

NAME: _____

JANE EYRE – DISCUSSION, CHAPTERS 11-13



"I could not help it; the restlessness was in my nature; it agitated me to pain sometimes... It is in vain to say human beings ought to be satisfied with tranquility; they must have action; and they will make it if they cannot find it.

Millions are condemned to a stiller doom than mine, and millions are in silent revolt against their lot."

Jane still seeks excitement

1. Annotate and interpret the above quote. What is Jane fighting against?

- social norms
- complacency
- gender roles

2. Based on this passage and your knowledge of Jane's character, how does she compare to the expectations held for Victorian women?

- not passive/submissive

3. How does she attempt to break out of her stagnation? Is she successful?

Finds new servitude but she's bored
stifled, stagnant

4. What possibilities exist that add excitement to her life?

Arrival of Rochester

5. What do we learn about Rochester? What is your impression of him?

Father left \$ to brother, Rowland
 - an "arrangement" was made to secure
 to turn Edward
 - ended badly

died
 18 yrs ago
 Thornfield
 went to
 Rich.

6. Explain which of the following Gothic elements come up at this point in the novel?

1. **Setting in a castle -**
2. **An atmosphere of mystery and suspense -**
3. **An ancient prophecy -**
4. **Omens, portent, visions -**
5. **Supernatural or otherwise inexplicable events -**
6. **High, even overwrought emotion -**
7. **Women in distress -**
8. **Women threatened by a powerful, impulsive or tyrannical male -**
9. **The metonymy of gloom and horror -**
10. **The vocabulary of the gothic -**

Adele's Story:

Care for Adele is his penance
done something bad
doubt's Adele is his child
J. identifies with Adele, both orphans

Laughter & Fire:

Strange laughter wakes Jane, feels presence
bed caught fire
whoever is laughing → started fire
Rochester covers it up, asks to keep quiet, says
it's servant Grace Poole
Rochester under-reacts that someone tried
to kill him
2nd time Jane saves Mr. R

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Millions are condemned to a stiller doom than mine, and millions are in silent revolt against their lot."

Jane still seeks excitement

1. Annotate and interpret the above quote. What is Jane fighting against?

- social norms
- complacency - aka. settling
- gender roles

2. Based on this passage and your knowledge of Jane's character, how does she compare to the expectations held for Victorian women?

- not passive/submissive

3. How does she attempt to break out of her stagnation? Is she successful?

Finds new servitude but she's bored
stifled, stagnant

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Arrival of Rochester

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Father left \$ to brother, Rowland
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died
a yr ago
Thornfield
Rob went to
Roch.

6. Explain which of the following Gothic elements come up at this point in the novel?

1. Setting in a castle - castle-like estate

2. An atmosphere of mystery and suspense -
R's past (why remorseful), Grace Poole? fire/
3rd Floor. creepy laugh

3. An ancient prophecy -

4. Omens, portent, visions -
Red Room, Gipsy/gypsy;

5. Supernatural or otherwise inexplicable events -
Fire, laughter

6. High, even overwrought emotion -
Red Room, shame @ school, terror, panic-laughter
Passion

7. Women in distress -
Jane is struggling w/ ♥ + status

8. Women threatened by a powerful, impulsive or tyrannical male -
John → Brock → Roch abuses power over her

9. The metonymy of gloom and horror -

→ metaphor for... gusting wind, crazy laughter

10. The vocabulary of the gothic -
terror, panic, blood.

Notes 12-15

- 3rd stop for Jane → bittersweet experience / pain romance
 Thornfield: "new servitude" - wants excitement
- stagnant, bored, stifled - craves excitement
 - mysterious - 3rd floor creepy laughter, mysterious owner, gothic estate
 - encounter w/ Rochester - falls off horse
 - arrival adds excitement
 - demanding reputation - never stays long

Rochester (Characterization & Family Background)

- ≈ 35 yrs old (20 yrs. older than Jane)
- criticizes Jane for her youth + inexperience
 - ↳ condescending / cocky / arrogant
 - rugged, not handsome but Jane finds him interesting after a while → EYES
 - brusque (rude)
 - battles wits w/ Jane - trying to "feel her out" & discovers that she's not meek + passive
 - 2nd encounter - more genial (wine) - moody - "changeable"

Fairfax → partly nature
 Pardon R's meekness → partly past (what happened?)

- Some "Arrangement" was made that led to R's bitterness + estrangement from family → Edward

Notes 12-15

Pd. 2

Thornfield:

Step #3 for Jane

love + pain → Thornfield

- mysterious owner - Rochester
- Jane feels confined until Roch. arrives
- Adele - French girl - ward of Rochester
- mysterious laughter - said to be Grace Poole

Rochester (Characterization & Family Background)

- ^{↳ Edward} demanding reputation - doesn't stay long
- got estate 9 yrs ago - inherited from estranged brother, Rowland

- An arrangement was made to secure his wealth when he was 21 - led to bitterness + family estrangement

- Fairfax says → partly his nature } why he's so moody
- partly his past

- condescending to Jane - for youth + inexperience

- rugged but not handsome

↳ Jane finds interesting
EYES