

Classic Readers

# Jane Eyre

Charlotte Brontë

retold by Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing

# *Lowood School*

Aunt Reed and I didn't speak much after Mr Brocklehurst's visit, and even the children stayed away from me. Only Bessie spoke, often reminding me of how grateful I should be to Aunt Reed for being allowed to stay at Gateshead. Bessie was the only person who had shown me any kindness here, and I would miss her. On the day I left Gateshead, none of the Reeds came to say goodbye. Only Bessie wished me good luck. Then I was whisked away from Gateshead and into a new world.

The ride in the carriage was long, and I was tired when I arrived at Lowood. I was shown my bed and slept. The morning came too soon, and I woke to the noise of girls getting up, and getting washed and dressed. Miss Miller shouted, "Silence!", and soon we were marching down the stairs to class.

The first lessons went by, and at last it was time for breakfast. I was so hungry by then that I almost fainted. The porridge was burnt, but I ate it, since there was nothing else.

Classes started again at nine o'clock. All the teachers were in one room with their classes. Every hour, the lesson changed and, at twelve, we stopped for lunch. I had been at Lowood for almost twelve hours and so far had not spoken to anyone, nor had anyone spoken to me since I arrived. I noticed a girl reading.

"Is your book interesting?"

"I like it. Do you want to look at it?"

The girl's name was Helen Burns. We became good friends and later spent many evenings walking together on the moors. She told

me the history of Lowood. How Mrs Brocklehurst had started the school then left it to her son, Mr Brocklehurst, who lived at Brocklehurst Hall. She told me the names of all the teachers and said that Miss Temple was the best one. I learned that Lowood was a charity school, and that kind people gave money to keep us here and pay the teachers. I liked Helen, but I noticed that a lot of the teachers didn't. They were always shouting at her for small things which I didn't think were important, but Helen never seemed to mind.

"I have many faults, and I have come here to learn discipline."

Lowood was not as pleasant as I expected a school to be. The winter was long and cold. The school was cold, and there was not much food. And there was always Mr Brocklehurst. One day, we were working quietly in the classroom when the door opened and he walked in. He looked around the room and suddenly pointed at one of the girls.

"What is that girl doing with curled hair? At Lowood, the girls are taught to be plain!"

"Her hair curls naturally, Mr Brocklehurst," said Miss Temple, trying to help, but Mr Brocklehurst continued.

"Her hair will be cut off tomorrow! I will send someone to do it!"

He looked around the room again and saw me. He turned to another girl.

"Fetch that stool, and put it at the front of the classroom! And put Jane Eyre on it."

I stood in front of the class on the stool while Mr Brocklehurst continued.







## The Fire

### Comprehension

Read or listen to Chapter 5, and answer the following questions.

Who ...

- 1 ... did Mr Rochester give a present to? E.g. *Adele*.
- 2 ... liked Jane's honest answers? .....
- 3 ... promised to follow Mr Rochester's orders? .....
- 4 ... was unhappy when Adele put on her dress? .....
- 5 ... was the first to realise that there was a fire? .....
- 6 ... was cleaning Mr Rochester's room? .....
- 7 ... did Mr Rochester go to visit the next day? .....
- 8 ... was jealous of Blanche Ingram? .....

### What do you think?

- 1 What do you think "*a man of the world*" means?
- 2 What kind of accidents may happen at home? What should we do to avoid those accidents?
- 3 In which jobs do people get the opportunity to save lives? Are there any of these jobs that you would like to do?

### Language Practice

- 1 Scan Chapter 5, and find 10 adjectives that can be used to describe a person. Then, put them in the appropriate column. Some may be used more than once.

| Appearance | Personality | Behaviour/<br>Manner | Mood |
|------------|-------------|----------------------|------|
|            |             |                      |      |

## My Favourite Character

You are about to write an article for the school newspaper about your favourite character from “Jane Eyre”. Use the following questions to organise your ideas.

- 1 Who is your favourite character?
- 2 What do we know about him/her? (e.g. Age? Profession? Family?)
- 3 What is his/her part in the story?
- 4 What does he/she look like?
- 5 What is he/she like?
- 6 Why is he/she your favourite? What has he/she done that makes you like him/her? Write down a list of reasons.
- 7 Browse through the whole book to find evidence (e.g. quotes, descriptions, actions, pictures, etc.) for your ideas.
- 8 Now, categorise your ideas/evidence, and put them in the following table.

| Name of Character   |  |
|---------------------|--|
| General Information |  |
| Appearance          |  |

# Jane Eyre

*Who is the dark stranger Jane meets one winter's evening, and how will he change her life? And who is the mysterious woman who threatens to destroy Jane's happiness just as her dreams are about to come true?*



Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Level 6

## COMPONENTS:

- ◆ Reader
- ◆ Teacher's Book
- ◆ Audio CD

ISBN 978-1-84466-237-1



9 781844 662371



Express Publishing