Charlotte Brontë

FAMILY
- Father: Patrick Brontë, an Irish clergyman
- Mother: Maria Branwell, died when Charlotte was only 5
- Aunt: their mother’s sister, Elizabeth brought up the children
- Siblings: 4 sisters (Maria, Elizabeth, Emily, Anne), 1 brother (Branwell)
  Her two older sisters, Maria and Elizabeth died in 1825.

EDUCATION
- 1824: Clergy Daughters’ School in Cowan Bridge, Lancashire
- 1825: Moved home and their father taught her and her sisters
- 1831-32: Roe Head in Mirfield, Yorkshire
- 1842: Moved to Brussels, Belgium to study French

WORK
- 1835-38: Teacher in Roe Head in Mirfield, Yorkshire
- 1839-41: Governess in Yorkshire
- 1843: Teacher in Brussels, Belgium

LITERARY CAREER
- First novella: The Green Dwarf in 1833, under the pseudonym ‘Wellesley’
- Novel: Jane Eyre (1847), Shirley (1849), Villette (1853), The Professor (1857), Emma (unfinished, 1860)

RELATIONSHIPS
- Marriage: Arthur Bell Nicholls, her father’s curate in 1854
- Friends: Charlotte was friends with the famous Victorian authors, Elizabeth Gaskell and William Makepeace Thackeray

INTERESTING FACTS
- As teenagers, Charlotte and her sister Emily created stories about the imaginary Kingdom of Angria.
- In 1846 Charlotte and her sisters published Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell, but it was a commercial disaster.
- Jane Eyre was published as an autobiography under the pseudonym Currer Bell.
- Jane Eyre inspired Jean Rhys to write a prequel to the story in 1966. The novel is called Wide Sargasso Sea, and it is about Antoianette Cosway (Bertha’s character in Jane Eyre).