

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë



Novel written by Charlotte Brontë, published in 1847
Film adaptation directed by Cary Fukunaga, 2011

Worksheet

Name

Date

Introduction

- 1 What do you know about the story?
- 2 Watch the film trailer and talk about your first impressions. Do you think the story will have a happy ending?

Research

Before watching the film, do some research to explore the following topics.

- 1 Women's rights in Victorian Britain
- 2 The life of Charlotte Brontë
- 3 Schools in Victorian Britain

Scenes

- 1 While you are watching the film, have the reader nearby.
- 2 Pause the film at the scenes which are similar to the illustrations in the book. You can either talk about each scene, or read out the passage that belongs to it.

Characters

- 1 What kind of tragedies does Jane have to face as a little girl? How do they affect her personality?
- 2 How would you describe Jane? How is she different from the other women in the story?
- 3 What is the relationship between Jane and Bertha?
- 4 Do you think that Bertha Mason is a scary person?
- 5 Can Bertha be seen as the 'dark side' of Jane Eyre?



Themes and symbols

1 Talk about the following themes. Why are they important in the novel?

relationship between men and women education social classes independence
madness

2 Think about these symbols in the novel. When do they appear in the film and what do they mean?

birds fire portraits eyes

Film and Novel

1 What is the difference between the narrative styles of the film and the novel?

2 What did you like about the film?

3 What was strange / surprising / shocking about the film adaptation?

4 Write a summary of the story in one sentence. Prepare a film poster and use your line to advertise the film.

5 Did your opinion of the story and the characters change after watching the film?

6 Are there any objects, events or character traits that are emphasised in the film but you did not notice while you were reading the book?

The Story Today

Imagine that this story is set today and answer the questions below.

1 What would Jane be like? What would happen to her?

2 What would happen to the people who hurt Jane?

3 Where would Bertha live today?

4 Where would Jane live and work?

5 How would you and your friends react to a story like this today?

Advice from Jane Eyre

1 Why is her story important today?

2 Imagine that you are talking to Jane.

What advice would she give you about dealing with difficulties in your life and relationships?

Write down some ideas she might tell you.

