

# Charlotte Brontë

**Born**

21 April 1816,  
Thornton, Yorkshire,  
England

**Died**

31 March, 1855,  
Haworth, Yorkshire,  
England

## 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 Antoinette Cosway (Bertha's character in *Jane Eyre*).