

19th CENTURY

1 NOVEL

Jane Eyre was first published in 1847 under Charlotte Brontë's pen name Currer Bell. The novel describes the coming of age of Jane Eyre, the novel's strong-willed and independent young heroine. Orphaned at a very young age, Jane was raised by

a cruel aunt before moving to Lowood School, a school for poor and orphaned children. She later becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall, the country estate of a gentleman named Mr Rochester, with whom she falls in love.

1 Get a first idea

Read the fragment from *Jane Eyre* until 'Grace Poole' on page 174 of your *Textbook* and answer the question in English.

Jane is about to describe a nightmarish scene. How is Brontë building up suspense in the opening sentences of this scene?

➔ **Reference** Literary terms, *suspense*, page 294 of your *Textbook*.

2 Language

Now read the entire fragment on page 174 of your *Textbook* and have a careful look at the language Brontë uses.

➔ **Reference** Literary terms, *dialogue*, page 292 of your *Textbook*.

1 Focusing on the **dialogue** between Jane and Mr Rochester, what can you conclude about Mr Rochester's attitude with regard to Jane's story? Mr Rochester ...

- A appears shocked and responds with a lot of empathy.
- B is completely indifferent to whatever Jane has to say.
- C is highly concerned and worries about Jane's safety.
- D seems sceptical of the truthfulness of Jane's account.

2 Quote two passages from the text that support your answer.

3 Write down three words or phrases from the text that demonstrate Jane's fear.

3 Theme

Reread the fragment.

1 In what ways does Brontë blur the boundaries between dreams and reality in this fragment? Consider, for example, the setting, characters and the plausibility of the events.

2 Some readers of the novel have argued that the ghostly appearance Jane describes is an expression of Jane's subconscious feelings. Assuming this is the case, what does this fragment tell you about her feelings?

4 Historical aspects

Jane Eyre contains several features of the Gothic novel. Make a list of all the Gothic elements that you can find in this fragment.

POEM 1

To accompany his reputation as a short story writer, Edgar Allan Poe is also celebrated for his poetry. Some of his most famous poems are *The Raven* and *Annabel Lee*. The poem *A Dream Within a Dream* was first published the same year

of his death on March 31st, 1849 in an American periodical called *The Flag of Our Union*. *A Dream Within a Dream* discusses the nature of reality and human life.

5 Get a first idea

Look up the poem *A Dream Within a Dream* on page 175 of your *Textbook*. Only read the title and answer the questions in English.

1 Create a mind map about the title of the poem: *A Dream Within a Dream*. Write down the first things that come to your mind.

