Jane more comfortable with Rochester's rudeness than she would have been with courtesy?

46. What does Mrs. Fairfax reveal about Rochester at the end of the Chapter?

Chap. 14

47. How does Rochester react when Jane tells him she doesn't think he is handsome? Why?

48. What is Rochester's attitude toward his own guilt? How does he deal with it?

49. Why does Rochester describe Jane as a caged bird? How accurate is this description?

Chap. 15.

50. What does Rochester reveal to Jane about his past and about Adele?

51. What are Rochester's Feelings toward Thornfield Hall?

52. What event precedes Jane's discovery of the fire in Rochester's bedroom?
53. How does the elf motif reappear in this chapter?
54. What is Rochester's attitude toward the fire? Why does his attitude seem strange?
55. How does the fire recall the first meeting between Jane and Rochester?
56. how does Jane react when she becomes aware that Rochester may care for her?

Chap. 16

57. What is Grace Poole's explanation of the fire? How does Jane react to Grace's Story?
58. What effect does Rochester' departure and the news of his destination have on Jane?

Chap 17

59. How is the outsider motif reinforced by Jane's choice of seat in the drawing room?
60. How does Rochester react to Jane's presence in the drawing room? What does he do when she slips out?

Chap 18

61. What is significant about the game of charades Rochester plays with his quests? How does Jane react to Rochester's charade?
62. Describe Jane's opinion of Blanche. Is Jane's Evaluation fair?
63. How has Jane's Judgment of Rochester softened as a result of her love for him?
64. What is ominous about the arrival of Mr. Mason?
65. What hint of supernatural is there in the gypsy's demand to see Jane?

Chap 19

62. What Characteristics does the gypsy in Jane's features?
63. What upsetting news did the gypsy tell Blanche?

Chap 20

64. What tow events in Jane's Past is this night reminiscent of?

Chap 21

65. Why has Mrs. Reed sent for Jane if she still hates her?
66. Why does Jane draw a sketch of Rochester?
67. Why is Jane able to forgive Mrs. Reed?

Chap 22

68. what dream does Jane have as she returns to Thornfield?
69. what evidence is there in this chapter that beneath Jane's self control lies a strong passionate nature?

Chap 23

70. Where does the red motif reappear? What is it's significant?
71. What might the storm and the splitting of the chestnut tree foreshadow?

Chap 24

72. How does Nature reflect Jane's feel on the morning after Rochester's proposal?

73. Why does Jane refuse the expensive presents Rochester tries to give her?
74. Why does Jane decide to write to her uncle in Madeira to tell him of her approaching marriage?

Chap 25

75. Describe the person who comes to Jane's room at night.
76. What might the tearing of the wedding veil symbolize?

Chap 26

77. Why does Rochester require the wedding party to go to Thornfield to see his wife.

Chap 27

78. do you think Rochester is justified in asking Jane to become his mistress? Explain our answer.
79. Although Jane is convinced that she is doing what is right and necessary, she also feels that she is doing wrong. Why?

Chap 28

80. During the days she wanders on the moors, what duty does Jane face and accept?

Chap 29

81. why is Jane dominant over Hannah but submissive to Dianna?

Chap 30.

82. Describe Jane's relationship with St. John.
83. Why does Jane accept the job St. John offers her as a school teacher?

Chap 31

84. Both Jane and St. John choose to submit to their sense of duty rather than their feelings of love. How does each of them feel about their decisions?

Chap 32

85. How does Jane find satisfaction, if not happiness, in her new life?
86. why does Rosamond think that Jane and St. John are alike?
87. What mysterious action does St. John take regarding the blank piece of paper covering Jane's drawing?

Chap 33

88. What is Jane's first concern when she learns that St. John knows her past and her true identity?
89. Why is the independence that her inheritance gives her so important to Jane?

Chap 34

90. Why does St. John want to teach Jane Hindostanee?

Chap 35

91. Why does Jane reluctantly agree to go with St. John, but not as his wife?
92. What does Jane mean when she tells St. John that he is killing her?

Chap 36

93. How was the destruction of Thornfield Hall foreshadowed?
94. How has Rochester helped redeem himself for his hatred of Bertha?
95. Rochester is now blind and crippled. What might this symbolize?

Chap 37

96. How does Jane's sudden appearance reinforce Rochester's image of her as an elf?
97. How has Rochester's earlier dependence on Jane changed?

Chap 38

98. Why do you think St. John never refers to Jane's marriage in his letters?
99. Rochester acknowledges that God has judged him but says God has also been merciful. What does he mean?
100. What blessing has fallen to Rochester and Jane since their marriage?
101. Why does Jane finish her story by speaking of St. John?