



Charlotte Bronte - Jane Eyre: Readers' Guides to Essential Criticism

Sara Lodge , Nicolas Tredell (Editor)

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Sara Lodge offers a lively introduction to the critical history of one of the most widely-studied nineteenth-century novels, from the first reviews through to present day responses. The Guide also includes sections devoted to feminist, Marxist and postcolonial criticism of *Jane Eyre*, as well as analysis of recent developments.

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Fraser Coltman says

I was amazed by this novel. Jane is such a strong character. A survivor of mistreatment at the hands of an unloving aunt. Then a survivor of life in an orphanage run by a pastor with a sadistic view of holiness. A servant tutoring a young girl and struggling with her feelings for her employer. A young woman, rejecting a relationship she regards as immoral, and another she finds loveless, then returning to the first one through forgiveness and trust. It is a powerful story of faith, love and hope.

Michele Munroe says

A classic I first read as a young teen, and have re-read several times since. And will undoubtedly re-read several times more...

Charlotte Coleman says

I like this much more before I had to study it. I like the character Jane but the more I looked into her via character analysis the more I found her to be a bit dramatic. Nevertheless, I recommend it, as I do most, and did enjoy the book. The ending is wonderful.

Celine Costa says

I read withering heights so that's how I was introduced to the Bronte sisters. Her style is slightly different from her sisters but equally as thrilling. Enjoyed this book very much.

Feisty Harriet says

More and more I find I don't really like books of this era. I hated *Pride & Prejudice* (an opinion I still maintain) and I really didn't love *Jane Eyre*. I think Mr. Rochester is an emotionally manipulative bastard and Jane is a masochistic prude who insists on self-sacrifice for no measurable, positive result. I found myself scolding Jane and yelling at Mr. Rochester throughout my reading, and didn't really find any of the characters all that likable. I understand that I am from a completely different time and perspective than Ms. Bronte, however, that doesn't make it any better when thousands of young, impressionable girls are reading her (and Austen's) work and internalizing the relationships as somehow ideal or swoon-worthy. Ugh, it makes me all ranty again just to think about it. (Note: I hated *Pride & Prejudice* considerably more than *Jane Eyre*, which is why I am still awarding it three stars instead of two.)

Denyse Farrell says

One of those books I discovered in junior high. I go back over & over again- and I am never disappointed!

Sanya Chachra says

If you are a beginner in literature reading, start with this book.

Lois says

This is another story I read when very young in an abbreviated version although I have read it often since in the original. Which child could not be excited and horrified by poor young Jane's treatment and experiences with her aunt the ghastly Mrs Reed, and then at Lowood School? Who could not be enthralled by the unlikely and doomed romance between Jane and Mr Rochester? This book has everything!

L.E. Fidler says

i love this novel. it's predictable in its "romantic" plotline (except for the whole "bluebeard" thang with bertha in the attic) and yet intricate in its scope. i love the religious undertones (and not so subtle overtones - i.e. the name "helen burns"), the symbolism (fire! birds! animals! the forest!). i even love mr. rochester and all his mindgamery.

still, what resonates best for me are the glimpses into a long dead past. like, physiognomy! those crazy 19th century bastards and their need to dictate personality based on physical attributes! how quaint!

also, someone PLEASE tell me. what the hell is up with ending the novel with that letter from st. john??? it bugs me EVERY time i read this novel. EVERY time.

but seriously, someone should study the neurotic undercurrents in jane's artwork. that girl's got some sick shit she's trying to work through.

Jane says

My very favorite!

Project says

Loved it. It added "It's a Jane Eyre thing" to my collection of catchphrases.[return][return]I was so impressed by the language that i created a dictionary.com flashcard set for it. Check it out [here](#).

Christina says

This is a romantic favorite. I read the book after viewing a BBC Jane Eyre broadcast starring Toby Stephens as Rochester. I love Jane's strength and that she is not afraid to stand up to anyone; that she is a woman of character and principle.

Kate says

As a total classics monomaniac, I think all her novels are brilliant...What's not to love, love, love, come on!

Beverly says

Jane Eyre begins life as an orphan in the household of her hateful aunt. Despite the oppression at home and torture at boarding school, Jane emerges with her spirit and integrity unbroken. She becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she finds herself falling in love with her employer— Mr. Rochester. But an explosive secret tears apart their relationship, forcing Jane to face poverty and isolation once again. Classic novel.

Sibyl says

Having reread 'Jane Eyre' recently, I've been trying to - somehow - separate the novel from the Bronte mythology. Having read a Charlotte Bronte biography which, inevitably, tracked the links between Charlotte's life (her schooling, her years as a governess, her correspondence with Monsieur Heger) and incidents within the novel - it felt like time to try a bit of literary criticism.

The book, a sort of historical digest of the way in which 'Jane Eyre' has been received is clear and well-organised. Rather than simply answering the question 'What's this novel about? it's made me ask a lot more questions, causing me to reflect on aspects of the book that I had previously read in a fairly 'surface' way.

I now want to have another go at 'Villette'....
